Accelerating Institutional Change to Improve Student Success: The Achieving the Dream Network

Achieving the Dream™

Community Colleges Count

10 YEARS OF ACHIEVING THE DREAM

2004 - 2010

2010 - 2014

2014 - 2019

Achieving the Dream was **conceived as a national initiative** by a visionary group of partners and investors, led by Lumina Foundation

With support from its partners, investors, and Network, Achieving the Dream became an **independent national nonprofit organization**

Achieving the Dream is moving forward to **leverage the lessons learned** over its first 10 years with the **goal of catalyzing systemic institutional change** at all its colleges

ATD's reach has expanded to **over 200 colleges across 34 states and the District of Columbia**

Together, we **changed the conversation** from valuing student access to higher education to prizing **access and success for all students**

Myths about Achieving the Dream

- ATD only focuses on Developmental Education
- ATD is an initiative
- ATD is only for colleges new to this work
- ATD is controlled by outside organizations
- Colleges can graduate from ATD

Lessons Learned Knowledge gained

➢ Systemic change takes a long time

➢ Scaling and sustainability are hard to achieve; pockets of wonderful are not enough

➢ Evaluation designs, measures, and data collection systems should be planned very carefully

➢ Initiatives must be part of a larger institutional change agenda

➢ Leaders in community colleges must be engaged at multiple levels—faculty, administration, and staff

➢ Faculty engagement, especially part-time faculty engagement, is one of the toughest and most common community college reform challenges, but it is essential

PROMISING PRACTICES

- ➢ Learning communities for students and faculty
- ➢ First Year Experience
- ➢ Student Success Course
- ➢ No late registration
- ➢ Student's path through developmental education accelerated or contextualized
- ➢ Mandatory advising
- ➢ Early alert systems
- ➢ Bundled student support services (WFSNCC)

ATD's Strategy - 2014 and Beyond

1 Lead and support colleges through a process of **institutional change** toward the goal of **sustained improvement in student outcomes**

2 Support colleges in focusing on strengthening **teaching and learning**

3 Deepen colleges' ability to **collect, analyze, and present data on student outcomes** as well as institutional change processes
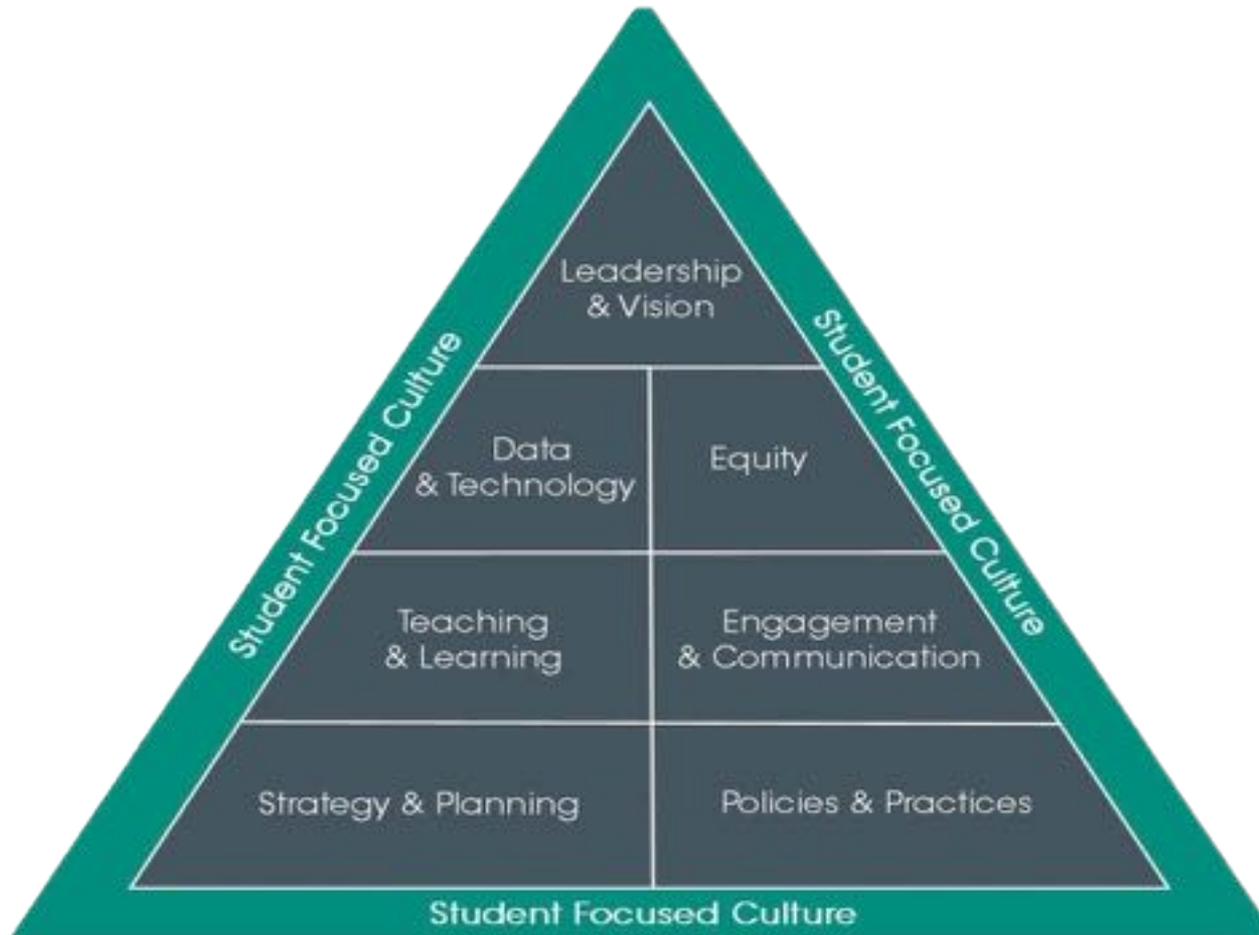
4 Facilitate the development of **strategic partnerships** among colleges, corporations, and community organizations

