



July 6, 2010

J. Barry Ballard, President
Sharon Seals, Team Leader
Ouachita Technical College
P. O. Box 816
Malvern, AR 24115

Dear President and Team Leader:

Thank you for the report on your Achieving the Dream activities and expenditures. ATD has completed a review of the report, approved it, and recommended to the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation that the next installment of funding be released. If you have not already received this payment, you can expect to receive it very soon.

The report helped us better understand the challenges your institution faces and the progress you are making toward increasing student success. We are encouraged by several things, including:

Committed Leadership

- The commitment shown by the president, administrators, faculty, and staff to student success and closing achievement gaps.
- The college's embracing of student success as a top priority.
- An increased focus on student success.

Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs, and Services

- The use of disaggregated, longitudinal data in institutional decision-making.
- The positive evaluation data on the Men on a Mission, Student Opportunities Seminar, Basic Grammar/Composition, and Developmental Mathematics interventions.
- The development of evaluation plans and follow-through to monitor progress.

Broad Engagement

- The involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in decision making.



Systemic Institutional Improvement

- The growing culture of evidence at your institution.
- The increased capacity of the institutional research office.

Based on your report and our observations of your work over the past year, we urge you to pay special attention to the following issues in the coming year. Your data facilitator and coach can help you address these challenges.

Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs, and Services

- Continue to strengthen the institution's IR capacity so it can be responsive to requests for information and generate useful information for institutional decision-making.
- Continue to regularly disaggregate student data to identify achievement gaps.
- In order to more effectively measure the effectiveness of interventions, increase sample size by scaling up interventions where possible.

Broad Engagement

- Strengthen plans for sustained community, staff, student, and faculty engagement.

Systemic Institutional Improvement

- Expand the Intermediate Algebra pilot, which the data show is increasing student success, and plan for bringing it to full scale.
- Continue to strengthen plans to scale up and institutionalize other successful interventions.
- Institute campus-wide, evidence-based processes for diagnosing gaps in student achievement, formulating strategies to address gaps, evaluating strategies, and using the results to make further improvements.

Since Ouachita Technical College is moving into its third year of implementation, you should expect up to six days assistance from your coach and six days assistance from your data facilitator in the coming year. While you will receive fewer days of technical assistance from your data facilitator and coach, this does not reflect a reduction in their commitment, or ours, to support your Achieving the Dream work. Both will continue to participate in the annual Strategy Institute, providing another opportunity to lend support and advice.



In order to maintain uniformity in your budget format and line items, please use the 2010 financial report in all Achieving the Dream budgetary matters. If the college needs to revise any line item by more than 20 percent, and that line item is greater than \$10,000, the college must seek advance approval from MDC. At the end of this fiscal year, any remaining funds may be carried over into the next year's budget while staying in the same line item. Any deviation needs advance approval from MDC. Please contact ATD@mdcinc.org for more information.

We look forward to another year of collaboration with you and to seeing you at the 2011 Strategy Institute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Lincoln".

Electronically submitted by
Carol A. Lincoln
National Director

cc: John Brockman, Coach
Mike Flores, Data Facilitator
Cory Anderson, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation