

ACHIEVING  
THE DREAM<sup>SM</sup>

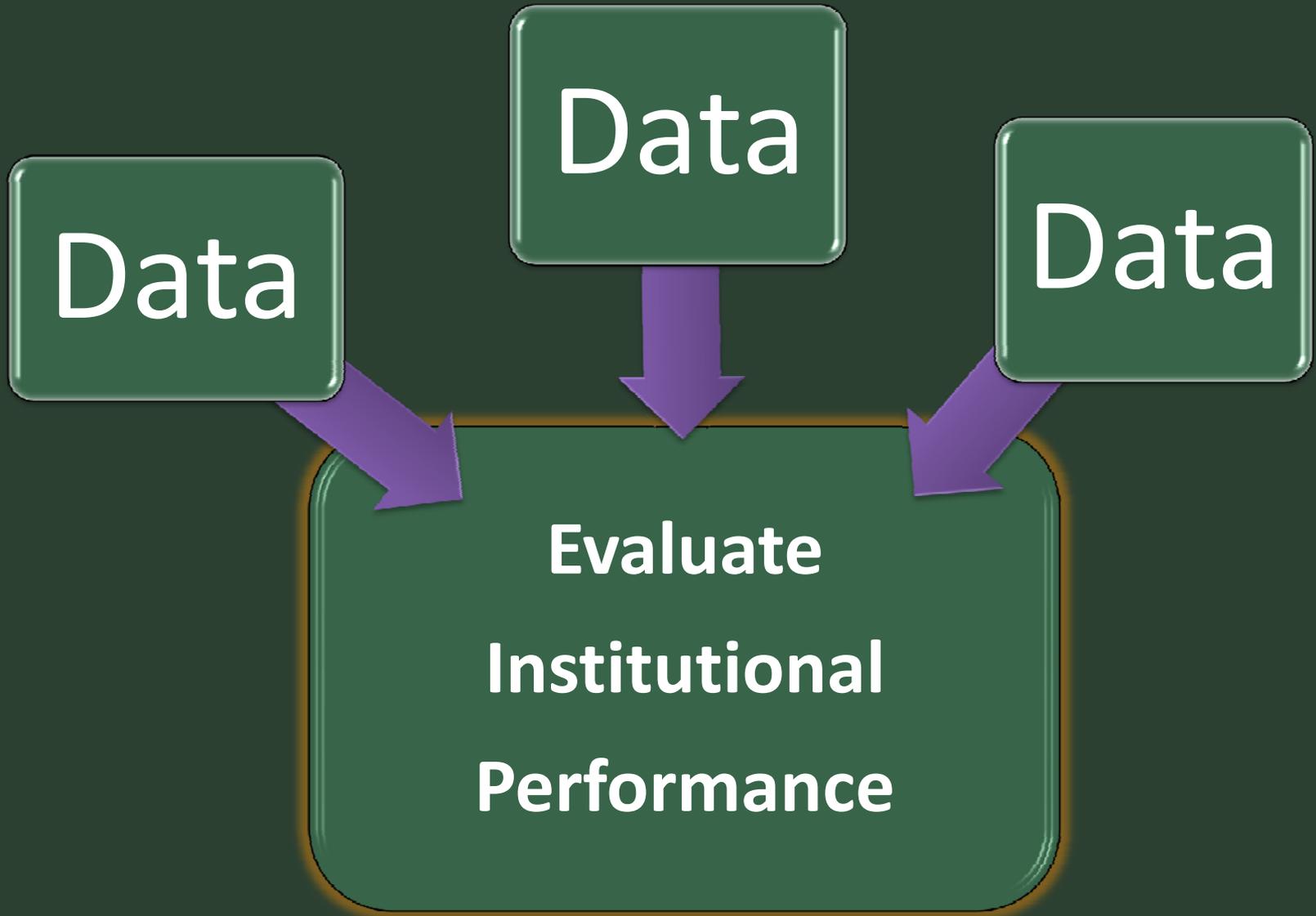
COMMUNITY

COLLEGES

COUNT

# What is Achieving the Dream?

- National Initiative to help Community College Students Succeed
- It is particularly focused on student groups that face the most significant barriers
  - First Generation College Students
  - Low income students
  - Student of color
  - Students with mediocre academic records
- It focuses on addressing the Achievement Gaps that exist with unprepared students