5 Influence practice and policy through the **development and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge**
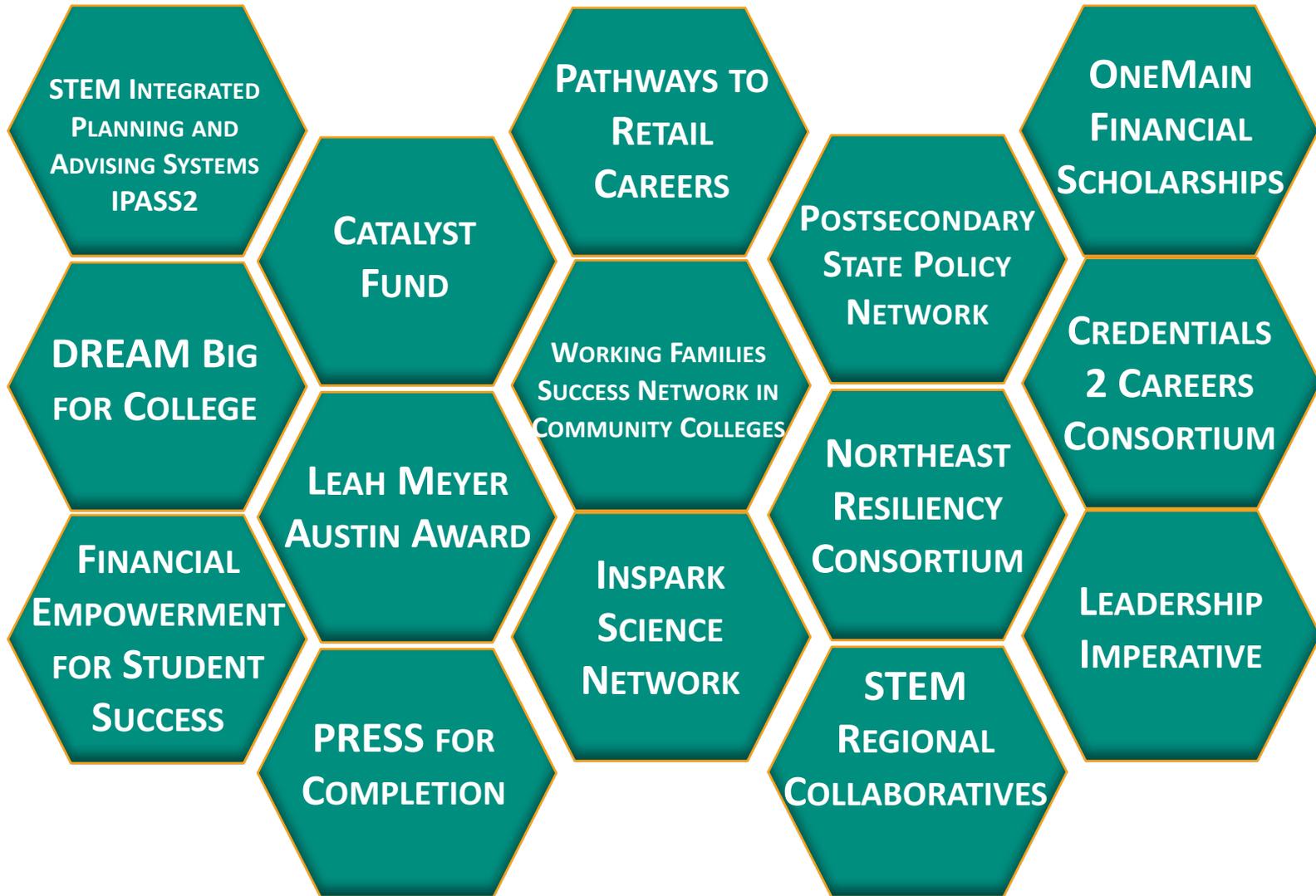
WHAT DOES ATD DO?

