

Org-Type	Non-Profit-based		
Lead	ACHIEVING THE DREAM:Community Colleges Count	PoC	Radha Roy Biswas
PoC-Phone	n/A	PoC-Email	rrbiswas@jff.org
Address			
URL	www.achievingthedream.org		
Service-Region	Nationwide		
Type	Student Program		
Subjects	Other		
Level	Undergraduate		
Other-Objectives			
Served-per-Year		Demographics	Economically disadvantaged
Content	<p>At over 80 community colleges in 15 states, this national initiative seeks to help more community college students succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low-income students and students of color. As a partner in ACHIEVING THE DREAM, JFF leads the policy effort in nine states and co-leads national policy activities with the American Association of Community Colleges. Achieving the Dream is funded by Lumina Foundation for Education and 18 other partner foundations.</p>		
Outcomes	<p>Expected Outcomes of Achieving the Dream To increase student success at community colleges, Achieving the Dream is working achieve the following outcomes related to institutional change, policy, public engagement, and knowledge development. Institutional Change * Achieving the Dream colleges will exemplify a deep commitment to pursuing student success. * They will become "learning organizations" and will use data to identify problems, set goals, establish institutional priorities, allocate resources and measure progress. * They will make lasting changes in policies, structures, programs and services to improve student outcomes. Public Policy * In demonstration states, leadership structures will be in place to provide long-term advocacy on issues affecting student success. * These states will make success of community college students an explicit public policy goal. They will identify and implement policy changes in data and accountability, financing, system alignment, and support for institutional improvement that promote improved student outcomes. * Achieving the Dream states will move toward a policy culture that uses rich student data systems in decision making and places high priority on improving student outcomes. * Community college leaders and policy makers nationally, will have new knowledge about policies to improve student success. Public Engagement * Critical audiences, who can advance the initiative's agenda, will recognize community colleges' potential and society's need to raise postsecondary attainment levels. * Employers, community leaders, students and others will exert pressure on institutions and policy-makers to improve student outcomes, and they will actively support colleges' efforts. * More colleges, beyond the demonstration sites, will adopt practices to improve student success. New Knowledge * Community colleges, policy-makers and higher education researchers will have meaningful data to benchmark colleges' performance based on student outcomes. * Community college administrators will recognize the value of data-driven decision making and will have tools to help them analyze student outcomes at their institutions. * Colleges, policy-makers and funders will have access to better research on institutional policies and practices that improve student outcomes. * Colleges, policy-makers and funders will understand Achieving the Dream's institutional change process and its applicability to other colleges.</p>		
Started		Funded-Through	
Length	Ongoing	Cost	
Primary-Funding		Primary-\$	
Materials			
Other-Funding			
How-Assessed			
Best-Practice-Why			
Promising-Practice	<p>Achieving the Dream aims to bring about change within community colleges and in state and federal policy. The initiative also seeks to augment knowledge about strategies that increase student success and to expand public support for raising postsecondary attainment levels. At its core, the initiative seeks to help more students reach their individual goals, which may include earning a community college certificate or degree, attaining a bachelor's degree, and/or obtaining a better job. Achieving the Dream colleges will maintain a high degree of access for historically underrepresented groups while working to increase the percentage of students who accomplish the following: * successfully complete the courses they take; * advance from remedial to credit-bearing courses; * enroll in and successfully complete gatekeeper courses; * enroll from one semester to the next; * earn degrees and/or certificates. After four to eight years, a substantially higher percentage of students at Achieving the Dream colleges—especially low-income students and students of color—will experience success, as measured by the list above, with no reduction in enrollment for these populations. Longer term, Achieving the Dream aims to influence national policy and practice in order to increase student success at colleges that do not have the opportunity to participate directly in the initiative. In support of its ultimate goal, increased student success, the initiative is working to achieve certain outcomes in four areas: institutional change, policy change, public engagement, and knowledge development.</p>		
Sponsor		Sponsor-Org	
Sponsor-Phone		Sponsor-Email	
Other-Orgs			