

## Increasing College Equity Through K-12 Partnerships

Achieving equity in higher education requires a bold new access agenda for underrepresented students.

K-12 partnerships are a crucial element of many colleges' enrollment pipeline. Dual enrollment and early college, as well as bridge programs, continue to grow in number and importance. However, students of color are still underrepresented in these programs.

It is therefore vital that community college leaders evaluate their K-12 partnerships to address the distinct needs of historically underresourced student populations. This includes creating powerful dual enrollment experiences that attract, support, and retain underrepresented students.

When K-12 partnerships are not implemented thoughtfully and with an equity lens, it stretches, rather than reduces, the existing equity gap.



## K-12 Partnerships Landscape Analysis



Conducted by Achieving the Dream's expert coaches, our K-12 Partnerships Landscape Analysis delivers to colleges a thorough K-12 partnerships gap analysis and recommended roadmap. Steeped in research, best practices and experience, our analysis helps colleges build, scale and optimize equitable K-12 partnerships by:

- Identifying and assessing the barriers that exist within the current systems that impede access to dual enrollment programs
- Uncovering opportunities to increase equity within existing K-12 programs and partnerships
- Recommending programs and strategies to increase enrollments and increase access for students who are otherwise unlikely to matriculate directly from high school to college

## **Key Benefits**

- ▶ Tailor programs and support services to meet the unique needs of your students by working directly with Achieving the Dream's experienced team
- Gain visibility into how existing programs and policies impact your enrollment and student achievement
- Discover opportunities to increase equitable access and student success
- Develop a strategic portfolio of K-12 partnerships that meet the college's enrollment goals and your community's postsecondary attainment needs

## **Included Services**

As a part of this landscape analysis, our coaches:

- Conduct interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders
- Study and review existing college data, research, and reports
- Conduct a thorough gap analysis that surfaces how existing programs and policies affect equity
- Apply college-specific research and best practices to recommend K-12 partnership strategies
- Deliver a formal report containing findings, analysis, and detailed programming and policy recommendations

For information visit <u>www.achievingthedream.org/k12-analysis</u> or contact us today at <u>gatewaytocollege@achievingthedream.org</u> for a free consultation.



Achieving the Dream leads America's largest network of community colleges working to become strong engines of student and community growth. Since 2004, Achieving the Dream has helped hundreds of colleges and millions of students achieve their goals of success. Our proven model helps colleges identify emerging needs and ways to improve practices across the full spectrum of capacities required for whole-college reform.







