Dear friends of College Now,

This has been a year unlike any other in recent memory. As we sit down to write this annual letter, it is with the knowledge that the world we are living in today is vastly different from the one we inhabited this time last year. The coronavirus pandemic and the racial justice movements of 2020 have touched every aspect of our lives, and our work at College Now is no different.

What we hope to convey in this year’s Report to the Community, though, is that College Now has risen to the challenges presented during this truly unprecedented year. When the pandemic was declared in March 2020, our team switched to a virtual model of work immediately without disruption to our services and has continued to deliver at an incredibly high level over the past year. The deaths of Ahmied Abdiy, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd – and locally, Desmond Franklin – sparked deep and passionate conversations about equity and systemic racism among our staff and have caused us to put an even more deliberate focus on the way in which our work intersects with the broader movement toward social justice across the country.

That is not to say that this year hasn’t been hard. The conversations we have had with students and staff have been some of the most personal and emotional we have ever experienced. We have seen students faced with barriers to their educations; we looked inward at our own policies and practices surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion; and, above all, we stayed true to our mission.

This hard work has not gone unnoticed. Along with community acknowledgment of the dedication of our staff, College Now was awarded the National College Attainment Network’s Member of the Year Award of Excellence at the 2020 virtual NCAN National Conference. This award recognizes the work of a college access and success program to fulfill NCAN’s mission of building, strengthening, and empowering communities and stakeholders to close equity gaps in postsecondary attainment for all students.

If there was ever a year that College Now deserves this acknowledgment, it is this one, as this organization has truly stepped up to live our mission during what has been the most challenging year in recent memory. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of our work and emphasized the extent of educational disparities in marginalized communities. We could not be prouder of the commitment of College Now’s staff, and we could not be more thankful for your continued support.

Throughout it all, our team at College Now has adapted, experimented, and worked hard to keep our mission going. Education is a crucial need for our students and our community, and we knew that our work could not stop just because we could not meet with students in person. We knew our students needed us more than ever. And our staff stepped up to serve them in ways that, frankly, blew us away.

As you’ll read throughout this Report, College Now has worked to make the most out of a year when nothing has been as we predicted. We found new ways to onboard incoming first-year mentors and mentees; we launched a text service for students and families to reach the Resource Center; we managed to hold remote summer scholarship sessions with as many Say Yes and College Now scholarship recipients as possible; we continued to advocate for students faced with barriers to their educations; we looked inward at our own policies and practices surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion; and, above all, we stayed true to our mission.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the racial justice movements of 2020 have touched every aspect of our lives, and our work at College Now is no different. We have seen students faced with barriers to their educations; we looked inward at our own policies and practices surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion; and, above all, we stayed true to our mission. The COVID-19 pandemic and the racial justice movements of 2020 have touched every aspect of our lives, and our work at College Now is no different. We have seen students faced with barriers to their educations; we looked inward at our own policies and practices surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion; and, above all, we stayed true to our mission.

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We conclude with the hope that, when we write this letter to you next year, it will be with news of a world in a different place than we are now. But, if there is anything we can take from this year, it is that College Now will always be here for our students and will always stay true to our mission of providing educational access to all in our community.

We wish you and your families the very best of health and happiness,
For College Now, 2020 was — at it was for nearly all of us — a year of adapting, learning, and challenging our traditional ways of doing things. And, while it required all of us to move outside our comfort zones, the College Now staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the mission of College Now was not lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Going into the pandemic and shifting to a remote work model was certainly a change for College Now’s administrative staff, who were used to working in-person every day in the Cleveland office. However, College Now also was at a unique advantage in our staffing; numerous advisors, who spend most days working in schools across Northeast Ohio, already had extensive experience in remote work environments and communicating with colleagues while physically working in a variety of locations. Of course, the true challenge came in finding ways to effectively reach and serve students who now were shifting to a virtual model of schooling.

As you will read later in this report, College Now’s Advising Programs and Services team performed an impressive and dramatic pivot — literally over a weekend — to a virtual model of serving students, with support from College Now’s Information and Technology team, who helped advisors learn and utilize new forms of technology, such as Microsoft Teams, GoToWebinar, and Google Classroom, to continue to provide advising support to high school students.

