

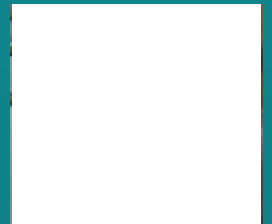


Achieving the Dream™



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE®

Overview



Achieving the Dream

Oakland Community College is among 17 of the 28 community colleges in Michigan now participating in *Achieving the Dream*, a nationwide student success program. By taking part in this national initiative, OCC joins an elite network of 130 institutions in 24 states that are adopting rigorous new data-driven measures to significantly improve student success rates, particularly among students of color and low-income students.

Relevance to OCC

The focus of *Achieving the Dream* is on student success and completion, which is also a priority in the Oakland Community College 2009-2013 Strategic Plan. *Achieving the Dream* is built on the belief that broad institutional change, informed by student achievement data, is critical to significantly improving student success rates. This aligns perfectly with the vision of relevance for OCC put forth by Dr. Timothy Meyer, Chancellor of Oakland Community College – the belief that, to be a great college, OCC must remain relevant in a rapidly changing world to both the evolving needs of its students and the larger community.

Plan of success

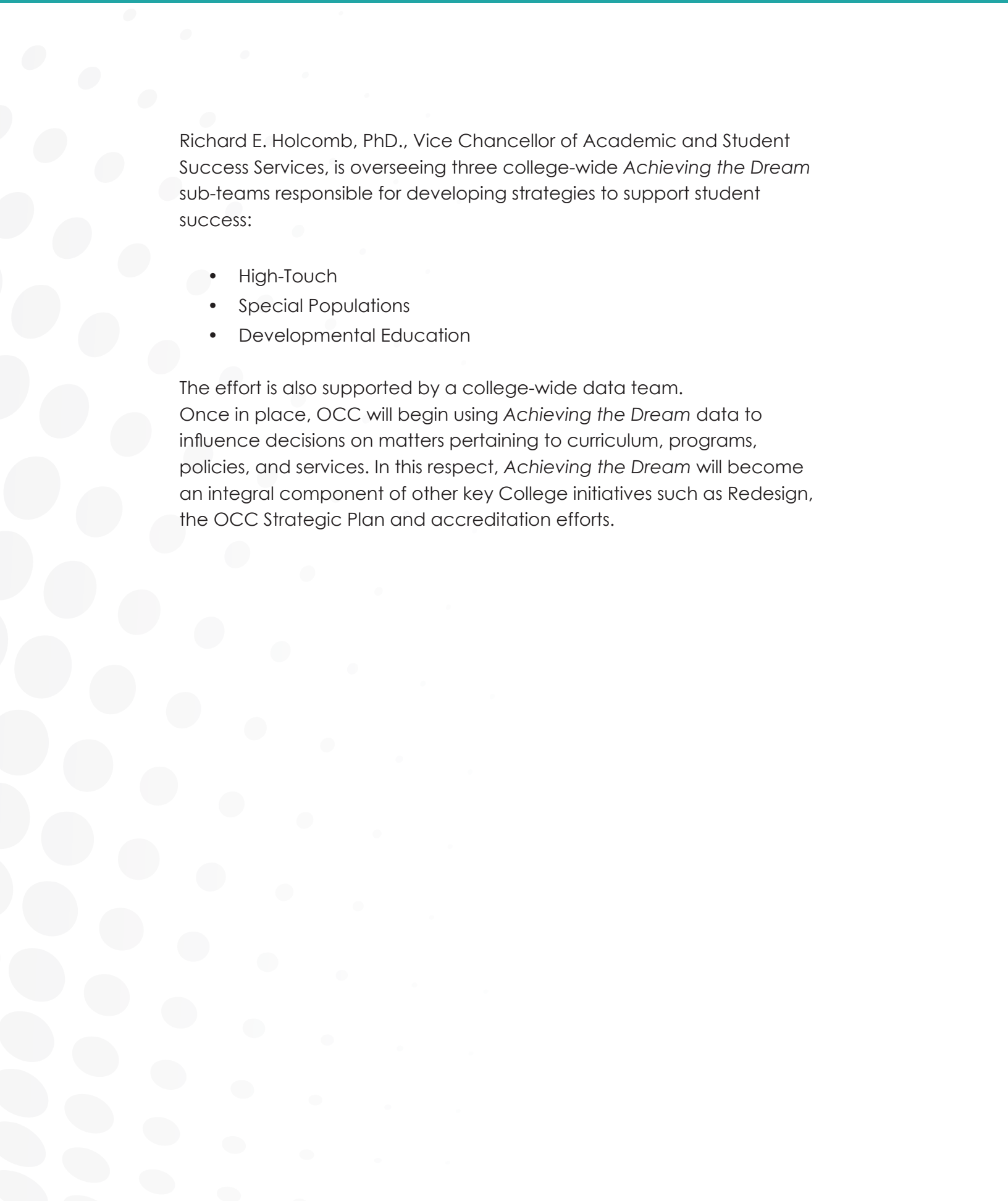

Implementation of *Achieving the Dream* will target systemic increases in student success and completion while helping to establish a "culture of evidence" at OCC to fuel continual improvements. OCC's "culture of evidence" will include measurement tools such as student surveys and focus groups, and monitoring of key student success outcomes such as:

