Welcome to this edition of your Achieving the Dream Newsletter. In this issue, we will highlight the 5 ATD steps and introduce the Data 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 was it like for you when you decided to work towards your college degree? What were some things that were surprising or confusing?

Tell us your experience!

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

April 2
New Student Advisement Day

April 21
GOAL/Perkins and TCSG Leadership Summit

ATD Vocabulary

Cohort

For the ATD data reporting, a cohort is defined as all degree- or certificate-seeking students who attempt credits leading toward a degree- or certificate for the first time at our institution during the fall term, including students who were previously enrolled at other colleges or as dual-enrollment high school students.
### ATD 5 Steps

1. Commit to Change
2. Use data to prioritize actions
3. Engage Stakeholders
4. Implement, Evaluate, Improve
5. Establish a culture of continuous improvement

### The NGTC Data Team

**Responsibilities:**
- Develop a candid analysis of the college’s performance with respect to student outcomes, with a special focus on low-income students, students of color, and others who face barriers to success.
- Examine quantitative and qualitative data and present findings in a clear and compelling way that shows where the college is doing well and where it needs to improve.
- Seek involvement of students and faculty to identify strengths and weaknesses of current college policies, structures, and services.
- Aid the core team in engaging students, faculty, community members and others in dialogue about the analysis and proposed goals and strategies.

**Members:**
- Renee Deibert, Blairsville Satellite Operations Manager and Distance Education Specialist
- Dustin Emhart, Accounting Instructor, Blairsville Campus Representative
- Dorothy Hanson, English Instructor, Blairsville Campus Representative
- Mark Harmon, Institutional Researcher
- Janet Henderson, Institutional Effectiveness Director
- Leslie McFarlin, Math Instructor and QEP Coordinator, Currahee Campus Representative
- Dr. Michele Shirley, Admissions Director
- Michael Strader, Banner Database Administrator
- Kallan Williams, Director of Retention and Student Navigation Services
- Nioka McClure, Cashier, Clarkesville Campus
- Caroline Frick, Registrar
- Angie Cowart, Business Administrative Technology Instructor, Currahee Campus

### Engage!

**To the Finish Line!**

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 had a support network that explained the language of college: office hours, credit hours, and how to successfully network with advisors, instructors, and organizations.

**Did you know?**

The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network leverages targeted focus areas to close achievement gaps and accelerate success among diverse student populations, particularly low-income students and students of color. These integrated building blocks in concert with ATD’s approaches advance individual and system-wide strategies, ultimately providing measurable and sustainable outcomes for students and colleges alike.

[http://achievingthedream.org/focus-areas](http://achievingthedream.org/focus-areas)