

Overview

The looming leadership void threatens the long-term sustainability of important institutional change work for student success underway at the nation's community colleges. Achieving the Dream, along with [The Aspen Institute](#), is addressing this challenge by

instituting a new task force of Achieving the Dream Leader College Presidents who are committed to ensuring that their evidence-based, student-centered reforms continue with the next generation of leaders.

The Challenge

Reductions in public funding support, increases in enrollment, changes in student demographics, greater completion expectations, ever-changing technologies, and new types of competitors are all evolving challenges facing community college leaders.

These phenomena are occurring while a majority of community college presidents are approaching retirement and many community college doctoral leadership programs are experiencing significant declines in enrollment.

Our Solution

A new partnership with the The Aspen Institute is researching how to best help [Achieving the Dream Leader College Presidents](#) sustain their important student-centered reforms through the next generation of leaders. Achieving the Dream will create an [idea-sharing space](#) in community college leadership development. Open source information will be made available

to Achieving the Dream stakeholders and other organizations involved in educational leadership. Curricular [modules](#) will be developed with Leader College Presidents for use throughout the [Achieving the Dream National Reform Network](#). A [report](#) with findings and recommendations on leadership development will be released in late 2012.

“The nation’s community colleges face a new set of realities that require a new set of dynamic skills from future leaders: achieving significantly better outcomes for an increasingly diverse and growing student body at a lower cost per student. Achieving the Dream Leader College Presidents have formed a new task force that will provide the 21st century community college president with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in this new environment.”

— Robert G. Templin, Chairman of Achieving the Dream Board of Directors and President of Northern Virginia Community College