

# WHAT DO FACULTY AND STAFF HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ACHIEVING THE DREAM?



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**Achieving the Dream** is not an initiative or a project; instead, it's a framework and support system for ensuring we are all focused on student success and uplift. It is an "all-hands-on-deck" approach that demands horizontal collaboration and valuing not only our students, but also our colleagues, in our common goal of positively transforming students' lives.

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DIRECTOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

The primary insight I gained from the ATD coach visit [to ECC in September 2024] was the emphasis on **Early Momentum Metrics**. Donna [the Achieving the Dream data coach for ECC] highlighted that institutions often prioritize long-term outcomes, which do not readily reflect the immediate effects of reforms. Typically, it can take several years after implementing changes to assess their effectiveness. By focusing on more immediate or early data, we can enhance our impact on student success. Additionally, I appreciated the suggestion to begin each meeting with a focus on data.



**STEPHANIE HEBERT**  
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The same week as the ATD coach visit in September, I was able to attend the **ATD Data and Analytics Summit**. As per [the description on the ATD website](#), this was an opportunity to explore the intersection of AI, data, socio-economic mobility, and labor market relevance.

The focus for most of the sessions was on how to use different metrics to find how our students (and we as a college and community) are doing in the areas of access to college by populations that may not tend to pursue college, early and milestone momentum of our students while in college, post-completion mobility, and return on education. There was also conversation about how to measure community vibrancy.

The main theme I heard through all of the sessions and side-conversations I was involved in was about the importance of talking about data on a regular basis, which means increasing data literacy for all is vital. I am very excited to have come back with some ideas to share with ATD Data Team to move this work forward. So much of what I learned (and what we are doing as a part of the ATD Data Team) also connects directly with the new Strategic Plan, so I am looking forward to see all of these pieces come together.