

Achieving the Dream is leading the nation's most comprehensive, non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history.

## The Challenge

For the first time in U.S. history, the current generation of college-age Americans will be less educated than their parents' generation, yet our workplaces require higher-level skills than ever before. Community colleges are a vital component in returning the U.S. to its place as a global leader in higher education degree attainment, however, fewer

than half of all students who enter community college with the goal of earning a certificate or degree have met their goal six years later. And those numbers are much worse for low-income students and students of color. More than just their hopes and dreams are at stake: the very foundation of our economy depends on increasing student success.

## The Solution

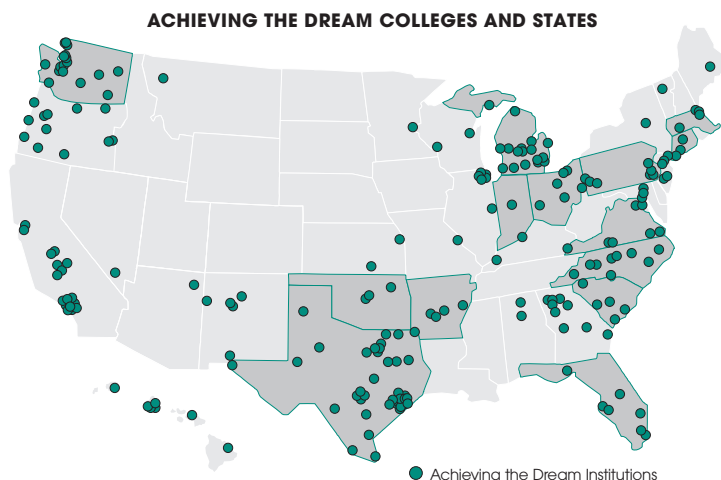
Evidence-based, student-centered, and built on the values of equity and excellence, Achieving the Dream is closing achievement gaps and accelerating student success nationwide through efforts on four fronts:

- **Guiding Evidence-Based Institutional Change:** We work directly with institutions, offering support that includes direct coaching and technical assistance for a growing set of community colleges.
- **Influencing Public Policy:** We influence legislative agendas by advocating for the

development and implementation of student-centered reforms and policies.

- **Generating Knowledge:** In service to educators and the community college sector at large, we conduct and make available original research on success strategies and meaningful metrics.
- **Engaging the Public:** With the nation's most comprehensive network of community college reformers, we have established a common understanding of the barriers to student success and forged commitments to a shared success agenda.

## National Reform Network



With over **200** institutions, more than **100** coaches and advisors, and **15** state policy teams - working throughout **34** states and the District of Columbia - the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network **serves 3.8 million** community college students.

**“Achieving the Dream has been a transformative experience for Phillips Community College. It has changed the way we measure our work from an emphasis on access and enrollment to an emphasis on student success and outcomes.”** — Steven Murray, Chancellor, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

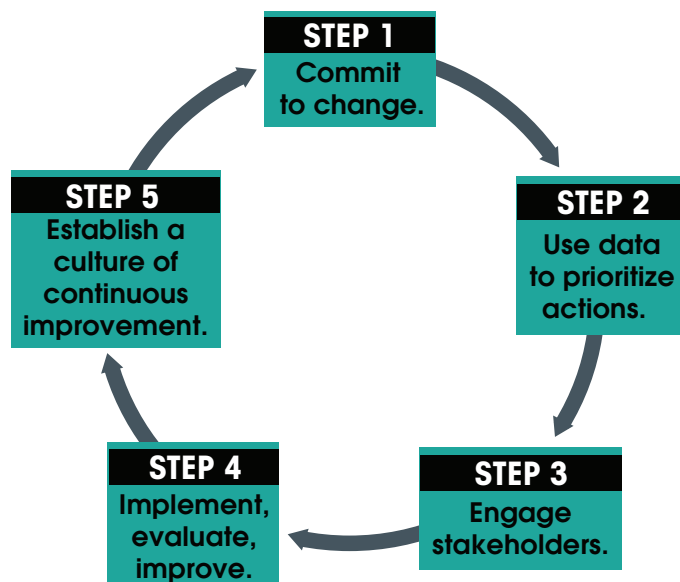
## Goal

Success for more of the nation's 8 million community college students, especially students of color and low-income students.

Success is defined by the rates at which students:

- Enroll in and successfully complete the initial college-level or gateway courses in subjects such as math and English
- Successfully complete remedial or developmental instruction and advance to credit-bearing courses
- Complete the courses they take with a grade of "C" or better
- Persist from one term to the next
- Earn a certificate or associate degree

## Achieving the Dream Model



## 5 Principles

- ▶ Committed leadership
- ▶ Using evidence to improve programs & services
- ▶ Broad engagement
- ▶ Systemic institutional improvement
- ▶ Equity

## 5 Steps

### 1 Goal

- ▶ Success for all students.

## History

Achieving the Dream was conceived as a national initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation (Founding Investor) and seven founding partner organizations that are leaders in the higher education field: American Association of Community Colleges (AACC); Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin (CCLP); Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University (CCRC); Jobs for the Future; MDC; MDRC; and Public Agenda.

Over the course of six years, Achieving the Dream demonstrated that innovative, evidence-based community college programs and interventions can produce and sustain improved student success.

In 2010, with the support of the Founding Investor and Founding Partners, Achieving the Dream's Managing Partner (MDC) established an independent national nonprofit organization: Achieving the Dream, Inc. This nonprofit is led by an influential and diverse Board of Directors and professional leadership team, and continues to work closely with an extensive network of partners, investors, advisors, coaches, colleges, and state policy teams to help millions of community college students realize greater economic opportunity and achieve their dreams. **Today, Achieving the Dream leads the nation's most comprehensive, non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history.**

**"Paris Junior College's participation in Achieving the Dream is changing the culture of the institution. We are seeing systemic change in the use of data for decision making."**

— Pam Anglin, President, Paris Junior College

For more information, visit  
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Achieving the Dream™