Achiving the Dream (AtD) is a nationwide initiative which seeks to identify barriers to student achievement and then implement college-wide strategies for addressing these obstacles. In March 2011, the entire Los Angeles College District (LACCD) joined the Achieving the Dream Initiative to help each campus improve student success. As part of this four-year project, LA Harbor College is one of 30-colleges participating in the 2011-2012 cohort which began working immediately to identify strategies for improving student success, closing achievement gaps, and increasing retention, persistence, and completion rates.

AtD GOALS

Students:

• Successfully complete the courses they take;

• Advance from remedial to credit-bearing courses;

• Enroll from one semester to the next;

• Earn degrees and/or certificates.

Meet the Dream Team

Members include Administrators (A), Faculty (F), Staff (S) and Students (Stu)

Marvin Martinez (A) - LAHC President
Tasha Anderson (S) - Data Team Chair
Robbie Barker (S) - CORE Team Chair
Krist Blackham (A) - DATA Team Chair
Carmen Carrillo (F) - Elizabeth Colacho (F)

Kalphp Davis (F) - Leige Doffoney (A) - Kevin Mincy (A)
Ard Project Leader
CORE Team Chair
Rhea Estoya (S) - Sally Fasteau (F)
DATA Team Co-Chair
Brian Henderson (S)

David Humphreys (A) - Lori Minor (S) - Abbie Patterson (A) - Yvonne Pueblos (F)
Daniel J. LaVista (A) - Luis Rosas (A) - Mario Lacy (Stu) - Sandra Sanchez (A)
Dean of Administrative Services - Vice President of Academic Affairs - Associate Vice President -Associate Vice President of Student Services

What Dreams May Come...

Achiving the Dream at Los Angeles Harbor College

What Dreams May Come

Gown

REAM

ACH

A

G

Harbor

What Dreams May Come...

GBAM B I T I ONE L PM HCA T

Find this list of Dream Terms:

Accomplishment

Gown

Accountability

Harbor

Achievement

Hope

Ambition

Inspire

Cap

Leadership

Certificate

Persistence

Change

Power

Data

Pride

Desire

Prosperity

Determined

Strength

Dream

Student

Education

Success

Goals

University

What Dreams May Come...
Message from our AtD Project Leader

Working with “Achieving the Dream” has been a dream come true! It is clear that Los Angeles Harbor College students were right on target when they shared in the LACCD Student Survey that the reason they come to our college is because “people care.” This includes faculty and staff.

Achieving the Dream is a “process”, not a program. This effort gives us an opportunity to re-examine our efforts to turn challenges for students into opportunities. We’ve all worked hard and this is nothing new. What’s new is a focus to integrate our efforts.

If you’ve attended a meeting, met with coaches, helped develop data, or sent a suggestion to our suggestion box…it’s much appreciated. Join the movement and help our students “Achieve Their Dreams!” Find out more on our website at http://www.lahc.edu/facultystaff/atd/index.html.

Los Angeles Harbor College

Financial Empowerment Grant Awarded by Carmen Carrillo

Los Angeles Harbor College has been awarded a $130,000 student success grant. The goal of the Financial Empowerment Strategies for Student Success grant is to increase financial awareness for “at risk” students. Over the next two years, the college will begin to identify and to develop effective practices that will assist college students to gain financial knowledge and to increase financial security.

On February 15, 2012, Leige Doffoney, Dean of Academic Affairs; Sandra Sanchez, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development; and Mercy Yanez, Associate Dean of Educational Opportunity Programs and Services attended a kick-off conference in North Carolina that provided them the strategies to initiate the goals of the grant. This grant is in partnership with Bank of America, Achieving the Dream, a national educational reform movement that uses data to create change to help low-income students and students of color to succeed, and MDC, an organization that “helps communities close the gaps that separate people from opportunity.”

Implementation strategies will commence fall 2012.

