

## A Prelude to the Equity-Minded Strategy Guides

Achieving the Dream's (ATD's) focus on institutional transformation involves deep and customized engagement with colleges to improve student success and eliminate inequitable outcomes.

To support these goals and to build a culture of excellence in teaching and learning, ATD's Institutional Capacity Framework and Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT) highlight seven essential institutional capacities needed to create a student-focused culture. Teaching and Learning represents one of these capacities, foundational to advancing institutional transformation. This includes the commitment to engaging full-time and adjunct faculty in examinations of pedagogy, meaningful and sustained professional learning, and a central role for them as teaching and learning change agents within the college's student success efforts.

To cultivate a culture of teaching and learning excellence, ATD's *Digital Equity Minded Strategy Guides* can be utilized as a catalyst for advancing equity minded instruction, implementing culturally responsive pedagogy, and supporting full-time and adjunct faculty professional learning that transforms student learning experiences. The strategy guides are informed by three of ATD's four cornerstones of teaching and learning excellence: 1) Full-time and adjunct faculty use evidence-based instructional practices to foster student learning; 2) Educators join students as active learners in an accessible, empowering, personalized, and supportive academic community; and 3) the institution embraces professional learning for continuous improvement.

As higher education continues to address eliminating inequitable outcomes in teaching and learning for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, poverty impacted, and first-generation college students, the *Digital Equity Minded Strategy Guides* serve as tools to support institutions in embedding equity, culturally responsive teaching, social justice education, and open pedagogy in teaching and learning.

“Focusing on teaching and learning is still not central to the field's overall theory of change. We still have much more to do to build a deep focus on pedagogy and to support our colleges in building a culture of teaching and learning excellence.” — ATD President and CEO Dr. Karen A. Stout