“Achieving The Dream” Library Workshops
Enhancing Student Success through Collaborative Instructional Programming

Handout 1.1: Partner Bios

Program Developers & Instructors

Aileen Bachant, MA*
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
Rowan University Libraries
Contact: bachant@rowan.edu OR 856-256-4961

Aileen Bachant is the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for Rowan University Libraries. She received a B.A. in Journalism from Rowan University in 2008, and completed her M.A. in Writing in 2011. Aileen regularly communicates with prospective and transfer students at on-campus events, including open houses and new student orientations. For these events, she prepares presentations that highlight Library resources and services essential to academic success.

Aileen developed the ATD Library Workshop series as a Library-Writing Center hybrid program that would better prepare undergraduate students for success in writing and researching for college-level assignments.

Dedicated to the support of education at all stages, Aileen also volunteers as the Director for Philadelphia Stories, Jr. There, she oversees a team of editors, and frequently holds workshops to encourage young writers to build their writing, critical thinking, and reading skills.

Sharada Krishnamurthy, MA
Director
Rowan University Writing Center
Contact: krishnamurthy@rowan.edu OR 856-256-4961

Sharada Krishnamurthy directs the Rowan University Writing Center. She teaches Integrated College Composition I, College Composition I and Tutoring Writing. As the Writing Center Director, Sharada has worked closely with departments across campus to create workshops and tutoring models that support student writing. One such collaboration is the ATD Library Workshop, which provides students with an understanding of academic research and writing skills essential to academic success.

Her research interests are writing center theory and practice, and tutoring and pedagogy relating to English Language Learners and other diverse student populations. She is also interested in exploring the role of academic services, such as writing centers, in student retention, learning and success.

Sharada also writes short stories and poems. She is the editor for Philadelphia Stories, Jr. Grades 9-12, and holds creative writing workshops for students K-12 in the Philadelphia area.

Sarah Hoskins, MLIS
Digital Scholarship Center Specialist
Rowan University Libraries
Contact: hoskins@rowan.edu OR 856-256-3656

Sarah Hoskins runs the Digital Scholarship Center at Rowan University. She has a B.A. in Classical Civilization from Boston University and an MLIS from University of Pittsburgh. Over the last year, she has transformed what once was a large computer lab into a functional, academic environment where students can engage with emerging technologies, and faculty can learn about trends in scholarly communication. She connects new students with the tools and skills needed to create digital media projects.

This was her first semester working with the ATD program. Sarah created a library website scavenger hunt to guide students through the main functions of the website. The students then contributed to a collective interactive image, exposing them to new web tools. While in the Digital Scholarship Center, the students received an overview of the available equipment and services.

Marren Magee, MA
Graduate Assistant
Achieving The Dream [ATD] Scholarship Program
Contact: Mageem0@rowan.edu

Marren Magee recently earned an M.A. in Counseling in Educational Settings from Rowan University. She has assisted students in various capacities, including as an academic coach for students with disabilities, an intern for career management services, a coordinator for tutorial services, and a graduate assistant for the ATD scholarship program.

For the ATD scholarship program, Marren reported retention rates, designed and facilitated a small study skills group, co-designed curriculum content for the Fall 2015 101 course, and in efforts to maintain retention rates, met one-on-one with over 100 ATD students who fell below the program’s GPA requirement.

As a member of the ATD pilot workshop team, Marren ensured all workshops ran smoothly by recording attendance, navigating groups to different stations, and observing responses and engagement levels at each station.
Handout 1.1: Partner Bios

Program Developers & Instructors

Lorenzo T. Matthews, MS
Coordinator, Achieving The Dream [ATD] Scholarship Program
Rowan University Advising Center
Contact: matthewsL@rowan.edu OR 856-256-4226

Lorenzo T. Matthews is the Program Coordinator for the ATD scholarship program at Rowan University. He received his B.A. in Business Administration and M.S. in Education from Kansas State University. He is working toward the completion of his MBA at Rowan University.

Lorenzo has more than nine years of advising experience. He has worked with a variety of student populations, including: professional athletes returning to college for degree completion, program councils and other university-formed groups, first generational students, and high-achieving students.

Now in his fourth year as ATD Program Coordinator, Lorenzo is in charge of programming—such as the new student orientations for ATD each year—weekly workshops and speakers, and advisement of individual students each semester. With the help of James Gaymon, Assistant Vice President of Student Diversity, the ATD Scholarship Program has flourished, and continues to promote academic success through advising, group meetings, workshops, and on-campus support services.

Since the program’s inception, Lorenzo’s main goal has been to help students manage their writing capabilities. Exposure to Library and Writing Center services has been a key contributor in the success of ATD students, and continues to help them develop academically during their college careers.

Phyllis Meredith, MIS, MA
Reference and Instructional Librarian
Campbell Library
Contact: meredith@rowan.edu OR 856-256-4974

Phyllis Meredith has served Rowan University as a reference & instructional librarian for nearly 30 years. Phyllis maintains collections in support of the University’s English Language & Literature, Psychology, Africana Studies and Sociology programs. She is also responsible for scheduling library instructional programs and shared reference duties. Prior to Rowan’s rebranding to assume university status, Phyllis had served the Camden Campus Library as site director, supervising a number of full-time employees and work-study students. There, she oversaw and assisted with the ESL Library procedures.

After the successful completion of the pilot workshop, Phyllis was asked to lend her expertise to the development of ATD program goals. Phyllis was mainly focused on online access issues, and how they impact information literacy. She hoped to position students for success by emphasizing where they could find basic resources and links, such as the Library homepage, ProfSearch, the “A-Z” e-resources list, research guides, and the instant message chat feature.

Bruce Whitham, MLIS, MES*
Reference and Instructional Librarian
Campbell Library
Contact: whitham@rowan.edu
856-256-4979

Bruce Whitham is a member of the Research and Instructional Services department of Campbell Library on the Glassboro campus of Rowan University. For the past nine years, in various roles, he has participated in the rapid growth of Rowan University, which is easily measured by increasing student enrollment and by its breadth of educational offerings.

During his 20-year tenure as an academic librarian, Bruce has worked to promote collections and services to students and faculty, and has helped to develop and expand collaborative relationships through state and regional consortia. For years a champion of cooperative services and open access, he is currently focusing on interdepartmental collaboration and the role of the library in supporting self-directed online learning.

Bruce developed the original learning goals and curriculum for the Achieving The Dream pilot workshop in October of 2013, and is responsible for the program that exists today.

*Poster presenter