Of course, high school students were not the only ones who needed to be reached and served during the pandemic. And it was not just the staff who recognized the need to support our students in new and different ways — the community also stepped up. In one example, many students shared that they did not have access to technology to complete their virtual schooling, so College Now worked with community partners to help acquire — and even hand-deliver — the technology students needed to succeed in their remote learning.

The pandemic also affected our work with adult students, and the Adult Programs and Services team at College Now immediately transitioned to providing virtual services, creating a virtual Resource Center and hosting virtual public events around areas of education impacted by the pandemic, such as federal student loan debt.

Relying on its proprietary MAP Database, which identifies in-demand jobs in the region and the educational pathways needed to get there, College Now continued to help adults searching to understand their next steps in the ever-changing workforce environment of the pandemic. With support from the Strive Partnership, College Now worked with the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland to embark on a social media campaign to broadcast College Now’s services to stopped-out students who needed to finish college to find a secure career amid the pandemic.

The innovations made by College Now during COVID-19 have helped us rethink and shape our work moving forward. Realizing that more students than ever have questions about the postsecondary process as COVID-19 changed admissions, graduation, and application procedures, College Now debuted a testing service called Ask Tassel, in which students and families across the state — or even the country! — can test the Resource Center for help and guidance. Additionally, College Now advisors discovered that creating a virtual library of pre-recorded, on demand content for students and their families could be helpful in ensuring students can receive college-going information whenever they need it, and College Now will be embarking on a videography project with the help of the Trust Foundation to further build out our in-house video capabilities and create a virtual content library.

And it is because of this dedication and innovation that College Now was awarded the 2020 Member of the Year Award of Excellence from the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) at its 25th anniversary virtual national conference. In recognizing College Now, NCAN cited College Now’s long-standing commitment to students throughout Northeast Ohio and the organization’s early innovation as being the first college access organization of its kind in the country. NCAN called College Now’s response to the pandemic “nothing short of outstanding, demonstrating the agility of the team and a tremendous commitment to their mission” and described College Now as “an organization that has withstood the test of time and continues to be an important part of the fabric of Cleveland.”

While 2020 was not without its challenges, the innovation and adaptability of the College Now staff shone through even during some of the darkest days. College Now is extremely grateful to our staff and the community for their continued dedication to College Now’s mission and their unwavering support of this organization.

"College Now’s response to the pandemic has been ‘nothing short of outstanding.’"
During a typical school year, College Now school-based advisors provide services to students in school buildings, community centers, and libraries throughout Northeast Ohio. Due to health and safety restrictions, the coronavirus pandemic has challenged both students and College Now advisors to approach postsecondary preparation in new ways. At the onset of the pandemic in Ohio, College Now advisors quickly adapted to serve students via tele-advising methods to help students complete the FAFSA, offer guidance on scholarship applications, and more.

**STUDENTS SERVED VIRTUALLY**

From March 16 – July 31, 2020, the Advising team served:

- In the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), 1,680 students
- In Northeast Ohio suburban/parochial schools, 1,474 students
- In Parma City Schools through the GEAR UP program, 933 students
- In schools across Lorain County, 481 students

**ADVISORY BY THE NUMBERS**

- 5,745 total hours spent on remote advising
- 3,440 hours planning school and summer programming
- 1,157 hours on professional development for advising staff

Through summer programming, the Advising team served over 500 students across 10 different programs, amounting to 8,900 total group and individual sessions.

**STUDENTS SERVED BY IMPACT!**

In an 11-week period, from March 15 – May 31, 2020, the impact! team served:

- 300 impact! College Now's standardized test-prep program, served 300 students from over 50 schools.
- 60% increase, or 113 additional students, who participated in impact!

**VIRTUAL EVENTS ATTENDEES**

In an 11-week period, from March 15 – May 31, 2020, the Advising team hosted:

- 71 Freshman Night event attendees
- 53 Sophomore Night attendees
- 55 Junior Night attendees
- 31 ACT/SAT event attendees
- 14 Transition to College event attendees

As the pandemic has continued into the 2020-2021 academic year, the Advising team has remained adaptable and implemented new strategies from lessons learned along the way. A monthly e-newsletter is now distributed to all students served by College Now, sharing information about upcoming programming, as well as delineating college-going tasks all grade levels should be focusing on during a given time period. Additionally, College Now is offering a refreshed set of Virtual Key Events in the new academic year, including:

- What We Know about Testing During COVID-19: The Importance of Entrance Exams
- What We Know about College Admissions During COVID-19
- Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Nights
- Senior Nights and College Application Workshops
- FAFSA Completion Office Hours and Financial Aid Nights

Though it is uncertain how COVID-19 will continue to impact education, College Now is ready to adapt and provide students with the support they need, when and how they need it, to prepare for life after high school.