**Opportunity**

**Access**

**Success**

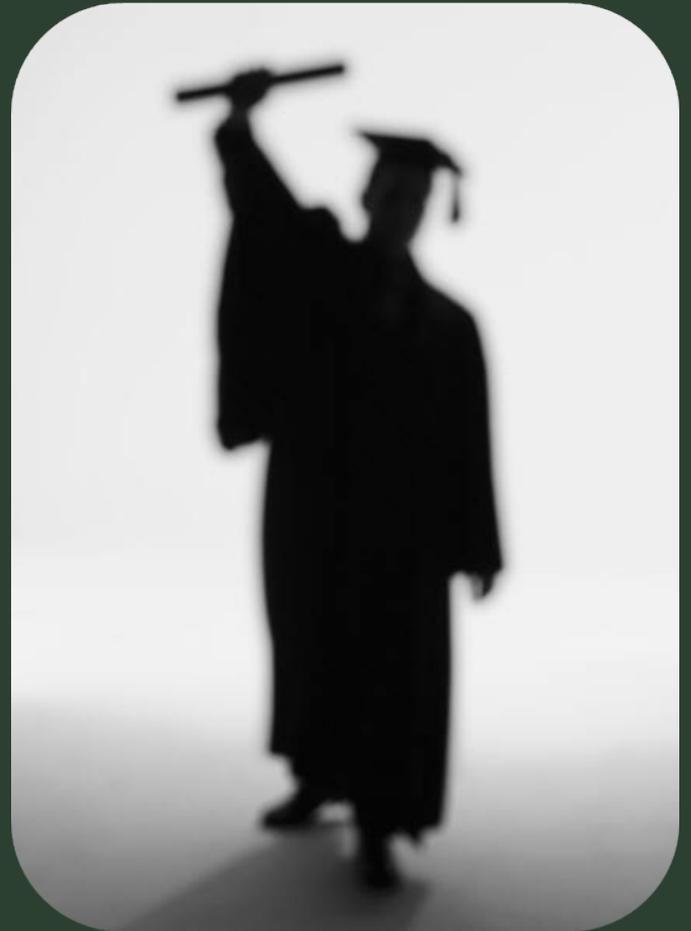
**Evidence**

# Culture of Evidence...



...Based on Data

**Focus on  
measurable  
outcomes  
and closing  
achievement gaps.**



**We must help students succeed.**



# Success is the Goal

**Completion of Developmental Courses**

**Completion of “Gatekeeper” Courses**

**Earn Grades of “C” or better**

**Persist from one term to the next**

**Earn certificate, diploma or associate degree**

**Half of undergrads attend community colleges.**



Achieving the Dream National Statistics

85% of students work...



