Two Community College Students Win BIG in Inaugural DREAM Big for College T-Shirt Design Contest

Artistic talent earns two Achieving the Dream community college students more than $1,000 in prize money, wide exposure for their talents, and meals for more than 1,000 distressed neighbors in their communities

Silver Spring, MD (February 1, 2012) – Two community college students at Achieving the Dream Institutions won the first-ever DREAM Big for College T-Shirt Design Contest. Edging out nearly 100 other student submissions, these two students garnered the most votes and will have their original art featured on two limited edition T-shirts that will be given to all attendees of D.R.E.A.M. (Achieving the Dream’s 2012 Annual Meeting on Student Success) starting February 28, 2012. The winning students are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levi Miller</th>
<th>Laura Shaler</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century College</td>
<td>Muskegon Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Minnesota)</td>
<td>(Michigan)</td>
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“I entered this contest to add another piece to my portfolio and thought it would be awesome for people to wear and be inspired by something I designed.”

“I didn’t know much about Achieving the Dream... until the dean of our college introduced the Achieving the Dream T-shirt contest to our Graphics teacher, Nancy Slater. As a class, we came up with the idea of assigning the t-shirt design as a graded assignment.”
“There is a tremendous pool of talent among community college students,” said Nicole Melander, Achieving the Dream Chief Technology Officer. “Achieving the Dream’s DREAM Big for College T-Shirt Design Contest is the start of a much larger DREAM Big campaign that will provide community college students with many opportunities to shine on a national platform and engage in the national discussion about college completion, all while earning money to help offset the cost of college.”

**Inaugural Competition**
The theme for Achieving the Dream’s first-ever t-shirt contest was “DREAM Big for College,” which has become a mantra for a much larger campaign that is engaging more students in the national conversation about student success and completion. Student artists in good academic standing at Achieving the Dream Institutions were eligible to participate. Student submissions expressed creativity and initiative and featured designs that encouraged other students to “finish what they start” in order to earn a college certificate or degree. Winners were judged on creativity, originality, and demonstration of the theme. Final selections were made by Achieving the Dream staff, Coaches, and Data Coaches, and the design team at You and Who.

**“Buy One, Give One”**
In partnership with philanthropically-minded apparel vendor, “You and Who,” for every shirt sold, one meal will be donated to an organization in need where the winning student attends community college. Achieving the Dream has committed to purchase 1,000 shirts of both Levi Miller and Laura Shaler’s designs thereby providing 2,000 meals to those in need in their local communities.

**Prizes**
As the winners, both Miller and Shaler will gain exposure and recognition through features during D.R.E.A.M., and on both the Achieving the Dream and You and Who websites. The students will also receive cash for classes by collecting $1 from every shirt sold at D.R.E.A.M.
and Achieving the Dream has already committed to purchasing 1,000 of each design. The shirt will also be available for sale more broadly through You and Who’s website. The short sleeve cotton tee will retail for $20, and can be purchased here. Finally, the two winners will be proud to note that their award-winning designs will help needy community members in close proximity to their community colleges. For every shirt that is sold, a meal will be donated to a You and Who organization in the same city as the designer’s Achieving the Dream Institution.

Colleges
Nearly 100 designs were submitted by students from 19 Achieving the Dream Colleges representing 10 states (FL, IN, MI, NC, OH, PA, SC, TX, and VA). Student finalists were:

- Kenneth Bryant, [Muskegon Community College](https://www.muskegoncc.edu) (MI)
- Crystal Cervantes, [Alamo Colleges](https://www.alamo.edu) - San Antonio College (TX)
- Juan Carlos Campos Gonzalez, [Alamo Colleges](https://www.alamo.edu) - San Antonio College (TX)
- Silvia Guajardo-Zertuche, [Alamo Colleges](https://www.alamo.edu) - Palo Alto College (TX)
- Levi Miller, [Century College](https://www.century.edu) (MN)
- Hector Rodriguez, [Alamo Colleges](https://www.alamo.edu) - San Antonio College (TX)
- Laura Shaler, [Muskegon Community College](https://www.muskegoncc.edu) (MI)
- Ashley Shira, [Muskegon Community College](https://www.muskegoncc.edu) (MI)
- Ashleigh Smith, [Ashville-Buncombe Technical Community College](https://www.abctc.edu) (NC)
- William York, [Ivy Tech Community College](https://www.ivytech.edu) (IN)

About You and Who ([www.youandwho.com](http://www.youandwho.com))
You and Who sells t-shirts and other apparel, and for every item sold, donates a matching item to people in need. You and Who gives their artists: a) exposure - each artist has a bio on the You and Who website; b) the chance to earn some money - artists are paid $1 for every shirt with their design that is sold; and c) the opportunity to help their community, as a matching shirt or meal is donated to an organization in their community for every shirt sold. You and Who was founded in September 2010 by Dan Gigante and is based in Buffalo, NY.

Achieving the Dream is a national nonprofit that is dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. Evidence-based, student-centered, and built on the values of equity and excellence, Achieving the Dream is closing achievement gaps and accelerating student success nationwide by: 1) guiding evidence-based institutional improvement, 2) leading policy change, 3) generating knowledge, and 4) engaging the public. Conceived as an initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations, today, Achieving the Dream is the most comprehensive non-governmental reform movement for student success in community college history. With more than 150 community colleges, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams - working throughout 30 states and the District of Columbia - Achieving the Dream helps 3.5 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

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