**SUMMER UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMMING**

Over the summer, the College Now Upward Bound team used a variety of creative methods to keep students engaged virtually. Students from Warrensville Heights High School and Shaw High School participated in math, science, Spanish, and computer science classes. To supplement their online classes, students participated in hands-on learning activities in the afternoons. Scholars made homemade tacos, practiced yoga, created webpages, built Lego Technic Kits, planted herbs and tracked their growth, and participated in thoughtful discussion about *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Graduating seniors also received college dorm-kit deliveries from their Upward Bound advisors. Many students stated that their learning helped them to feel better prepared for this virtual 2020-2021 school year!
The College Now Mentoring Program fosters relationships between College Now and Say Yes scholarship recipients and volunteer mentors in the Northeast Ohio community to provide an added layer of support for students navigating higher education. On top of an already daunting experience, this year students endured a particular set of challenges stemming from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through months of uncertainty, the Mentoring Program has ensured that students are staying connected with the supports they need for success. While COVID-19 has made traditional in-person meetings all but impossible, the College Now Mentoring Program is unique in that the bulk of communication is done online—and has been for years. Mentors and students communicate twice monthly through a virtual platform, using a curriculum developed by College Now. Pairs are asked to meet in person three times every year, as well, though students and mentors have adjusted by meeting virtually this year instead. When mentors sign up to participate in the program, they often offer support by drawing from their own college experiences, from helping students work through roommate challenges to giving advice on asking for a letter of recommendation. While no participant in the program has lived through a pandemic before, students were able to lean on the guiding relationships they already had begun to build with their mentors prior to COVID-19. As a current mentor and retired educator, Elaine Byrd said, “I believe that mentoring is more important than ever. The students have literally been on an emotional and academic rollercoaster for many months. Between the fear of contracting the virus, leaving campus to return home, attending classes online, studying, taking exams, and writing papers, the students have been forced to adapt and adjust to circumstances beyond their control. They need to know that they’re not alone and are fully supported, no matter what form that takes.”

Elaine’s mentee, Jessica Cobb, is a third-year student at Baldwin Wallace University. “She’s really become a friend to me,” Jessica said of Elaine. During their initial meeting, the two “clicked instantly” over a shared career field and sense of humor. Over the course of the program, they’ve become close, which provided a solid foundation for connection as routines and norms were uprooted by the pandemic. Jessica shared that the lack of structure with remote learning has been quite challenging, as well as being apart from her peers and friends on campus. Jessica and Elaine have had to postpone several plans they had made to spend time together, though they’ve stayed in touch by phone. “I think we’ve really helped each other because we’ve both experienced the challenges of isolation this year,” Jessica shared. Elaine says that Jessica’s character truly shone through while she adjusted to remote learning. With continued support from Elaine, Jessica pressed on with her studies, while also completing job interviews and continuing to serve as an orientation leader and course assistant to guide first-year students through their college debuts.

Elaine and Jessica’s relationship is a testament to the importance of staying connected, especially during tumultuous global and national events. The College Now Mentoring team proudly continues to provide support to the community of program participants as everyone navigates new frontiers. The Mentoring team has ensured that mentors and mentees continue to receive ample support and opportunities to connect by adjusting to online programming that would traditionally have been held in-person, hosting takeovers on College Now’s social media platforms to distribute information about technology access and mental health support to students, and by conducting consistent outreach to program participants.
Today, College Now’s mission is to increase educational attainment; however, we recognize that existing education systems do, in fact, perpetuate inequities that leave disadvantaged students and communities behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified such disparities. Students, particularly students of color and those from low-income backgrounds, have struggled with issues ranging from access to technology to food insecurity.

Racial, social, and economic disparities exist at every point along the higher education pipeline, from the application process to degree completion. While a clear set of solutions does not exist to solve these disparities carte blanche, College Now also recognizes education as a significant tool to improve the lives of individuals to create more equal communities and to foster social and economic mobility in the U.S.

Internally, College Now has been discussing issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion more intensively over the last several years. Currently, over 30 staff members actively participate in the organization’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and subcommittees. The Committee has supported initiatives such as finding opportunities for staff to receive implicit bias training, circulating antiracist educational resources, and hosting a series of Through the Lens panel discussions, amplifying BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) perspectives in the Greater Cleveland community, with particular emphasis on educational experiences.

