

Read to Succeed (RtS): How It Started

The quote by Joseph Addison that "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body," drove Dr. Morenike Adebayo-Ige into being a part of the Norco College Reading Club, tagged Read2Succeed!

About a year after she got hired at AVC, Morenike met with Dr. Jill Zimmerman (Dr. Z.) over dinner in the fall of 2016 to share her vision of a book club—an idea she had seen from Norco College. Dr. Z. welcomed the idea and suggested she put the picture down while sharing the concept with other campus stakeholders. A year after that, precisely on August 29, 2017, with support from Dean Riley Dwyer and the college leadership, Morenike invited a group of faculty, staff, and admin to a meeting at the Learning Center (LC). She presented the importance of reading to life and college success. That presentation birthed "The Read to Succeed (RtS)" initiative on campus with a mission *to create a community of engaged readers on campus and beyond* and a vision *to connect the AVC community through the act of reading*.

Thus, RtS is a campus-wide reading club that connects AVC students, faculty, staff, admin, and the community that we serve. Student Equity (SE) has served as an RtS sponsor from inception to date, while Dr. Z. is the adviser. In the beginning, two other faculty members worked with Morenike--Dr. Danielle McCabe (Psychology) and Linda Parker (Library), but currently, John Wanko (Counseling) and Osvaldo Larios-Perez (Biology) are also members of the committee of faculty governing RtS.

RtS discussion is an FPD (Faculty Professional Development) event, and some faculty members also give extra credit to students for engaging with RtS. Several students have taken active roles, including joining the planning committee, helping lead discussions, and participating in the final events with their original material. All the books read to date can be found at the library "RtS Glass Show Case," while our page on the college website [RtS Home Page](#) has an archived section of past presentations and books.

In impacting the AV community, RtS in 2018 introduced the reading program to the county jail inmates, as faculty volunteered to facilitate. RtS continues to grow and support students' success and engagements on campus because of the buy-ins from the college leadership, faculty, student, and staff.