Step 1
Commit to Change

Step 2
Use data to prioritize actions

Step 3
Engage stakeholders

Step 4
Implement, evaluate, improve

Step 5
Establish a culture of continuous improvement

AtD Five-Step Process

Team Members Attend D.R.E.A.M. Conference by Lori Minor

Over 1,500 attendees provided the collegial backdrop for the 2012 D.R.E.A.M. (Data, Reform, Equity, Achievement, Movement) Conference in Dallas, Texas. The conference was an opportunity for several of Harbor’s Dream Team members (and other LACCD staff) to deepen their understanding of policies and practices that increase student success.

Workshops were held that provided collaboration with staff from community colleges nationwide. Equity and a student’s unique, individual needs were a primary focus of many of the discussions with evidence-based decision-making being the core component for reform.

The team will share the invaluable information obtained at the conference with Harbor’s entire campus community.

Picture from left to right: Dan Ruiz, Rhea Estoya, Shariz Khan, Maritza Jimenez-Zeljak, Sally Fastau, Sara Rubio, Andrew Sanchez, Elizabeth Colombo, Kristi Blackburn, Leige Doffoney, Lori Minor (missing: Mercedes Yanez). Additional photos online.

Data Team Drives Progress by Dr. Kristi Blackburn

Harbor College’s Achieving the Dream Data Team has been busy at work analyzing data and asking further questions about how we can help our students retain and graduate.

Our coaches are pleased with the “substantial data analysis” we have completed thus far in the process. Several of the Data Team members traveled to the D.R.E.A.M. conference in Dallas and have brought back ideas for further data consideration. Additionally, training on the AtD Data Tools and the CCCC Datamart Basic Skills Tracker has occurred and we can present better visual depictions on the pipeline and momentum points in student retention and completion. The AtD website on our college’s homepage will continue to house our findings with the college so we encourage everyone to take a look at our presentations and Data Summaries as they are available.

Dream Journey Chart a Path for Success

by Carmen Carrillo

by Lori Minor

by Dr. Kristi Blackburn

by Carmen Carrillo

by Lori Minor (missing: Mercedes Yanez). Additional photos online.
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Coaches Visit Harbor College

By Carmen Carrillo

On Monday, January 30 and Tuesday, January 31, 2012, Dr. Terri Manning and Dr. John Nixon, Harbor College’s Achieving the Dream coaches, visited the college to meet with various Core and Data Team members.

Los Angeles Harbor College joined Achieving the Dream in order to develop institutional improvement that will lead to student success. The Achieving the Dream initiative helps colleges open the conversation to redesigning its culture in order to work together to place student success at the center of its philosophy and mission. Our coaches are at the center of this conversation.

Dr. John Nixon, former President of Mt. San Antonio College, is a “35-year veteran in education.” He has also served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Santa Ana College and Associate Dean of Humanities and Assistant Dean of Continuing Education, and supervised nine academic divisions as well as counseling services and learning resources.

Our second coach, Dr. Terri Manning, is the Data Coach. Her expertise allows the college to use its data and research to identify academic areas that need improvement. Dr. Manning is Associate Vice President for Institutional Research and Director for the Center of Applied Research at Central Piedmont Community College. Part of her work is to conduct “assessment, evaluation, program/unit review training, and consulting, and is a national speaker/trainer on the millennial generation.”

During the two-day visit, Drs. Nixon and Manning met with administrators, faculty, staff and students. The meetings provided the coaches with different perspectives on how each constituent perceives areas in the college that need addressing and what can be done to achieve student success. In a meeting with Mr. Lauren McKenzie, division chairperson of Mathematics, Physical Science, and Technology, the coaches asked what possible strategies his division might focus on as the college moves forward with student success. Mr. McKenzie acknowledges that “The Math department is working on the STEM grant to help eliminate barriers for minority students interested in math and the sciences. Much of the work being done now is curriculum development.”

The college will host our coaches one more time before the end of the year.

Data Team Drives Progress

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Dream Journey

Chart a Path for Success

Counseling

Assessment

Application

Registration

Counseling

Fundraising

Tutoring

Club Activities

Course Study

Graduation

Certificate

Transfer

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Los Angeles Community College District

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