



CSN Achieves ‘Leader College of Distinction’ Status

The college is one of only 11 to receive this national honor

February 28, 2019 – The College of Southern Nevada is proud to announce that Achieving the Dream named it one of 11 Leader Colleges of Distinction for its work on improving student success and reducing student achievement gaps.

The award recognizes colleges that have consistently strived to meet challenging student success goals. It specifically cited CSN for gains of 8 percentage points for students completing gateway math, 8 percentage points for gateway English, 8 percentage points for fall-to-fall persistence and a 3-percentage-point increase in completion. In addition, low-income CSN students saw a 10-percentage-point increase in gateway math completion, a 13-percentage-point increase in gateway English completion, and a 10-percentage-point increase in persistence. The college also showed gains for female students as well as black and Latino students across metrics. For example, there was an 11-percentage-point increase in Latino student persistence.

“There is nothing more important for CSN than student success. It is our core value and calls for our students to graduate, complete, transfer and prosper,” said CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza. “We put students first in everything we do in order to help them complete their college journey prepared to enter southern Nevada’s workforce. When we joined Achieving the Dream in 2012 our goal was to see our students succeed in consistent, measurable ways. While we still have much work to do, we are on our way.”

Achieving the Dream is a national non-profit network of more than 200 colleges focused on improving student success. CSN was named a Leader College in 2015, and received the Leader College of Distinction status this month. The honor comes on the heels of similar recognition to CSN by other national leaders in student success, the Lumina Foundation and Complete College America.

“The metrics ATD established for Leader College of Distinction are meant to encourage colleges to sustain aggressive efforts that result in far greater student success and equity,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “The honor recognizes Network colleges that have lived their reform work over time and seen real improvements in student achievement across the institution.”

The 10 other Leader Colleges of Distinction are, Amarillo College, Bay College, Cuyahoga Community College, Everett Community College, Kingsborough Community College, Lorain Community College, Lee College, North Central State College, Passaic County Community College, Pierce College.

About CSN: Founded in 1971, the College of Southern Nevada is the state’s largest and most diverse higher education institution. CSN is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and specializes in two-year degrees and workforce development that lead directly to high-demand careers or transfer to a university. It also offers seven bachelor’s degrees in specialized fields and is the state’s largest provider of adult basic education and literacy training. CSN is a Minority Serving Institution and Nevada’s first Hispanic Serving Institution. Our students create flexible schedules with day, evening and weekend classes taught on three main campuses and multiple locations throughout Southern Nevada or online. CSN is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.