



Texas Peer Coaching Initiative

Increasing Student Outcomes through Peer Coaching among Texas' Community Colleges

Achieving the Dream is proud to launch the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative. This innovative initiative is designed to accelerate the transfer of effective practices from college-to-college with the long-term goal of increasing student success and completion in Texas. Funding for the initiative comes through the [TG Public Benefit grant program](#). Achieving the Dream, Inc. was one of 30 organizations to be chosen by TG for a Public Benefit grant from a pool of 373 applicants.

Through the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative, seven Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges will collaborate with and provide support to at least two other Texas community colleges (Peer Colleges) on evidence-based, effective student success strategies. Dialogue and reflection are central to the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative. Both the Leader Colleges and Peer Colleges will benefit from mutual learning and sharing through the peer coaching relationship and the larger Texas Peer Coaching community of learners. Lessons learned from the colleges that participate in the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative will inform the development of an Achieving the Dream peer coaching framework for college-to-college coaching that will advance the student success movement in Texas and across the nation.

Below is more detailed information about the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative, including the list of participating Texas Leader Colleges, the roles of each participating college (Leader Colleges and Peer Colleges), benefits of participation, and a timeline of activities.



Participating Texas Leader Colleges

<p>Alamo Colleges (San Antonio, TX)</p> <p>Brazosport College (Lake Jackson, TX)</p> <p>El Paso Community College (El Paso, TX)</p> <p>Houston Community College (Houston, TX)</p>	<p>Lee College (Baytown, TX)</p> <p>San Jacinto College (Pasadena, TX)</p> <p>South Texas College (McAllen, TX)</p>
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Roles of ATD and the Participating Institutions

Leader Colleges:

- Share evidence-based, student achievement strategies with Peer Colleges and information on the implementation of these strategies within ATD’s institutional reform model
- Host an on-campus convening with the assigned Peer Colleges
- Maintain and facilitate communication with Peer Colleges during the 2012-2013 academic year
- Support Peer Colleges as they investigate and develop plans for implementing effective practice(s) to increase student outcomes
- Assist Peer Colleges in accessing the tools and other resources available in the ATD Network
- Participate in DREAM 2013 and in project-related surveys and evaluation activities
- Provide ATD with suggestions for enhanced college peer coaching relationships
- Provide necessary compliance reporting data to ATD

Peer Colleges:

- Participate in site visits to the assigned Leader College
- Receive support from the Leader College in developing plans for adopting student success strategies
- Participate in project- related surveys and evaluation activities
- Attend DREAM 2013 to participate in focus group and spotlight session (optional but strongly recommended)
- Attend an end-of-project convening in Austin, TX in Summer/Fall 2013



Achieving the Dream:

- Facilitate partnerships between colleges
- Coordinate regular communication opportunities among those colleges involved in the project
- Provide technical assistance to Texas Leader Colleges through regular communication and site visits
- Provide updates about the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative work to Leadership Coaches and Data Coaches assigned to the respective Leader Colleges
- Gather and disseminate information on successful college-to-college coaching practices
- Provide exposure to the ATD Network by disseminating press releases and posting announcements on social media
- Offer priority status to colleges interested in joining Achieving the Dream in 2013 or 2014

Benefits of Participating in the Texas Peer Coaching Initiative

The peer coaching relationship provides significant benefits for both the Leader College and the Peer College. These benefits include:

- The opportunity to:
 - Share lessons and implementation “nuts and bolts”
 - Build stronger relationships between colleges across Texas
 - Reflect and learn more about the student success movement across Texas and how this manifests on each community college campus
 - Engage more, new, or different people in the student success work on campus
 - Engage in future collaborations – including on grant applications and other statewide initiatives
- College collaborations provide a larger bank of lessons/resources available for both colleges
- A “fresh set of eyes” provides both colleges with additional feedback and ideas on their work
- Collaborations can provide renewed energy for the student success and completion agendas at both colleges



Activities and Timeline

September 2012

- September 25th, 2012: Texas Peer Coaching Initiative Kickoff for participating Texas Leader Colleges (Austin, TX)

Fall 2012

- Leader Colleges reach out to matched Peer Colleges regarding participation
- ATD conducts pre-survey of Texas Leader Colleges and Peer Colleges to establish a baseline for evaluation
- Texas Leader Colleges facilitate campus visit(s) by Peer Colleges

Each Texas Leader College will host two or more Peer Colleges on campus for two days during the project time period, preferably in Fall 2012 and no later than Spring 2013.

Activities could include: a campus tour; demonstrations and presentations on how each Leader College successfully implemented effective practices; details and examples of data that informed the change in practice and implementation; discussions with students, faculty and staff; and implementation and scaling lessons.

The visit should include focused discussions to jointly explore how a Peer College could adopt similar strategies to identify and implement the effective practice, as well as feedback from the Peer College to the Leader College about the initiative/strategies. You can watch a previous ATD Leader College Webinar on hosting a site visit [here](#).

Ongoing

- Texas Leader Colleges will work with Peer Colleges to facilitate the development of plans for implementing effective practices. Achieving the Dream will conduct periodic check-in calls with participating Leader Colleges throughout the grant cycle

February 2013

- Convening of Texas Peer Coaching Initiative college representatives at DREAM 2013, February 5-8, 2013 (Anaheim, CA)
 - Pre-Conference Workshop: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
 - Leader College representatives required to attend all related DREAM 2013 activities
 - Peer College representatives strongly encouraged to attend



June 2013

- Achieving the Dream administers post survey and solicits additional feedback from Texas Leader Colleges and Peer Colleges

Late Summer/Early Fall 2013

- Convening in Austin, TX of representatives from both Leader College and Peer Colleges to discuss lessons about peer coaching and findings of the evaluation
- ATD releases lessons regarding peer coaching to ATD's Network