



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**March 4, 2026**

**Halifax Community College Recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2026 Leader College**



*WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA* – Halifax Community College (HCC) announced today that it has been designated a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national organization committed to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing, and economic mobility.

Dr. Patrena B. Elliott, President/CEO of HCC, states, “We are honored to be recognized as an ATD Leader College, a distinction that affirms our commitment to student success and institutional excellence. This recognition reflects the work of our faculty, staff, and partners who remain focused on removing barriers, closing equity gaps, and ensuring our students have the support they need to persist, complete, and succeed. We are proud of this milestone and energized to continue advancing outcomes that strengthen our students, our workforce, and our community.”

Leader Colleges are recognized for meaningful progress in expanding access; improving early momentum metrics, such as retention; advancing relevant student success strategies with evidence of implementation and early results; and growing institutional capacity through culture and capacity-building efforts.

Halifax Community College has been part of the ATD Network since 2020.

“The 2026 Leader Colleges demonstrate sustained commitment and measurable progress in advancing student success,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “By using data to guide decisions and continuously strengthen their practices, these institutions are producing real gains in student outcomes,





strengthening their practices, and deepening their impact in the communities they serve. Their leadership sets a powerful example for colleges across the ATD Network, reflecting the focus, discipline, and follow-through required to achieve lasting institutional change.”

###

### **About Achieving the Dream**

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a partner and champion of more than 300 community colleges across the country. Drawing on expert coaches, groundbreaking programs, and national peer network, the organization provides institutions with integrated, tailored support for every aspect of their work — from foundational capacities such as leadership, data, and equity to intentional strategies for supporting students holistically, building K–12 partnerships, and more. ATD calls this Whole College Transformation. Its vision is for every college to be a catalyst for equitable and economically vibrant communities. ATD knows that with the right partner and the right approach, colleges can drive access, completion rates, and employment outcomes — so that all students can access life-changing learning that propels them into community-changing careers. Follow ATD on [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). To learn more, visit the Achieving the Dream (ATD) website: [www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org).

###

### **About Halifax Community College**

To learn more about HCC’s programs, visit [www.halifaxcc.edu/what-we-offer](http://www.halifaxcc.edu/what-we-offer).

### **Halifax Community College’s Mission**

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

**Media Contact:** If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Council at 252-536-7214 or e-mail [vcouncil512@halifaxcc.edu](mailto:vcouncil512@halifaxcc.edu).

