



TITLE III PROGRAM

Quarterly Newsletter • **SPRING 2024**

Greetings, ECC Community!

Hello all, and welcome to the inaugural installment of Title III's quarterly newsletter series. We are currently in Year 1 of the grant period, so our intention is to start our newsletter practice early and ensure everyone is aware of our goals to produce consistent and transparent communications regarding Title III operations.

With many moving parts to this grant and its activities, our goal for this newsletter is to relay updates on our activities, budget, evaluations, and more. We're committed to keeping you informed while trying to avoid information overwhelm--we'll do our best to strike that balance.

In addition to the newsletter, you can access institutional information regarding Title III at any time in [Falcon Nest](#) and on [our new Title III webpage](#). We've linked them for your convenience. If you can't find what you're looking for, reach out to us.

As recipients of a Title III Part A grant, the potential for institutional transformation has increased greatly. While change and new initiatives can feel daunting, the heart of this work centers around helping our students succeed and persist. It's the core of what we all do. We look forward to collaborating with you as our work continues.



Dr. Robyn Walter
Vice President, Academic Affairs
Title III Project Director

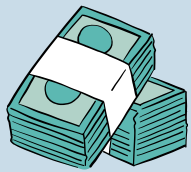


Carson R. Mowery
Title III Program Coordinator

OUR TITLE III AWARD: *at a glance*

Title III is a section of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and it pertains to institutional aid. Part A of Title III refers to strengthening institutions.

A **Title III Part A program** helps eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.



\$2,198,305



5 YEARS



4 PRIMARY INITIATIVES



7 NEW POSITIONS



3 OVERARCHING STRATEGIES



14 EXPECTED OUTCOMES



3 MAIN GOALS

**OUR GRANT:
BY THE
NUMBERS**

Budget Overview

YEAR	BUDGET PERIOD	AMOUNT
1	10/1/23 - 9/30/24	\$406,529.00
2	10/1/24 - 9/30/25	\$447,591.00
3	10/1/25 - 9/30/26	\$449,847.00
4	10/1/26 - 9/30/27	\$444,413.00
5	10/1/27 - 9/30/28	\$449,925.00

STEERING COMMITTEE

Management of the four primary initiatives/activities will be executed by members of the Title III Steering Committee and its subcommittees. The Title III Steering Committee will be operated via a tri-chair model.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Carson Mowery	Dr. Robyn Walter	Sarah Leassner
Dr. Jon Bauer	DeAnna Cassat/Ashley Straatmann	Stephanie Hebert
Dr. Michelle Smith	Bethany Lohden	Erin Anglin
Lindsay Riegel	Ann Boehmer	Dr. Rachel Howard
Olivia Kerwin	SI Coordinator	Stacy Bogier
Abbie Unnerstall	Paul Lampe	Jenni Crosby

ACHIEVING THE DREAM SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Robyn Walter	Sarah Leassner	Ann Boehmer
Brittany Clark	Jenni Crosby	Elena Dissen
Sarah Haines	Leigh Kellmann Kolb	Sarah Scroggins
Megen Strubberg	Bethany Lohden	Erin Anglin

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

SI Coordinator	Katie Holtmeyer	Olivia Kerwin
Kirby Moreland	Lindsay Riegel	

ASAP SUBCOMMITTEE

Erin Anglin	Dr. Rachel Howard	Bridgette Kelch
Jessica Robart	Abbie Unnerstall	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Jessica Van Leer	Chad Baldwin	Clarissa Brown
Carrie Myers		

****NOTE:** The Title III Program Coordinator will serve as a member on all of the activity subcommittees.

INITIATIVES, GOALS & STRATEGIES

THE PRIMARY INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE

ACHIEVING THE DREAM

A network membership that provides an opportunity for sustainable transformation toward a holistic model of advising & centers on providing students with wraparound services.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

This program will support students who have completed developmental courses & are working to complete gateway courses, as well as providing additional support to low-income students who may not be using the already robust learning center.

ACCELERATED STUDY IN ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS (ASAP)

This program will provide a gap tuition scholarship, book voucher, and food/gas subsidy in exchange for required utilization of wraparound supports. This will eliminate financial barriers for low-income students and allow them to focus solely on the successful completion of the courses.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A myriad of PD opportunities will come from the Title III grant, including those associated with Achieving the Dream & supplemental instruction, as well as best practices for online and hybrid teaching, retention practices, supporting low-income and underserved students, and more.

Overarching Goals & Strategies

AP GOAL 1: Increase course success and retention rates for underserved low-income students.

Join the Achieving the Dream network.

Implement professional development for technology.

Implement supplemental instruction (SI) program.

Establish Accelerated Study in Association Programs (ASAP).

Establish a holistic student support & advising model, including collaboration between Success Coaches & Advising.

Train advisors and success coaches in advising best practices with assistance from Achieving the Dream.

Hire additional staff to support a full range of student success needs.

Ensure adequate technology & training to expand HyFlex offerings from the current limited pilot program.

Enhance online course design & train faculty on HIPs for improving learning outcomes.

IM GOAL 2: Improve infrastructure to support student success.

Establish robust laptop and hot spot internet access program for underserved low-income students.

FS GOAL 3: Improve fiscal stability.

Meeting retention targets through proposed strategies and solutions.

RECENT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2024



Erin Anglin

Executive Director,
Academic Support &
the Learning Center

What was your favorite session at ATD?

