# How to Prepare for ASCN Workshop: “Developing Your Institution’s Capacity to Reform STEM Education”

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To create and sustain large-scale STEM reform, some broader changes in your institution will almost certainly be needed. The good news is that these institutional reforms can potentially improve what and how STEM students learn, the equity of access to a degree, and the affordability of their education for the student and the institution.

This workshop should help you analyze your own institution’s readiness for such large-scale reform. And we’ll help you consider what first (next) institutional steps in that direction might look like. Ideally, you’ll leave the workshop with an agenda for the days to come.

Please prepare by watching this 16-minute video (<http://bit.ly/pursuingquality>) summarizing some of the high-points of the research on which this workshop is based.

Second step to prepare: consider what you’d like large-scale, sustainable STEM reform to look like at your own institution (or at an institution of your choice). **What internal and external factors currently make it difficult (or impossible) to implement that vision?** List at least ten such factors.

1.

2.

3.

(etc.)

## Optional preparation:

Third, you’ll get more from this workshop if you already know something about quality, access, and affordability at your institution. What sort of evidence already been gathered about quality (e.g., outcomes? NSSE data about teaching and learning activities)? About equitable access (e.g, comparative graduation rates?)? about affordability? The more you know when the workshop begins, the farther you can progress by the time the workshop ends.

Finally, this workshop is based on research reported in my book, *Pursuing Quality, Access,* and *Affordability: A Field Guide to Improving Higher Education*. One professor of higher education called it one of the most important books in higher education in decades. Leaders in higher education reform including Carol Schneider, Derek Bok, and Randy Bass have praised it. If you can take a look through the book before the workshop, it should make your experience even more productive.