- Completion of developmental courses
- Completion of gateway courses (now being identified by OCC)
- Completion of all courses with a "C" grade or better
- Course retention rates
- Fall to spring retention rates
- Completion rates
- Graduation rates

This "culture of evidence" will also establish baseline measures and track movement in student profiles, student satisfaction scores, student engagement, and learning outcomes. It's truly a significant and vital undertaking—one with enormous potential to improve success for our students.

Launching *Achieving the Dream* and sustaining its principles, processes, and measures—is a top leadership priority at OCC. *Achieving the Dream* pilot programs will begin on each campus this spring. In addition, the national organization has equipped OCC with a data facilitator and a program coach who provide consultative support services.

Patricia Dolly, Ed.D., Auburn Hills Campus President, and initiator of OCC's participation in *Achieving the Dream*, is chairing the College's project core team, which has representation from all four campuses as well as Institutional Research.



Richard E. Holcomb, PhD., Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Success Services, is overseeing three college-wide *Achieving the Dream* sub-teams responsible for developing strategies to support student success:

- High-Touch
- Special Populations
- Developmental Education

The effort is also supported by a college-wide data team. Once in place, OCC will begin using *Achieving the Dream* data to influence decisions on matters pertaining to curriculum, programs, policies, and services. In this respect, *Achieving the Dream* will become an integral component of other key College initiatives such as Redesign, the OCC Strategic Plan and accreditation efforts.

The future

In the months ahead, OCC's *Achieving the Dream* project team, will further refine and prioritize student success measures for data collection and analysis. The team will then develop initial strategies to address areas where student success has strong potential for improvement. Implementation will occur and will be followed by evaluation and refinements to each approach. Successful strategies will be identified and applied to other areas to help improve student success.

As we move forward this year with implementing *Achieving the Dream* strategies, the College welcomes and encourages healthy, open discussion about how OCC can improve its efforts toward desired student outcomes. You can learn more about *Achieving the Dream* at OCC by contacting Dr. Holcomb at 248.341.2050, or by emailing him at: reholcom@oaklandcc.edu. In addition, check InfoMart for timely updates to the program beginning in March.

To learn more about the national *Achieving the Dream* program, visit: www.achievingthedream.org.

Four-Step Process

- 1. Commit:** From the College administration to all staff, everyone at OCC is a leader in identifying and making the changes necessary to continually improve student success.
- 2. Use Data:** *Achieving the Dream* will follow groups of students to track their success and decisions will be based on student performance outcomes. Using hard data and measurement-based evidence, OCC will drive change to visibly and tangibly improve student success, leading to a college-wide "culture of evidence" to support ongoing improvement.
- 3. Engage All Stakeholders:** Everyone at OCC is involved, everyone has a voice, and everyone has a role and responsibility to help ensure student success.
- 4. Implement, Evaluate, Improve:** OCC will do what it has committed to do through *Achieving the Dream* and evaluate the results of every phase.

How Do We Achieve Student Success?

COLLEGE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

College Readiness

- Literacy - Basic Skills

Transfer Readiness

- Continued Studies

Employment Readiness

- Applied Skills

Resources Focused on Student Learning

- Support Services

COLLEGE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

- INTERNAL KPIs (OCC Measures) - Performance
- EXTERNAL KPIs (Benchmarking) – National Comparisons

ACHIEVING THE DREAM OUTCOMES (Action Layer)

Developmental Education Completion

Gateway Course Completion
Overall Course Completion

Fall-Spring Retention
Graduation Rates

COLLEGE-WIDE PRACTICES

Auburn Hills ↑ Highland Lakes ↑ Orchard Ridge ↑ Royal Oak ↑ Southfield ↑ District Office

CAMPUS AND DISTRICT OFFICE STRATEGIES

Academic Initiatives, Curriculum Design, Program Review, Student Service Initiatives, etc.

Human,
Physical/Facilities,
Financial, Social

College Strategic Outcomes Provide the Foundation

Staffing Plans, Facilities Plans, Financial/Budget Planning, etc.

COLLEGE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

CURRICULUM

STUDENT
SUCCESS SKILLS

STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT

EXTERNAL
COMMUNITIES

HUMAN, PHYSICAL,
FINANCIAL AND
SOCIAL CAPITAL