

Achieving the Dream at CCAC

Conceived as an initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations, Achieving the Dream (ATD) now leads the most comprehensive non-governmental reform movement for student success in higher education history. The Network of over 200 institutions of higher education, 100 coaches and advisors, 15 state policy teams, and numerous investors and partners working throughout 35 states and the District of Columbia are helping more than 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

ATD is based on the premise that to improve student success on a substantial scale, colleges need to fundamentally change the way they operate. Network colleges commit to the student-centered model of institutional improvement. Based on seven institutional capacities, the model frames the overall work of helping more students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. Each college approaches the work differently, but Achieving the Dream's process provides practical guidelines for keeping the focus where it belongs and building momentum over time.

1. **Leadership & Vision** – The commitment and collaboration of the institution's leadership with respect to student success and the clarity of the vision for desired change.
2. **Data & Technology** – The institution's capacity to collect, access, analyze and use data to inform decisions, and to use powerful technology to support student success.
3. **Equity** – The commitment, capabilities, and experiences of an institution to equitably serve low income students, students of color and other at-risk student populations with respect to access, success, and campus climate.
4. **Teaching & Learning** – The commitment to engaging full-time and adjunct faculty in examinations of pedagogy, meaningful professional development, and a central role for them as change agents within the institution. Also, the college's commitment to advising, tutoring, and out-of-classroom supports as well as restructuring developmental education to facilitate student learning and success.
5. **Engagement & Communication** – The creation of strategic partnerships with key external stakeholders, community based organizations, and internal stakeholders across the institution to participate in the student success agenda and improvement of student outcomes.
6. **Strategy & Planning** – The alignment of the institution with the umbrella goal of student success and the institution's process for translating the desired future into defined goals and objectives and executing the actions to achieve them.
7. **Policies & Practices** – The institutional policies and practices that impact student success and the processes for examining and aligning policies and practices to remove barriers and foster student completion.

CCAC joined ATD in 2006-07 with six other Pennsylvania community colleges. Since then the college has implemented many changes to improve student success. The policies, interventions and supports listed below originated with ATD, some with seed money, but all of them originated with data about student outcomes.

| Policies | Interventions | Supports |
|---|--|---|
| D-policy in developmental courses Reading First Mandatory Orientation | SDS-102 Accelerated Learning Program Flipped 080 Early Intervention | Learning Commons Math Café Roadmap Men of Merit Student Lingo |