



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT JOINS NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO HELP COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED

*Wayne County Community College District joins Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count; receives \$450,000 to plan, launch and implement student success strategies*

Detroit, Michigan, – The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) has been selected to join Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed. The college is one of six from Michigan, and 26 overall, joining the initiative this year. The initiative has now grown to 84 participating institutions in 15 states. This marks the Achieving the Dream’s first expansion into Michigan.

Achieving the Dream provides participating colleges with support to implement strategies designed to help more students — particularly students of color and low-income students — earn degrees, complete certificates or transfer to other institutions to continue their studies. Achieving the Dream emphasizes building a culture of evidence, in which colleges use data to identify effective practices, improve student success rates and close achievement gaps.

WCCCD’s Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery stated; “We are thrilled to have been chosen to participate in this exciting national initiative. This grant will enable WCCCD to reach out to and serve a greater number of students, who may otherwise not have an opportunity to attend college.”

Wayne County Community College District will receive a \$50,000 grant to plan and launch Achieving the Dream this year, and will then become eligible for an implementation grant worth up to \$400,000 over four years from Kresge Foundation.

As part of its participation, Wayne County Community College District will work closely with an Achieving the Dream coach, many of whom are former college presidents, and a data facilitator who provides hands-on help with the use of data. More about Achieving the Dream, including a full list of participants, can be found online at [www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org).

Achieving the Dream was launched in 2004 with start-up funding from Lumina Foundation for Education, which continues to fund aspects of the initiative. Eighteen additional funders have since joined the initiative, bringing additional institutions and states into Achieving the Dream.

Eight national partner organizations work with Lumina to guide the initiative and provide technical and other support to the colleges and states. They are: the American Association of Community Colleges; the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin; the Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Institute for Higher Education at the University of Florida; Jobs for the Future; MDC; MDRC; and Public Agenda.

#### **About Wayne County Community College District**

Wayne County Community College District’s mission is to empower individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve their goals through excellent accessible services, culturally diverse experiences and globally competitive higher education and career advancement programs.

#### **About Achieving the Dream**

Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count is a national initiative to help more community college students — particularly students of color and low-income students —succeed. The initiative works on multiple fronts — including efforts at community colleges and in research, public engagement and public policy — and emphasizes the use of data to drive change.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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