NGTC and ATD

Every Day…Every Student…A Graduate!

Welcome to the second edition of your Achieving the Dream Newsletter. In this issue, we will highlight the ATD principles and introduce the Core Team. We welcome your feedback – this is your newsletter – let us know what you want!

What is Achieving the Dream?

It is a national reform movement centered on student success in higher education.

What do NGTC and ATD have in common?

The driving force behind everything we do at NGTC is putting our students to work. ATD mirrors this goal. The Achieving the Dream movement is helping nearly 4 million college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams.

Your Opinion Counts!

What motivational encouragement strategies would be helpful for students in learning support classes?

What’s on your mind?

Please send your thoughts and comments by using the Student Suggestion form on the Intranet:

https://northgatech.edu/pages/forms/Student_Suggestion_Box.aspx

Upcoming Events

March 2
Midterm!

March 9
Academic Advisement begins

ATD Vocabulary

Equity vs. Equality

Educational equity focuses on two main factors: fairness and inclusion. While equity and equality are often used interchangeably, equity encompasses a wide variety of models, programs, and strategies that may be considered fair, but not necessarily equal.
**ATD Principles**
- Committed Leadership
- Use of Evidence to Improve Programs and Services
- Broad Engagement
- Systematic Institutional Improvement
- Equity

**The NGTC Core Team**

**Responsibilities:**
- Identify existing values, assumptions, structures and systems at the college that nurture or that impede student success.
- Consider leverage points to improve student outcomes.
- Lead a process for setting institutional priorities, goals, and strategies.
- Perform an inventory of policy and practice barriers that inhibit student success.
- Engage students, faculty, community members, and others in dialogue about the analysis and proposed goals and strategies.
- Ensure that strategies are aligned with the college budget, strategic plan, and other major initiatives in order to promote sustainability.
- Provide leadership to spread a culture of inquiry, reflection, and commitment to student success throughout the college.

**Members:**
- Dr. Gail Thaxton, President
- Dr. Mike King, VP Student Affairs
- Kallan Williams, Director of Retention and Student Navigation Services
- Kathie Ivester, VP Academic Affairs
- Janet Henderson, Institutional Effectiveness Director
- Mark Harmon, Institutional Researcher
- Savonda Turner, Information Technology Director
- Leslie McFarlin, Math Instructor and QEP Coordinator; Currahee Campus Representative
- Dorothy Hansen, English Instructor; Blairsville Campus Representative
- Dr. Mark Ivester, VP Economic Development
- Carol Carson, VP Administration
- Sandra Maughon, Public Relations Director

---

**Engage!**

Excerpted from the game enacted at the ATD Kick-off, our faculty and staff consider scenarios like this and consider ways we can impact student success:

This student attended an under-resourced high school in a low-income community. Though one of the 50% who graduated, he/she is reading on a 9th grade level. He/she must take a learning support reading class the first semester of college. It is frustrating to take a class that does not award college credit.

**Did you know?**

The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network helps more community college students succeed. Your success, after all, means much more than a personal goal secured. It means improved skills, better employability, and economic growth for communities and our nation as a whole.

For more information, visit [www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org)