



News Release

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Century Selected to Join the National “Achieving the Dream” Network

Century College has been selected to join the national “Achieving the Dream” network, an organized effort to help colleges focus on improving student achievement. Century is the first and only college in Minnesota that has been asked to join the program.

Achieving the Dream is a national nonprofit that includes 160 institutions in 30 states. Participating colleges receive expert help in identifying strategies to improve student success, close achievement gaps and increase retention, persistence and completion rates.

As an Achieving the Dream institution, Century will develop and implement research-based policies and practices based on analyses of its institutional strengths, problem areas and achievement gaps. Century has committed to assessing the effectiveness of these policies and practices, institutionalizing the approaches that prove successful, and sharing the findings widely. Through Achieving the Dream,

Century will have the opportunity to learn from other Achieving the Dream institutions, and receive assistance from experienced practitioners in building a culture of evidence campus-wide, using data to identify problems, set priorities and measure progress toward increasing student success.

Century was selected largely because of its commitment to its “Bridge to Success” initiative, which involves establishing learning communities, mandating a “New Student Seminar” course for developmental reading students, embedding tutors in courses and assigning faculty to be academic advisors using the GPS LifePlan, a comprehensive planning program for students that links academic effort to career goals.

“Century is dedicated to improving student learning and helping students finish what they start,” said President Larry Litecky. “On behalf of our students, we are delighted to join the purposeful work of Achieving the Dream.”

Participating in Achieving the Dream will formally link Century to the best community colleges in the country. Century faculty and staff will gain a deeper understanding of national promising practices in improving student success.

“Closing achievement gaps and improving student outcomes is extremely difficult work. The ambitious commitment of Century College is commendable,” said William Trueheart, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “Adding 30 colleges to the Achieving the Dream national reform network means that 300,000 more students now have a better chance of earning a degree or credential, realizing greater economic opportunity, and achieving the American Dream.”

Conceived in 2004 by Lumina Foundation for Education and seven founding partner organizations, Achieving the Dream is focused on creating a culture of evidence in which data and inquiry drive broad-based institutional efforts to close achievement gaps and improve student outcomes overall. The Achieving the Dream model is designed to help more students earn postsecondary credentials, including occupational certificates and degrees.