



# Achieving the Dream™

Community Colleges Count

August 22, 2012

Timothy Meyer, Chancellor  
Oakland Community College  
2480 Opdyke Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Dear Chancellor Meyer,

Thank you for your Achieving the Dream efforts this year and for submitting your annual report. We reviewed your annual report and consulted with your Leadership Coach and Data Coach. We offer our observations regarding the college's progress to date.

We are enthusiastic about your achievements regarding the implementation of the mandatory orientation for English 1055 virtually at scale and the positive preliminary outcomes for participating students.

We are encouraged by your progress in implementing the Achieving the Dream model:

*Committed Leadership: The commitment shown by you, college administrators, faculty, and staff to student success and closing achievement gaps is inspiring. We are also pleased to hear that the college designated student success as a top priority and that there are regular student success data presentations made to the Board.*

*Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs, and Services: We are pleased to hear of the college's use of disaggregated, longitudinal data in institutional decision-making and the use of key data sets to drive systemic change.*

*Broad Engagement: We are happy to hear about the involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in decision making about student success.*

*Systemic Institutional Improvement: We applaud the growing culture of evidence at your institution, which will be further enhanced through increased capacity of the institutional research office. We also commend the college for linking the academic master plan to ATD, the development of the institutional research template, and mandatory orientation.*

We recognize that improving student outcomes can be both rewarding and challenging. As you plan for the coming year, we encourage you to take a closer look at the following:

*Committed Leadership: We encourage you to continue to strengthen commitment from the individual campuses.*

*Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs, and Services: We recommend that the college continue to strengthen its institutional research capacity so it can generate useful information*

*for institutional decision-making. As you strengthen IR capacity, continue to strengthen the systematic analysis and reporting of longitudinal data on student cohorts and regularly disaggregate student data to identify achievement gaps. We encourage the college to share data presented to the board with other constituencies at the institution. Finally, we suggest that you further refine evaluation plans for each intervention, especially the mandatory orientation as it seems most promising.*

*Broad Engagement: We recommend that the college continue to encourage dialogue among different areas and stakeholders at the institution and in the greater community. We also recommend that you strengthen plans for sustained community, staff, student, and faculty engagement among all OCC campuses. One step to further strengthen broad engagement would be to further involve faculty and student services staff on committees concerned with student success.*

*Systemic Institutional Improvement: We recommend continuing to strengthen plans to scale up and institutionalize successful interventions as well as further implement plans to align and integrate your Achieving the Dream work with the core activities, processes, and policies of the institution. In your scaling plans, we recommend focusing on bringing the English & Math Boost pilot programs to scale and broadening the reach of the Learning Community (LCAR) Program.*

*Other recommendations: We think OCC has made great strides this year and can leverage its commitment and progress in order to bring pilots to scale and positively impact student success.*

As you know, the past year has been an important and critical time for community colleges. There is much that is expected of us and much that we need to accomplish if we are to create clear and meaningful pathways for our students as they strive toward success. It is our belief that working together, as a community of learners, practitioners and citizens, we can set high standards and accomplish these goals.

We appreciate the time, resources and hard work that you and your faculty and staff have devoted to your Achieving the Dream efforts. We look forward to working with you in the coming year and seeing you at DREAM 2013.

Sincerely,



Rachel Singer  
Vice President for Community College Relations and Applied Research  
Achieving the Dream

cc: Eileen Baccus, Leadership Coach  
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