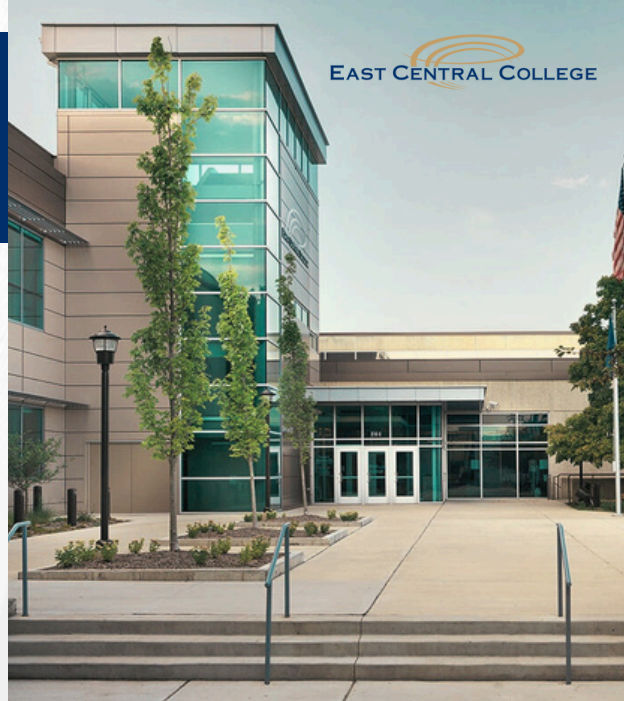




OUR WORK WITH ACHIEVING THE DREAM



Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a partner and champion of hard-working faculty and staff at more than 300 community colleges across the country. ECC's two ATD coaches assist the college in the pursuit of "transformation over tradition" and "curiosity over inaction" across the institution.

THE OBJECTIVE

This partnership aims to use a data-driven approach to help all ECC students—**especially those who have been underserved in our region**—succeed from beginning to end of their educational journeys and get the most value from the credentials they have earned, strengthening our community and our institution.

Equity is the foundation.



THE DATA

ATD encourages ECC to focus on **Early Momentum Metrics**, which can be used to accurately predict student outcomes and implement early interventions. One metric ECC has chosen, for example, is the **number of students earning zero credit by the end of their first semester.**

13%

of first-time ECC students, on average, earn zero credits by the end of their first semester. Pell recipients, students older than 25, students of color, and part-time students are more likely to fall into this category.

Source: East Central College, Institutional Research

THE WORK AHEAD OF US

ECC's coaches have made their initial recommendations; see three examples below. ATD has also provided resources for implementation and suggestions about timing to complement the college's Strategic Plan work while avoiding transformational overload.

1. Consistently discuss key data points

The college's Data Team will implement a "data discussion calendar," along with other improvements to the way data is presented and shared on campus.

2. Process-map the student experience

The college's ATD teams will work together to "understand the student experience from enrollment to course withdrawal" in order to streamline the process, remove barriers to entry, and increase retention.

3. Conduct a Student Intake Survey every semester

The college will use collected data to inform strategies and help connect first-time students with the resources they need.

OUR PARTNERSHIP AT A GLANCE

- **ATD paired ECC with two coaches who assess the college over time** to understand its unique strengths and priority areas of improvement
- **Our coaches assist in the establishment of teams at ECC** that are active, deeply embedded, and led by faculty, staff, and students
- **The ATD network and coaches provide expert advice and resources** to help guide our work in a well-paced and sustainable way

The first three years of our partnership with ATD, which began in 2024, are the most pivotal, but the transformation is institutional and permanent. The partnership strategy described above is a recursive, continuous process.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ACHIEVING THE DREAM?

- **Visit our website at** <https://www.eastcentral.edu/achieving-the-dream/>
- **Contact Dr. Robyn Walter at** robyn.walter@eastcentral.edu or **Sarah Leassner at** sarah.leassner@eastcentral.edu.