

## **New Report Supports Student Learning Advances Through Adaptive Courseware**

*Lessons Learned from ATD Network Colleges In Every Learner Everywhere Initiative*

**Boulder, CO** (May 12, 2022) – The Every Learner Everywhere network has released a new report summarizing important lessons gleaned from a pilot project that used advances in personalized digital learning to address high failure rates in foundational courses, particularly among economically marginalized and racially minoritized student populations.

**Adaptive Courseware: New Models to Support Student Learning** summarizes the findings of 11 case studies conducted by Achieving the Dream (ATD). The case studies represent the work of hundreds of faculty, staff, and administrators in over 25 different courses from nine disciplines across the campuses of the participating institutions, who together served more than 7,500 students as part of the pilot.

Faculty and staff at the seven ATD Network institutions – Amarillo College and Houston Community College (HCC) in Texas; Lorain County Community College (LCCC) and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) in Ohio; and Broward College, Miami Dade College (MDC), and Indian River State College (IRSC) in Florida – focused their efforts on Every Learner's goal of leveraging technology to advance equitable student outcomes, particularly in gateway courses with significant equity gaps among poverty-affected, racially minoritized, and first-generation students.

Participants cited significant evidence of the technology's potential, including greater numbers of students completing targeted gateway courses and higher grades within specific courses. For example, students reported that the courseware gave them the opportunity to engage with course material at their own pace while also giving them feedback on their progress in the adaptive assignments. Even though some students found the repetitive nature of adaptive work frustrating, many others acknowledged it helped them master key concepts.

Overall, the experiences of faculty, staff, and students at participating institutions indicate that adaptive courseware:

- Encouraged student self-efficacy by promoting progressive skill building through guided practice

- Helped faculty members identify students who needed support and intervene appropriately by using courseware data analytics to identify specific students and/or topics that large numbers of students found difficult
- Supported flipped classroom models in which students were introduced to key concepts before coming to class for further discussion or support, ensuring they were more engaged and prepared for classroom work
- Addressed discipline-specific needs, including reinforcing prerequisite skills in mathematics, walking students through multiple-step procedures in science courses, presenting complex and nuanced concepts in smaller, actionable chunks in social sciences and business, and building discrete skills in areas such as grammar and structure in English courses
- Reduced course costs for students, supporting ongoing institutional efforts to keep textbook and material costs low

"The adaptive courseware case study series illuminates various ways that digital tools can support active student learning experiences and outcomes. Through the firsthand accounts from faculty and students, readers gain an intimate understanding of varying institutional approaches to integrating adaptive courseware in gateway courses with evidence-based teaching practices in ways that individualize and scaffold comprehension and empower students," said Dr. Ruanda Garth-McCullough, Achieving the Dream's Director of Program Development. "The practices demonstrate how intentional digital learning experiences can be designed to reflect Achieving the Dream's Excellence in Teaching and Learning Cornerstones by centering students and supporting professional learning for faculty."

The [full report](#) also outlines key strategies to guide institutions as they implement new digital learning strategies for student success, from identifying the best courses for high impact to considering how adaptive courseware impacts faculty workload.

To download the free resource or learn more about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit [everylearnereverywhere.org](http://everylearnereverywhere.org). To contact Every Learner Everywhere, email [everylearner@wiche.edu](mailto:everylearner@wiche.edu), or call (303) 541-0206. Follow Every Learner on Twitter @EveryLearnerNet.

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**Every Learner Everywhere** is a network of twelve partner organizations with expertise in evaluating, implementing, scaling, and measuring the efficacy of education technologies, curriculum and course design strategies, teaching practices, and support services that



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[everylearner@wiche.edu](mailto:everylearner@wiche.edu)  
(303) 541-0206

personalize instruction for students in blended and online learning environments. Our mission is to help institutions use new technology to innovate teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of improving learning outcomes for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students, poverty-affected students, and first-generation students. Our collaborative work aims to advance equity in higher education centers on the transformation of postsecondary teaching and learning. We build capacity in colleges and universities to improve student outcomes with digital learning through direct technical assistance, timely resources and toolkits, and ongoing analysis of institution practices and market trends. For more information about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit [everylearnereverywhere.org](http://everylearnereverywhere.org).

**Achieving the Dream (ATD)** leads a growing network of more than 300 community colleges committed to helping their students, particularly low-income students and students of color, achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth, and economic opportunity. ATD is making progress in closing equity gaps and accelerating student success through a unique change process that builds each college's institutional capacities in seven essential areas. ATD, along with nearly 75 experienced coaches and advisors, works closely with Network colleges in 45 states and the District of Columbia to reach more than 4 million community college students. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).