Improving Credit Accumulation and Retention Through a Comprehensive and Focused Coaching Program

What is one major takeaway you can't stop thinking about?

The impact the ATD Coaches had on the institutions they worked with really resonated with me. It makes me really excited for our coaches to join us at ECC and continue the great work we do to help our students succeed.

What are you most excited to bring back to ECC?

I am excited to bring my renewed energy in ATD and our future coaches to ECC and my colleagues. I feel the presentations I attended showed thoughtful and engaging participation by ATD Coaches and the institutions with which they partnered. The colleges and ATD shared data driven decisions and outcomes from implementation to assessment of effectiveness. This just really renewed my excitement to have our own ATD Coaches and what changes we can implement to best support our students.

What was your favorite session at ATD?

"The Student Success Dividend: Holistic Support and Institutional Sustainability." It discussed the ways wise investments in student-centered resources and programs, when implemented well, can eventually pay for themselves via retention of current students and recruitment of prospective students due to a reputation of being successful and beneficial to both students and the institution.

What is one major takeaway you can't stop thinking about?

During the opening plenary session, we had the chance to hear from Dr. Imani Perry, a renowned professor of Women, Gender, & Sexuality and African American studies at Harvard. In her presentation, Dr. Perry shared a story of one of her many advisees whom she had seen experience great success. Of her student, she said, "In the conference language, that is, by achieving the dream,' you might think I'm referring to him matriculating at an elite institution with a doctorate. However, I'm really referring to the kind of person he's becoming." She went on to pose a guiding question she uses in her work, which is "Who do we take ourselves to be?" Dr. Perry stated that, "If we focus on ethos and act with integrity, we can feel confident that we've done righteous--albeit imperfect--work." I found this to be incredibly centering and a helpful question to keep at the heart of our work with students. We have to think of both parts--what do we want to help them achieve, and how can we help them become the best and most authentic versions of themselves.



Carson Mowery

Title III Program
Coordinator

What are you most excited to bring back to ECC?

I am so motivated by the content of the conference and the colleagues in our Network. Their energy for institutional transformation is inspiring, but more so their understanding of the role of transformation. For this work to be successful, we have to know that attempts at transformation cannot be gratuitous or perfunctory, and that our work must center the best interests of our ever-changing student population and community.

RECENT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2024



Dr. Robyn Walter

Vice President,
Academic Affairs &
Title III Project Director

What was your favorite session at ATD?

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of the 2024 Achieving the Dream annual DREAM conference. So many times, people will cite “networking” as a benefit of a conference but DREAM takes networking to another level. Interacting with so many individuals completely committed to student success and closing the equity gap is inspiring. I met policy makers, community members, faculty, staff, and students and each with a story to share about how they are shaping initiatives to make a lifelong difference for students. Multiple keynote speakers engaged the audience on a broad range of topics including social justice, community advocacy, the value of the humanities, partnerships, and more. These sessions are more than a presentation -- they are a call for action.

What is one major takeaway you can't stop thinking about?

My absolute favorite part of the conference was the attention paid to the student DREAM scholars. Their stories, their challenges, their triumphs, and their future plans left me in tears so many times. I visited with two of them one evening and I know, without a doubt, these students will make the world a better place for all of us.

What are you most excited to bring back to ECC?

I am more convinced than ever that being part of the Achieving the Dream Network is right for East Central College. I look forward to hosting our coaches on our campus and being part of this transformational journey for our students and our entire campus community.

What was your favorite session at ATD?

The DREAM Scholars' Poems

What is one major takeaway you can't stop thinking about?

I cannot stop thinking about how vital it is for us to continue to reach out and hear our students stories. One of the most powerful insights to the student experience was the DREAM Scholars I am poems. To see their experience from their lens keeps me thinking about what else do we not know about our students. The question I keep asking myself is what are the adversity that are students are facing, that we don't know about, and how can we get them to share their stories so we can use those as powerful motivators for change.

What are you most excited to bring back to ECC?

I am planning on working with my leadership team to add in a student voice expectation to each of our departments / function areas. We do this work many times informally, but I'd like to work to make sure all of my areas have a commitment to hearing our students voices and using those for progressive change.



Sarah Leassner

Vice President,
Student Development

Grant Activity Updates



Received Board approval for the purchase of 43 new laptops for our Library's laptop loan program. We used the \$30,000 allotted for Year 1 to make this purchase.



Created a Title III website, which will be updated regularly. [You can view it here.](#)



Formed the Title III Steering Committee and activity subcommittees.



Accepted into the Achieving the Dream Network and sent four employees to the DREAM 2024 Conference.



Hiring is underway for the Supplemental Instruction Coordinator and the Retention Specialist positions for both Union and Rolla.

Looking Ahead

EXTERNAL EVALUATOR SITE VISIT

Judy Taylor, our external evaluator from JCCI, will be conducting a site visit on the Main Campus April 4-5, 2024. During her time here, she will meet with the following individuals/groups either in one-on-one or committee settings:

- Title III Program Coordinator
- Title III Project Director
- President
- Institutional Research
- Vice President of Finance & Administration
- Director of Financial Services
- Cabinet
- Title III Steering Committee
- Any Grant-Funded Personnel

Her time here will also be essential for the successful completion of our interim performance report, a federal reporting requirement.

