Achieving the Dream | Celebrating 15 Years

15 YEARS

2004–2009

Demonstration Years: Creating Proof of Concept

Lumina Foundation and 8 founding partners: American Association of Community Colleges, Community College Leadership Program, Community College Research Center, Institute for Higher Education, Jobs for the Future, MDC, MDRC, Public Agenda launch Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count to catalyze change in community college culture, policy, and practice so that more students, particularly low-income students and students of color, persist and earn credentials – the new agenda is both access and success

Pilot colleges are supported by leadership coaches who advise on managing the change process and data coaches who help build data capacity, while peer learning events nurture a national learning community

Disaggregating their data, colleges discover significant differences in retention and completion among student groups and design interventions to address these challenges

Research partners discover that fewer than 1 in 10 developmental education students at ATD colleges earn a credential within 8 years; colleges respond with dev ed reforms, orientation, success courses, and other first-year experience improvements

A Gates-supported Developmental Education Initiative to scale effective innovations becomes the first major ATD learning initiative

The network grows to 110 colleges and 15 state policy teams facilitated by Jobs for the Future work to create policy environments that support innovation and evidence-based decision making

21 colleges have evidence of upward trends in student outcomes and become Leader Colleges; the Leah Meyer Austin Award is created to recognize colleges making substantive improvements in equity and excellence with the inaugural award given to Valencia College; each year since, one or more colleges have been honored for their achievements which serve as examples of what can be done to improve student outcomes

2010–2014

Creating the Infrastructure to Support and Sustain the National Reform Network

ATD Inc is created to lead and sustain the national reform work; Dr. William E. Trueheart, national expert in creating new nonprofits, becomes inaugural President/CEO

Colleges begin to move away from discrete interventions and change at the margins to prioritize institution-wide transformation involving more faculty and staff

New learning initiatives test innovations to increase the financial capacity of students; scale successful developmental education reforms; use Leader Colleges as mentor institutions; improve middle skill STEM pathways; and align academic and career training, work supports, and asset building skills for low-income students

Northeast Resiliency Consortium comprising seven community colleges, ATD and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded grant from U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career and Training (TAACCCT) program to develop training programs committed to creating a highly skilled and resilient workforce

ATD joins Aspen Institute to call attention to developing the college leadership pipeline and undertakes activities to support current presidents while also preparing the next generation of innovative leaders

107 colleges join Network, 37 colleges earn Leader College status, and 7 colleges are selected to participate in Completion by Design, in part laying groundwork for the guided pathways movement

2015–2020

Refocusing and Reinventing ATD

Dr. Karen A. Stout, President of Montgomery County Community College and highly regarded national community college leader, appointed President and CEO of ATD, Inc.

ATD draws on lessons from the first 10 years to reinvent itself, identifying 7 capacity areas that together create a student-focused culture that sustains success. A new Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool becomes a key resource for measuring capacity and engaging faculty and staff in the change process

ATD releases an updated equity statement to guide its work and inspire the field to make equity a high priority

ATD joins the Pathways Collaborative, partnering with the AACC Guided Pathways work in supporting colleges working through the framework

ATD completes a refresh of its organizational strategy and launches new learning events, customized coaching to colleges who have completed the first three years of their transformation journey and a renewed 1st year experience for newly incoming colleges

34 Tribal Colleges and Universities join the Network, adapting the ATD model to their own missions and cultural traditions and teaching us what it means to truly know and serve one's students

Based on the findings of the IPASS and WSSN learning initiatives, ATD launches Holistic Student Supports redesign services and an annual fall institute for colleges who are ready to dive deep on redesigning advising, financial, and other nonacademic supports

Building off its OER Degree Pathways and Engaging Adjunct Faculty in Student Success learning initiatives, ATD commits to fostering a culture of teaching excellence with the launch of teaching and learning capacity building services and an annual spring ATD Teaching & Learning Summit

The network continues to grow with 95 new colleges including 34 tribal colleges and universities

DREAM Scholars amplify student voices in DREAM; and graduate students participate as DREAM Fellows

ATD joins several national service provider networks to increase support to colleges in digital learning, advising, and developmental education reform

2020 and Beyond

A new era builds off the visionary work of over 300 institutions, 32 investors, and numerous national partners, and lessons spread across the US and internationally

ATD colleges are transforming the landscape of community colleges. By leveraging the Network in new ways and implementing reforms, ATD and its Network can help students fulfill their economic and career aspirations and build thriving communities