

Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar Series

High-impact professional learning seminars to strengthen teaching and learning on your campus

Application

2026–27

Deadline: June 18, 2026

Questions can be directed to the Teaching and Learning team, teachingandlearning@achievingthedream.org.



Introduction

Colleges across the country recognize that evidence-based pedagogies and student support structures are essential to improve success outcomes for all students while preparing them to thrive in meaningful careers. High-impact professional learning is key to engaging full- and part-time educators and effectively scaling sustained improvement. ATD is pleased to support our Network colleges in this essential work with our collaborative program, ATD's Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar, a series of high-impact professional learning seminars to strengthen teaching and learning on your campus.

ATD's Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar Series is a collection of interactive virtual sessions that link teaching and learning teams from across the ATD Network to build a community of practice and develop comprehensive frameworks for high-impact professional learning at their institutions. With support from national professional development leaders, teams will support each other in a program that combines college-focused self-assessment and strategic planning with constructive cross-college community. Teams will come away with a deepened understanding of proven strategies, a cohesive college-focused Building Capacity Action Plan, and connection to a growing national network of support.

Program Goals

- Explore evidence-based practices that build student learning and success in a wide range of disciplines
- Evaluate your campus professional development needs, assets, and improvement goals
- Use ATD's *Teaching & Learning Toolkit* and other resources to understand research-based principles of good practice and design more effective, high-impact professional learning programs for your campus
- Learn new models for institutional structures and policies that support professional learning and educational development and identify locally appropriate strategies for related campus change
- Actively learn from and with faculty and professional development leaders from ATD campuses nationwide in a supportive community of practice

- Prepare to offer and support high-impact professional learning programs that engage full- and part-time faculty, as well as staff educators, and strengthen learning, teaching, and student support processes
- Develop organizational development plans linking short-term actions with strategic capacity-building and institutional change

Program Components

ATD's Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar Series involves learning and planning by campus-based teams, as well as collaboration across teams. The program will integrate multiple components to help teams effectively address campus and program goals:

- ATD staff, coaches, and subject matter experts will facilitate eight virtual seminars from September 2025 to April 2026, in which teams will consider new ideas, share plans and ideas, and help each other address goals and challenges.
- Participating college team members will review and discuss the *Teaching & Learning Toolkit* and associated resources to deepen their understanding of strategies to build a culture of teaching and learning excellence.
- Successful veterans of prior seminars will visit to share strategies and experiences, helping teams envision productive responses to campus realities.
- College teams will meet regularly outside of the seminar to apply these strategies and create a Building Capacity Action Plan, identifying the steps their campus can take to build enduring capacity for change.
- Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) will partner with their teams to ensure alignment with strategic goals and gather in a CAOs Summit, sharing strategies and building national leadership.
- Program leaders and ATD coaches will offer six hours of tailored virtual coaching, designed to help teams generate effective and actionable plans for change.

ATD will accommodate as many interested colleges as possible. If there are more interested campuses than available slots for participation, ATD will select participants based on application materials as a demonstration of the institution's



readiness to participate effectively and use the program to advance educational change.

For more information, read our FAQs on the [program webpage](#) or contact the Teaching and Learning team at teachingandlearning@achievingthedream.org.

Cost

Please contact teachingandlearning@achievingthedream.org for pricing details.

Timeline

Date	Activity
June 18, 2026	Application deadline
August 3, 2026	ATD shares selection status with colleges that meet final application deadline
Early September	Team leaders orientation (virtual)
September 2026–April 2027	Eight synchronous (virtual) seminar meetings, two hours each on Thursday afternoons, 3:00–5:00 p.m. ET

Application

Submission Guidelines

Submit completed application materials, including the letter of support from your president or CAO, to the online portal.