Achieving the Dream National Statistics

**54% work full time...**



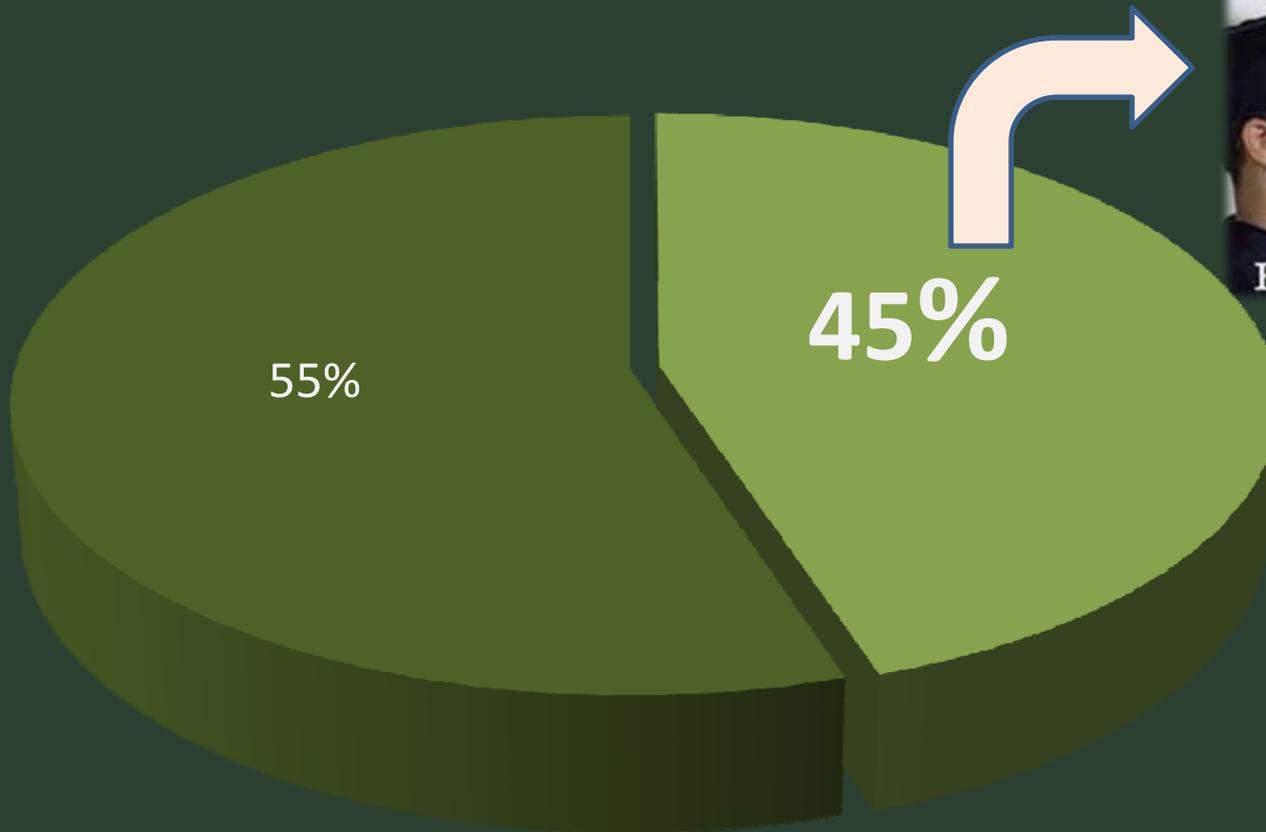
**Achieving the Dream National Statistics**

