



Advancement Via Individual Determination

**NEWS RELEASE**

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AVID Center

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**AVID Center Receives Grant to Expand College Completion Project Across U.S.**

**San Diego**—National educational efforts took a major step forward to improve college persistence and graduation through the funding of a college completion project in 10 colleges and universities across the U.S. This five-year, \$1.48 million grant was awarded by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to AVID Center, which will implement the project based on the AVID for Higher Education Student Success Initiative (AHE SSI).

The colleges and universities include: Atlanta Technical College (GA); Butler Community College (KS); California State University (CSU), Dominguez Hills (CA); CSU, San Bernardino (CA); CSU, San Marcos (CA); Saddleback College (CA); Santa Monica College (CA); Tougaloo College (MS); and the University of North Carolina - Asheville (NC). A tenth institution is pending approval.

“AVID for Higher Education (AHE) provides much-needed support to college students, and helping AVID scale the AHE program to 10 additional campuses is in alignment with the foundation’s goal of empowering more high-need students to obtain a bachelor’s degree,” commented Todd Penner, Team Lead, College Preparation & Completion at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Adds Dr. Milton Clark, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, CSU, San Bernardino, “The faculty, staff, and administration of California State University are strongly committed to student success. When the opportunity to be a partner in the AVID for Higher Education Student Success Initiative was presented, we immediately recognized that the synergy of such a partnership would be advantageous to both our organization and students. Their goals, objectives, and pedagogy align with our vision to provide students at CSUSB with the best tools to facilitate success here at CSUSB and on into their future lives.”

The multi-year grant allows for an evaluative study of the effectiveness of the SSI Essentials based on the benchmarks of student success, including retention, persistence, transfers from community colleges, and graduation. This research will measure the effectiveness of AHE SSI in terms of sustainability, scalability, and to corroborate AVID for Higher Education as a transformative agent on college campuses.

These 10 institutions will address the SSI Essentials, which are designed to transform campus culture by engaging key campus members from across institution departments and programs in the change process. The five Essentials are: (1) Administrative Leadership and Support; (2) The AHE Campus Team: Campus-Wide Collaboration; (3) Faculty Development and Professional Learning; (4) AVID Experience: First Year Through Completion; and (5) Assessment and Research. In addition, these campuses will utilize the AHE Certification process to ensure fidelity to the AHE program design, which correlates with higher levels of both student and institutional outcomes.

At the end of 2014, AHE and its three programs—SSI, the Teacher Preparation Initiative (TPI), and Career and Technical Education (CTE)—will be implemented on 40 campuses across the nation, serving an estimated 13,000 students in 11 states and developing 4,000 faculty members.

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### **About AVID**

AVID is a global, non-profit, proven college readiness system serving students in elementary, secondary, and higher education. In 2009, AVID Center initiated a pilot in six, two-year and four-year public or private institutions in CA, MN, TX, and WA. In 2010, AVID for Higher Education (AHE) was formally established with funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The funding resulted in the development of the AHE's Student Success Initiative, which was initially implemented in 11 colleges across Texas. These institutions represented public, two-year and four-year colleges and universities, as well as three, private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Today, AVID impacts more than 700,000 students in K–12 and in 40 higher education institutions.

For more information, visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).