Twenty Community Colleges in Seven States
Join National Student Success Initiative

Chapel Hill, N.C. – Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed today announced that 20 community colleges in seven states have joined the initiative. With the addition of these colleges, the initiative has grown to include 102 institutions – 98 colleges and four universities -- in 22 states.

Achieving the Dream is a long-term national initiative to help more community college students succeed — particularly those students who traditionally face the most significant barriers to success, including students of color and low-income students. The initiative is built on the belief that broad institutional change, informed by student achievement data, is critical to significantly improving student success rates.

This most recent expansion of Achieving the Dream has been made possible with grants provided by four foundations across the country. Lumina Foundation for Education is making matching grants to provide first-year funding for community colleges in California, Illinois, Indiana, New York and Vermont. The Kresge Foundation is supporting an institution in Michigan. The Greater Texas Foundation is supporting several community colleges in Texas. The Vermont Community Foundation is providing grant support in Vermont. In some cases, the colleges themselves are funding their participation in the initiative.

Each new college has made a two-year commitment to focus its efforts on closing performance gaps among students in targeted populations. “Achieving the Dream colleges are identifying methods for increasing student success and implementing interventions to create institutional improvements for all students,” said Carol Lincoln, a senior program director at MDC, Inc., and the national director of Achieving the Dream. “We’re excited about bringing these new colleges into Achieving the Dream and continuing our tradition of providing educational and societal benefits to colleges, students and communities around the country.”

“Achieving the Dream colleges have proven successful at ensuring that a student success agenda is a clear strategic focus at all levels of the campus community,” said Jamie P. Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation for Education, which has been the initiative’s primary funder since its inception in 2004. “We’re very pleased to help provide this opportunity to additional colleges and, more importantly, to the students they serve.”

Achieving the Dream helps participating colleges implement strategies designed to help more students earn degrees, complete certificates or transfer to other institutions to continue their
The initiative emphasizes building a culture of evidence, in which colleges use data to identify effective practices, improve student success rates and close achievement gaps.

**Incoming Achieving the Dream Community Colleges**

The following community colleges have joined the initiative:

**CALIFORNIA**
- College of the Sequoias, Visalia
- San Jose/Evergreen Community College District
  - San Jose City College, San Jose
  - Evergreen Valley College, San Jose

**ILLINOIS**
- Danville Area Community College, Danville
- Elgin Community College, Elgin
- Morton College, Cicero
- Triton College, River Grove
- Harper Community College, Palatine

**MARYLAND**
- The Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore

**MICHIGAN**
- Macomb Community College, Warren

**NEW YORK**
- LaGuardia Community College, Long Island City

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
- Greenville Technical College, Greenville

**TEXAS**
- Austin Community College District, Austin
- Blinn College, Brenham
- Odessa College, Odessa
- Richland College, Dallas
- Temple College, Temple

**VERMONT**
- Community College of Vermont, Waterbury

**INDIANA**
- Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana

**KANSAS**
- Johnson County Community College, Overland Park

**About Achieving the Dream** ([www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org))

Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count is a national initiative to help more community college students succeed, particularly students of color and low-income students. The initiative works on multiple fronts — including efforts on campuses and in research, public engagement and public policy — and emphasizes the use of data to drive change. Achieving the Dream was launched in 2004, with funding provided by Lumina Foundation for Education. Seven national partner organizations work with Lumina to guide the initiative and provide technical and other support to the colleges and states. They are: the American Association of Community Colleges; the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin; the Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Jobs for the Future; MDC Inc.; MDRC; and Public Agenda. MDC is the initiative’s managing partner.

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