

Transforming Community College Education through the Humanities

Informational Webinar

January 22, 2026

@AchieveTheDream #ATDNetwork



Presenters



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Introduction and Framing

Dr. Karen A. Stout

Community Colleges and the Humanities



Transforming Community College Education through the Humanities



We believe that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and we believe that everyone deserves the beauty and empowerment that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and guided by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive.



Agenda

1

Welcome

Introduction to the webinar

2

Opening Remarks

Context and framing

3

Grant Overview

Discussion of participant benefits and responsibilities

4

Application Process

Overview of the steps involved in the application process

5

Q&A

Opportunity for participants to ask questions





About the Opportunity

Dr. K.C. Williams

@AchieveTheDream

#ATDNetwork

Transforming Community College Education through the Humanities



- Foster student success, deepen civic engagement, and strengthen institutional impact
- Embed the humanities more fully into institutional planning and instructional practice
- Strengthen or align humanities courses with academic and career pathways
- Deepen partnerships with local employers and organizations
- Improve pedagogy, increase student success, and enhance the cultural and civic vitality of the local community



A Pivotal Moment for the Work

Humanities often underfunded, poorly aligned with pathways, or viewed only through the lens of transfer

Workforce vs. humanities framing diminishes value; technology vs. humanities distracts

Evidence supports the role humanities play in building community vibrancy, both cultural AND economic



By the Numbers

3 Years

5 Colleges will be selected

\$150K in subawards to each college

15 Student stories archived



Pilot Goals

Strengthening Humanities Education

Developing Institutional Capacity

Enhancing Faculty Development

Increasing Institutional Commitment



Three-Year Project

1

2025-26

- RFP and application period
- Director of Humanities Education Initiatives begins
- External evaluator engaged
- Kickoff convening, location TBA

2

2026-27

- Skills-translation content
- Teaching and Learning Seminar Series
- Coaching for capacity building, action planning, and sustainability
- DREAM 2027 convening

3

2027-28

- Plan launch and execution
- Virtual communities of practice
- Student storytelling project
- DREAM 2028
 - Share findings
 - Student mentoring



Year 1 Highlights: Launch and Evaluation

1

2025-26

- RFP and application period
- Director of Humanities Education Initiatives begins
- External evaluator engaged
- Kickoff convening, location TBA

Research Questions:

- To what extent does embedding humanities education into academic planning and instructional practice contribute to improved student outcomes, institutional capacity, and community engagement?
- How do redesigned humanities courses influence student learning, engagement, and connection to academic and career pathways?
- In what ways do institutional practices and partnerships evolve as a result of integrating humanities more deeply into campus strategies and community collaborations?



Year 2 Activities and Benefits

2

2026-27

- Skills-translation content
- Teaching and Learning Seminar Series
- Coaching for capacity building, action planning, and sustainability
- DREAM 2027 convening

- Teaching and Learning Seminar Series
- Action Planning
- Convening at DREAM 2027
- Skills-translation modules



Year 3 Activities and Benefits

3

2027-28

- Plan launch and execution
- Virtual communities of practice
- Student storytelling project
- DREAM 2028
 - Share findings
 - Student mentoring

- Launch plans
- Communities of practice
- Student storytelling and digital archive
- Summative assessment
- DREAM 2028
 - Presentation of findings
 - Student mentoring



Institutional Teams Must...

Commit to attend Kickoff Convening

- Year 1 funding is intended to offset kickoff travel costs and compensate off-contract team members.

Comprise 5 highly-engaged members

- Who do you know can commit to the transformation?
- Consider capacity, sustainability, and network.

Be cross-functional and cross-hierarchical

- 2-3 faculty
- At least 1 mid-level leader
- Who else needs a seat at the table to accomplish the work?



Strong Applications

- Thoughtfully composed teams
- Clear understanding of scope
- Customized to local community
- Relevant and impactful humanities alignment



On the Horizon

January 2026

- Webinar and video dissemination

February 16, 2026

- Application deadline

March 2, 2026

- Applicants notified

Summer 2026

- Two-day Kickoff Convening, location TBA





Application Process

Eric Fiero



Closing Reflections

Dr. Monica Parrish Trent



Questions?



Need more info?

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Applications Due February 16