



NEWS

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MDC Receives \$5.9 Million Grant to Lead National Initiative to Help More Community College Students Succeed

Chapel Hill, NC – MDC Inc., a North Carolina-based private nonprofit, has been awarded \$5.9 million by Lumina Foundation for Education to lead Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed — particularly students of color and low-income students. Thirty-five community colleges in seven states now participate in Achieving the Dream, which is funded by Lumina Foundation, KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Nellie Mae Education Foundation. More colleges may be added in 2006.

“MDC is pleased to be involved with this important work,” said MDC President David Dodson. “Our national economy increasingly depends on an educated workforce, as does our democracy. Since fewer than half of community college students meet their educational goals, it is imperative that we help more community college students succeed, for their sake as well as for the nation’s. The leadership at participating colleges has demonstrated a commitment to improving student achievement by doing whatever it takes to making lasting changes in the colleges’ culture and practices,” Dodson added.

MDC is the managing partner in the Achieving the Dream initiative that includes 10 national partner organizations. Achieving the Dream is a multi-year initiative that focuses on measurable outcomes, particularly closing achievement gaps. Participating colleges are committed to using data to drive strategies, monitor progress and evaluate outcomes. They are committed to being open and forthright about current performance — and doing what it takes to improve it.

Achieving the Dream provides a range of support to the colleges. Each college works closely with an Achieving the Dream coach, many of whom are former college presidents, and an Achieving the Dream data facilitator who provides hands-on help with the use of data in evaluating student progress.

In addition to Lumina Foundation, Nellie Mae Education Foundation and KnowledgeWorks Foundation, other partner organizations involved in the initiative are the American Association of Community Colleges; Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin; Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Jobs for the Future; KnowledgeWorks Foundation; MDC; MDRC; and Public Agenda.

Below are the community colleges selected to participate in Achieving the Dream:

Connecticut

Capital Community College, Hartford
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport
Norwalk Community College, Norwalk

Florida

Broward Community College, Fort Lauderdale
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa
Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee
Valencia Community College, Orlando

New Mexico

Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute, Albuquerque
New Mexico State University-Dona Ana, Las Cruces
San Juan College, Farmington
Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque
University of New Mexico-Gallup, Gallup

North Carolina

Durham Technical Community College, Durham
Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown
Martin Community College, Williamston
Wayne Community College, Goldsboro

Ohio

Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland
Jefferson Community College, Steubenville
North Central State College, Mansfield
Sinclair Community College, Dayton
Zane State College, Zanesville

Texas

Alamo Community College District, San Antonio (Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, St Philip's College)
Brookhaven College, Dallas

Coastal Bend College, Beeville
El Paso Community College Distinct, El Paso
Galveston College, Galveston
Houston Community College System, Houston
South Texas Community College, McAllen
Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde

Virginia

Danville Community College, Danville
Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap
Patrick Henry Community College, Martinsville
Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin
Tidewater Community College, Norfolk

About MDC: *MDC is a private, nonpartisan nonprofit headquartered in Chapel Hill, NC. Founded in 1967 to identify and help remove barriers to progress for the South, MDC has been publishing research and developing policies and programs focused on expanding opportunity, reducing poverty and building inclusive civic cultures in the American South for the past 38 years. We build the capacity of institutions and communities to work for more just and equitable conditions now and into the future. MDC's mission is to provide communities and their leaders with the research, strategies, and assistance they need to advance equity and opportunity. www.mdcinc.org*