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NC Student Success Center Partners with ACUE to Advance Statewide Student Success Efforts Online

August 14, 2020—The North Carolina Student Success Center (NC SSC) and the [Association of College and University Educators](#) (ACUE) have partnered to advance student achievement across the [North Carolina Community College System](#). Through ACUE’s nationally-recognized credentialing programs, faculty will develop evidence-based teaching practices for online instruction to ensure a high-quality, equitable college education is available to students.

In July, cohorts of faculty from across the North Carolina Community College System enrolled in ACUE’s microcredential course on **“Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environment.”** This program will support faculty to start the new academic year with practical and evidence-based teaching approaches shown to [improve student achievement and close equity gaps](#). Faculty will also earn credit toward ACUE’s Certificate in Effective College Instruction, the only nationally-recognized college teaching credential endorsed by the American Council on Education.

“As thousands of faculty in the North Carolina Community College System prepare for long-term use of digital learning tools, they expressed an urgent need for professional development in online instruction,” said Susan Barbitta, executive director of the NC Student Success Center.

The interest led NC SSC, a member of the [Student Success Center Network](#) supported by Jobs For the Future (JFF), to pursue scalable, effective teaching practices for quality instruction in North Carolina’s 58 community colleges.

“The need for best practices in online teaching and strategies for achieving equity is more apparent than ever,” said Barbitta. “With such an urgent issue, we were eager to offer our faculty the tools they—and their students—need to succeed. That’s the mission of our Center—to advance and scale sustainable statewide student success and completion efforts, serve as a resource hub for shared learning, technical assistance, idea generation and policy advocacy.”

“We’re thrilled to partner with the NC SSC to further student success and educational equity. It’s an honor to be able to help faculty strengthen their online teaching skills,” said Jonathan Gyurko, president and co-founder of ACUE. “Through our partnerships nationwide, we find strong evidence of stronger, more equitable achievement among students taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty. We’re eager to have this same impact in North Carolina’s community colleges.”

This program is offered as part of the [Every Learner Everywhere](#) (ELE) initiative, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through a grant approved by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. The program was made possible by the NC SSC’s longstanding relationship with [Achieving the Dream](#) (ATD), an ELE



network partner. Founded in 2004, Achieving the Dream has led a national movement to improve student outcomes, close achievement gaps and advance equity across America's community colleges.

About the North Carolina Student Success Center: The North Carolina Student Success Center (NC SSC) supports North Carolina's 58 community colleges as they provide education and a broad range of services to more than 700,000 students each year. NC community colleges are working to improve completion rates for their students. Much of the NC SSC's work focuses on helping colleges undertake the large-scale, institution-wide change—such as implementing guided pathways—that is essential to attain this goal. To learn more, visit nccommunitycolleges.edu

About ACUE: The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) promotes student success through quality instruction. In partnership with colleges, universities, higher education systems and associations, ACUE prepares and credentials faculty in the evidence-based teaching practices that improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Numerous and independently validated efficacy studies confirm that students are more engaged, learn more, and complete courses in greater numbers—more equitably with their peers—when taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty. ACUE's online, cohort-based credentialing programs are delivered through institutional partnerships and open enrollment courses endorsed by the American Council on Education. To learn more, visit acue.org.