

## **Southwest Joins Achieving the Dream to Improve Student Success**

*National Community College Network Promotes Capacity-Building and Change*

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce that Southwest has been selected to join Achieving the Dream's growing network of colleges dedicated to improving student success! Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a national nonprofit organization leading the nation's most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for student success in higher education history. ATD acts as a catalyst to help colleges strengthen and build their capacity to ensure that more students complete postsecondary education and have greater opportunities for economic success.

One of only 12 institutions selected this year, our partnership with ATD will provide a capacity-building framework that will serve to pinpoint our strengths and opportunities for improvement across areas such as leadership and vision, teaching and learning, and data and technology. Colleges admitted to the ATD network have shown improved retention rates, grown enrollment, and have increased their capacity to capture data and ultimately enhanced student success.

ATD appoints leadership and data coaches to college campuses who provide coordinated, personalized advice to help build necessary capacities, align student success efforts and support change where it is needed. Such focused support will help the college implement and refine best practices and allow ATD to disseminate knowledge to its broader network that includes more than 200 institutions across the country.

Additionally, our partnership will afford us the opportunity to apply to participate in initiatives supported by philanthropic funding and managed by ATD. These initiatives help incubate new ideas that help colleges refine practices based on evidence of what works.

Our participation in the ATD network is the manifestation of an institution-wide commitment to rethinking student success and building a more educated workforce.

Please click on the link below for more information about Achieving the Dream. I look forward to providing more information about our ATD work in the fall.

< <http://achievingthedream.org/> >



Southwest ATD team members are shown from (left to right): Don Myers, Susan Mayer (Leadership Coach), Lamecia Goode, Cynthia Abadie, Dr. Luzelma Canales (Data Coach), Dr. Marcia Hunter, Karen Nippert, Dr. Tracy D. Hall, Jacqueline Faulkner, and Dr. Christopher C. Ezell.

Best Regards,

Dr. Tracy D. Hall, President