Submitted materials should include:

- The completed application
- A letter of commitment to participate from the college president or CAO

Deadline: Final applications are due June 18, 2026

Application Questions

Your responses will help us understand your campus, goals, and plan for engaging in this program. *Please limit each of your answers to 200 words.*

- 1. Goals for Participation.** Why does your campus want to enroll a team to participate in ATD's Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar Series? What do you hope to take away from this process? How will participation support strategic campus goals for change?

[Enter Text Here]

- 2. Teaching, Learning, and Student Success Initiatives.** Please list your major campus initiatives (no more than five), focusing on advancing learning, teaching, and student success (e.g., guided pathways, high-impact practices, improving student outcomes in STEM, etc.).

[Enter Text Here]

- 3. Status of Professional Learning Programs.** Please provide a concise overview of the current status of professional learning programs on your campus by answering the following questions:

- a.** Who leads and coordinates professional learning on your campus? How many full- and part-time staff are involved as leaders?

[Enter Text Here]

- b. What structures (e.g., workshops, all-campus convocations, summer institutes, sustained faculty learning communities) are most significant? What would you say is your signature professional learning program?

[Enter Text Here]

- c. What topics do your most active programs focus on? Do your major initiatives (listed in #2 above) involve professional learning? If so, how?

[Enter Text Here]

4. **Goals for Change and Improvement.** What changes might strengthen your professional learning practice? What gaps or opportunities for improvement might your team address? Thinking in terms of benefits for educators, for students, and for the college, how could you strengthen your programs' effectiveness?

[Enter Text Here]

5. **Campus Learning Team.** Teams can range from six to 10 participants and should include diverse roles, such as faculty leaders, professional development leaders, coordinators of success initiatives, department chairs, and an upper-level academic administrator (dean or above). If you wish to address professional learning for staff educators (advisors, tutors, and other support staff), you may want to include representatives from student affairs as well. Participants who bring knowledge about professional learning and who are positioned to leverage change will strengthen the team. Participants should be available for and committed to participation in all components of the program,



including individual reading and preparation, in-seminar conversation, and local team meetings as outlined above.

- a. Who will lead the team? Please identify one or two team leaders (name and title) and briefly describe why they are positioned to be effective leaders.

Name	Job Title	Brief Description
[Enter name]	[Enter title]	[Enter note]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]	[Enter note]

- b. Please provide at least a tentative list (name and title) of other team members.

Name	Job Title
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]
[Enter name]	[Enter title]

Note: For more detailed information about the team members’ time commitment, please see the FAQs on the [program webpage](#).

6. **From Planning to Action.** Each campus team will develop a detailed Building Capacity Action Plan, encompassing short-term and long-term goals and practical steps to strengthen campus professional learning practice and build enduring institutional capacity for change. Briefly describe how you would want your campus to act on this plan, in terms of consideration for strategic action.

[Enter Text Here]

- 7. Funding.** How will your institution fund participation in this program? Click on the appropriate checkbox(es) below. [Note: This is for informational purposes only. Please be assured that Achieving the Dream will not contact your funders.]

<input type="checkbox"/> Institution covers all costs. Please indicate the source(s) of the funding. Click or tap here to enter text. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Title III funds○ HBCU funds○ Reallocating general funds
<input type="checkbox"/> A mix of institutional and external funds. Please identify the name and the proportion of the participation costs to be covered by the funder(s). Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully externally funded. Please identify the name of the funder(s). Click or tap here to enter text.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please specify Click or tap here to enter text.

Letter From the President or CAO

Please provide a letter signed by the campus president or chief academic officer (CAO). We ask the letter writer to please address these points:

- Your familiarity with the goals and structure of the Strengthening Teaching and Learning Seminar Series and your campus team's application materials
- The strategic goal, from your perspective, of having a team from your campus participate in this program
- Your commitment to encouraging the team's full participation in the program and meeting with them to discuss possible strategies related to change
- Your commitment to ensuring that the Building Capacity Action Plan developed by the team receives full consideration in the development of campus strategic initiatives and related resource allocation processes