➢ Manage and support ATD's cadre of **expert leadership and data coaches**

➢ Pursue and manage **grant programs** to support innovation and institutional change at ATD Colleges

➢ Design, organize, and facilitate **Learning Events** and meetings for our Network

➢ Synthesize and share **learnings and promising practices** from the ATD Network through developing and disseminating informative publications

➢ Coordinate the annual **Leah Meyer Austin Award & OneMain Financial Empowerment Award**

➢ Design and provide **professional development** opportunities for ATD Colleges

➢ Pursue **strategic partnerships** to **provide** additional services and benefits to ATD Colleges

ACTIVE ATD PROGRAMS

STEM INTEGRATED PLANNING AND ADVISING SYSTEMS IPASS2

CATALYST FUND

PATHWAYS TO RETAIL CAREERS

ONEMAIN FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

POSTSECONDARY STATE POLICY NETWORK

DREAM BIG FOR COLLEGE

WORKING FAMILIES SUCCESS NETWORK IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CREDENTIALS 2 CAREERS CONSORTIUM

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

LEAH MEYER AUSTIN AWARD

NORTHEAST RESILIENCY CONSORTIUM

INSPARK SCIENCE NETWORK

LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVE

PRESS FOR COMPLETION

STEM REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES

ATD Hallmarks

- Disaggregate the data- low income and students of color
- Cross-functional teams – Core and Data
- Workforce engagement
- Wrap-around supports
- Guided pathways
- Student-ready college
- DREAM Institute

WE DO THIS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE…

- Each college requires a unique approach to **capitalize on its strengths and address its weaknesses**

- Each college can improve its **data collection, analysis, and presentation** for decision-making

- Long-term, continuous **engagement with experts through coaching supports** change more effectively than other approaches

- Cross-functional **leadership teams** are the best way to involve the entire campus in change.

- Peer learning leads to **more/better/faster adoption of meaningful practices**

- Skillful **teaching** is critical

- Non-academic supports that **position students to succeed in the classroom** are as important as academic supports

- Technology enables, accelerates and scales **positive practices**

QUESTIONS?
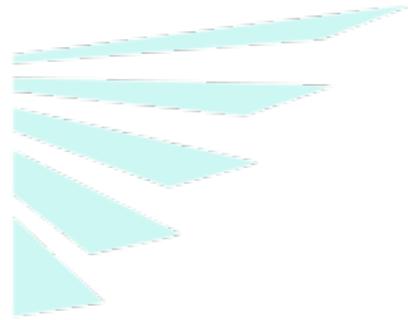
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For information, please visit www.achievingthedream.org