



Achieving the Dream leads a growing network of community colleges across America committed to helping their students, particularly low-income students and students of color, achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth, and economic opportunity.

Join Us. Applications for the 2021 Cohort open now!

The Challenge

For the first time in U.S. history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents' generation, yet our workplaces require higher-level skills than ever before. Community colleges are a vital component in returning the U.S. to its place as a global leader in higher education degree attainment, however,

fewer than half of all students who enter community college with the goal of earning a certificate or degree have met their goal six years later. And those numbers are much worse for low-income students and students of color. More than just their hopes and dreams are at stake: the very foundation of our economy depends on increasing student success.

"Our college's participation in ATD has made us a stronger institution. We are more unified and have a college-wide commitment to student retention and completion. We have adopted a holistic approach where all disciplines and support services are working collaboratively to help our students succeed."

What We Do

The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network is more powerful and influential than any individual college can be. Together, Achieving the Dream Colleges are a source of innovation; a platform for

scaling effective practices and policies; a set of peers with whom to share knowledge; and an expert group to define the next phase of the reform agenda to increase student success.

"Participation in the network has pushed us to take a closer look at equity and what it means for our students and our overall approach to student success. It has helped change the culture of our campus as we work to become a more 'student ready' college."

Achieving the Dream's proven model helps colleges identify emerging needs and ways to improve practices across the full spectrum of capacities required for whole-college reform.

Our Model

Most efforts to improve community college student outcomes involve relatively small innovations or changes at the margins. After more than a decade of experience, Achieving the Dream has learned that improving student success on a substantial scale requires colleges to engage in bold, holistic, sustainable institutional change.

Achieving the Dream's Institutional Capacity Framework is a comprehensive approach to addressing the emerging needs of the field to improve success results for all students, especially low-income students and students of color. The framework has at its core seven essential capacities that must be in place

for colleges to create a student-focused culture that promotes student success. Colleges must be strong in each capacity area in order to take on any large-scale interventions.

Our seven capacity areas are:

1. Leadership & Vision
2. Data & Technology
3. Equity
4. Teaching & Learning
5. Engagement & Communication
6. Strategy & Planning
7. Policies & Practices

The Solution

As a part of your three-year, intensive capacity-building effort, you will receive the following benefits and offerings:

- **Dedicated Data and Leadership Coaches** to help you facilitate and lead your change management process. In our annual survey, colleges report extreme satisfaction with their Leadership and Data Coaches.
- **Access to the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT)** to assess your college's capacity in seven key areas critical for creating a student-centered culture and a coach-facilitated discussion of your college's ICAT results. This group dialogue will help you recognize strengths, prioritize areas for improvement, and identify actions to build capacity to support student success efforts.
- **Four complimentary registrations to DREAM**, Achieving the Dream's annual flagship conference, as well as discounted in-network pricing for additional DREAM registrations.
- **Access to over 40 in-person and online Events and Webinars** where you can connect with and learn from other colleges.
- **Access to the discounted in-network rate for in-person learning events and service offerings.** These may include but are not limited to the Data & Analytics Summit, Teaching & Learning Institute, Holistic Student Supports Institute, and other informing events.
- **Access to a growing peer network of more than 300 colleges in 45 states and the District of Columbia** that are committed to sharing best practices in student success.



To learn more about the application process, timeline, and eligibility criteria, visit www.achievingthedream.org/JoinATDNetwork. Or, contact Achieving the Dream's Associate Director of Network Recruitment & Retention Ryan Knight at rknight@achievingthedream.org or (240) 450-3845.