

July 27, 2017

18-025

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT WITH ACHIEVING THE DREAM

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REPORT/CONTEXT In an effort to make meaningful gains in equitable student success, Portland Community College has a need to join Achieving the Dream (AtD). Becoming a member of AtD will allow the College to build our capacity to use inquiry and data analysis to guide our efforts and affirm our successes, create a culture of evidence that will drive faculty engagement, and support improvements in support services and teaching and learning. To deliver on our mission and our passion, we need to establish a different operational framework which AtD can provide. AtD is a national organization that guides colleges committed to improving student success and completion. This occurs through an institutional change process grounded in data, supporting innovation and leadership, and leveraging best practices. The organization gives the College an opportunity to be part of a network of over 200 institutions, access to coaches, and state policy teams.

Participation in Achieving the Dream will enable the College to focus on and invest resources in large scale strategies that effectively promote opportunity and equitable student success. We must be accessible to and serve well all students in our diverse community. We have a responsibility to respond to the economic drivers that change the nature of our communities by providing programs and services that lead to local living-wage, in-demand jobs so that families can remain in their neighborhoods. We have an obligation to close gaps in rates of achievement associated with gender, race and ethnicity. This framework, linking Institutional Effectiveness, Information Technology, Learning Technologies and our accreditation efforts, will build capacity for better integration of data systems and enable us to bring

to scale initiatives that will be transformational to the institution.

We anticipate that AtD will help us to look closely at our current policies and practices to identify possible inequities. We are hopeful it will provide guidance and support as we develop as a learning organization and work to ensure that we have structures, practices and policies in place that reveal how and where our organization needs to develop, and that support that development. We also intend to enhance our communication strategies to effectively disseminate the information to the various audiences within the PCC community, to help us all process the information, make it relevant, and provide action steps to achieve our goals in providing equitable student success.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Portland Community College become a member of Achieving the Dream by approving the membership fee of \$225,000 (\$75,000 per year).

This expense will be paid from the General Fund as a result of cost reductions in other areas.