**HOUSEHOLD incomes < \$20,000**

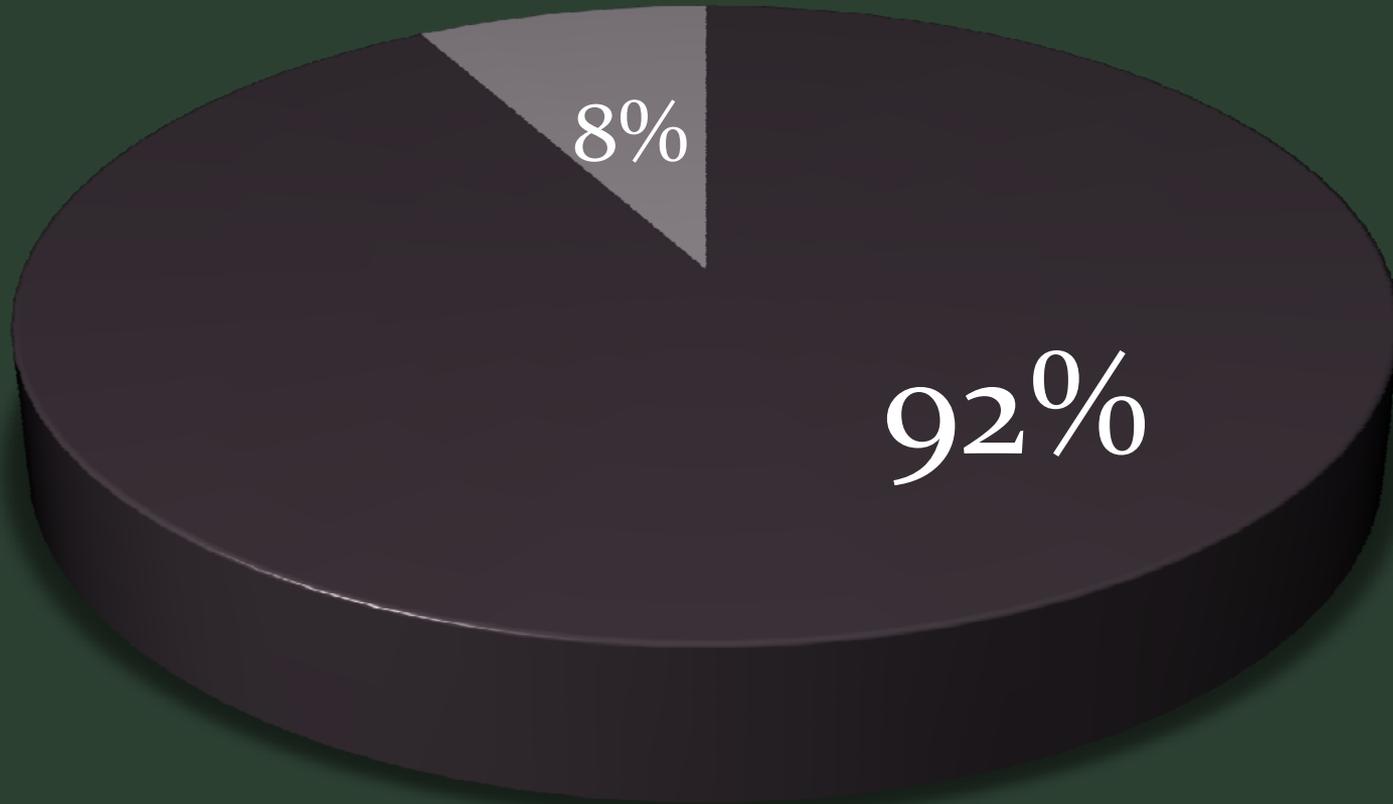


Achieving the Dream National Statistics

# First generation college students...



**92% Have at least one risk factor...**



Achieving the Dream National Statistics

Only 45% finish within 6 years...



Achieving the Dream National Statistics

# GTC

## Title III Grant

- 5 Year \$1.9 million dollar grant
- Focus on redesigning our Developmental Studies Program
- Data clearly showed we were not helping these students



**In the last six years, half of GTC's entering students placed into at least one developmental course.**



Data Collected for Title III Grant



*Within one year, half were no longer enrolled.*



Data Collected for Title III Grant

# Failure Rate Data English Courses

RDG 031	Developmental Reading	29%
ENG 032	Basic English	39%
ENG 100	Introduction to Composition	41%
RDG 100	Critical Reasoning	35%

Data Collected for Title III Grant



# Failure Rate Data

## Math Courses

MAT 031	Basic Math	36%
MAT 032	Developmental Math	51%
MAT 101	Beginning Algebra	68%

Data Collected for Title III Grant



# Failure Rate Data

## “Gatekeeper” Courses

MAT 102	Intermediate Algebra	59%
ENG 101	English Composition	54%
PSY 201	General Psychology	63%
HIS 101	Western Civilization	68%

# Five-Step Process



**Improvement**

**Implement**

**Stakeholders**

**Gather Data**

**Commit**

# Where Is GTC?



# Success is the Goal

**Planning Year**

**Involve College & Community Stakeholders**

**Ongoing Data Collection and Evaluation**

**Participation in Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute (February 2010)**

**Identify 3-5 Key Strategies to Implement**

# Ultimate Goal – Student Success



For More Information...

[www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org)

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