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Lorain County Community College Awarded Achieving the Dream Leader College Status

LCCC recognized for commitment to data-informed decision-making and closing equity gaps

Elyria, OH. (September 22, 2015) – Achieving the Dream announced Tuesday that Lorain County Community College earned Leader College distinction — a national designation awarded to community colleges that commit to improving student success and closing achievement gaps. LCCC, active in Achieving the Dream since 2011, has shown how data can inform policy and practice to help community college students achieve their goals, resulting in improved skills, better employability, and economic growth for families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

“Today’s jobs require higher skills and it’s imperative that students finish their college degrees,” said LCCC President Dr. Roy Church. “Achieving the Dream gives us the ability to improve how we serve our students based on research and best practices, which in turn increases their chances of success.”

Some of the steps LCCC has undertaken to improve student success include: issuing midterm grades by faculty, developing an individualized academic plan that connects students to a program of study in their first year, streamline the sequence of developmental math courses, institute a mandatory orientation for all new students, developed the MyUniversity program to connect and accelerate high school students with college, paired first semester college composition courses with a developmental writing support course, and requiring a preparation period for re-taking any part of the COMPASS assessment.

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Press release



These steps and the successes below are directly tied to LCCC's Vision 2020 Priority One, "Drive Student Completion for Academic and Career Success:"

- A 63 percent increase in three year graduation rate for first time, full time in college students since 2011. While this sample represents just under one tenth of our student population, it is indicative of our progress.
- A 44 percent increase in the number of certificates and associate degrees awarded from 1,180 in 2011 to 1,697 in 2014.
- A five-percentage point increase in course completions across disciplines (from three year average 2010-11 through 2012-13 to 2013-14). Institutional course completion rates increased from 73-78 percent, a percent change increase of 6.1 percent.
- Associate degrees redesigned to reduce number of credit hours to degree completion.
- Redesigned developmental Math sequence that increased course completion.
- Scaled accelerated developmental English for students placing in developmental English.
- Students concentrating in a primary area of study increased by 7 percent.

"Becoming a Leader College is very powerful and affirms the exceptional work and commitment of faculty and staff to their students' success," said Achieving the Dream Vice President for Community College Relations Cindy Lenhart. "Lorain County Community College is using evidence to make informed decisions that lead to significant institutional change."

The 2015 Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges are:

Bakersfield College (Bakersfield, CA)
 Kingsborough Community College (Brooklyn, NY)
 Bellingham Technical College (Bellingham, WA)
 Lorain County Community College(Elyria, OH)
 Century College (White Bear Lake, MN)
 Muskegon Community College (Muskegon, MI)
 College of Southern Nevada (North Las Vegas, NV)
 North Lake College (Irving, TX)
 Columbus State Community College (Columbus, OH)
 Paris Junior College (Paris, TX)
 Cumberland County College(Vineland, NJ)
 Southwestern Oregon Community College(Coos Bay, OR)
 Delta College (University Center, MI)
 St. Clair County Community College(Port Huron, MI)
 Gaston College (Dallas, NC)
 St. Petersburg College (St. Petersburg, FL)
 Grand Rapids Community College (Grand Rapids, MI)
 West Los Angeles College (Culver City, CA)
 Jefferson Community & Technical College (Louisville, KY)

The 2015 Leader Colleges are making strides in the national movement to increase student completion and close achievement gaps, demonstrating the power of the Achieving the Dream Approach. With the guidance of Achieving the Dream Coaches, colleges not only systemically change the way they operate, but also implement key student supports that align with their overall policies and institutional systems, such as college readiness programs, mandatory new student orientation, student-success courses, developmental course redesign, curriculum redesign, and intensive, individualized advising.

Achieving the Dream grants Leader College designation for three-year cycles. After three years, institutions must undergo a recertification process to maintain Leader College status.

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Established in 1963, Lorain County Community College is located approximately 30 miles west of Cleveland, Ohio and is the first community college in Ohio with a permanent campus. LCCC is an innovative leader serving the education, economic, community and cultural needs of Lorain County and the region.

Lorain County Community College offers a progressive, diverse educational environment serving more than 13,000 associate degree students per year and offering more than 100 academic programs and majors. LCCC has emerged as an innovator in higher education through the success of its University Partnership – the first of its kind at an Ohio community college – where more than 3,000 students are able to pursue more than 50 bachelor's masters degrees from 12 of Ohio's leading universities on LCCC's campus at about a third of the cost.

Achieving the Dream, Inc. is a national nonprofit that is dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. 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 by: 1) guiding evidence-based institutional improvement, 2) leading policy change, 3) generating knowledge, and 4) engaging the public. Conceived as an initiative in 2004 by Lumina Foundation and seven founding partner organizations, today, Achieving the Dream is leading the most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history. With over 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams – working throughout 35 states and the District of Columbia – the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network helps more than 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

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