Committee members also play an active role in reviewing and refining College Now’s internal policies and practices, from hiring and onboarding to ongoing training and workplace culture. This year, Committee efforts led to College Now’s recognition of Juneteenth as an annual employee holiday, as well as an opportunity for all staff to engage with The Racial Equity Institute’s Groundwater Approach.

College Now acknowledges that these internal reflections and actions are necessary to the process of dismantling and reforming harmful systems. We also understand that ongoing work is required to play a role more effectively in advocating for change in the broader context of education systems and policies.

College Now is committed to a culture of continuous learning and transparent growth. It is our hope that, by engaging in this introspective work, College Now will be better equipped to propel equitable and antiracist practices forward in our community’s education systems. This work often will result in discomfort, but it is necessary to build a community free of the racist and oppressive systems that impact our staff, students, and community every day.
Over the past year, College Now’s Adult Programs and Services team has been recognized both locally and nationally for our work with adult students in Northeast Ohio. As Ohio strives to reach its goal of 65 percent of Ohioans ages 25-64 having a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary workforce credential by 2025, the efforts to increase the number of degree holders across the state grow increasingly urgent. College Now has long assisted Ohioans in meeting this goal, and this past year has been no different, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TALENT HUB
In early 2020, Cleveland, along with Northeast Indiana, Southwest Florida, and Tampa Bay, was designated a Talent Hub by Lumina Foundation, in partnership with The Kresge Foundation, and received a $125,000 grant to support local efforts to increase educational attainment. This recognition from Lumina Foundation and The Kresge Foundation, two national philanthropic powerhouses, is especially gratifying. The designation is awarded to communities that meet rigorous standards for creating environments that cultivate, attract, and retain talent, particularly among students who are adults; Black, Hispanic, and/or Native American; from low-income households; and/or are the first in their families to attend college.

Building on College Now’s (Re)Connect to College program with Cleveland State University (CSU), discussed in last year’s Annual Report, the Talent Hub in Cleveland has been used as a framework to emphasize that equity in educational access is key to the region’s success, and it has worked to boost access, persistence, and completion for Black adult students. Working closely with Team NEO and CSU, the Talent Hub has joined existing efforts to fill in-demand careers by highlighting the availability and staying-power of adult learners graduating from local schools.

The work of the Talent Hub continued through 2020, despite the chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. College Now has collected and analyzed student data from CSU and employment data from Cuyahoga County to lead the way to more equitable outcomes for our Black residents. The final report is expected to be completed in April 2021.

INSTITUTIONAL DEBT
College Now has long supported individuals facing seemingly insurmountable student debt challenges. Especially during COVID-19, this has been a major focus of our services as students worked to understand their repayment options and situations during the federal government’s pause on student loan debt collection. However, another major area of student debt that has come into focus this year is institutional student debt; here in Ohio, that means debt that students owe to postsecondary public institutions, as opposed to loans owed to banks or the U.S. Department of Education.

Institutional student debt can be just as — or, in some cases, even more — debilitating as federal student loan debt, as it can affect students’ educational journeys. Institutional debt can include tuition, fees, room and board costs, and even parking tickets and library fines that students have been unable to pay. When students owe this debt to an institution, their transcripts can be withheld, the institution is mandated by state law to send the debt to the state’s Attorney General’s office, where the debt collects interest and fees and becomes an even larger balance owed. When transcripts are withheld, students cannot transfer schools, and cannot get jobs in which transcripts are required for hiring.

College Now, Policy Matters Ohio, and other student-focused groups throughout the state have embarked on several initiatives throughout the year to encourage Ohio to implement policy changes related to institutional debt to make degree achievement more attainable for all Ohioans. Groups have been asked to submit op-eds to newspapers throughout the state, to advocate for state legislation to address this issue, and to educate policy makers on the challenges students face when saddled with institutional debt through direct, one-to-one communication. As the state budget and agenda is set for 2021, it is College Now’s hope that this issue of institutional debt will be addressed at the state level to improve educational opportunities for all students.
WE ARE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

College Now’s commitment to making education more affordable is a cornerstone of our mission. Since our founding in 1967, College Now has awarded $84 million in scholarship dollars, but the need for college affordability is ever present and growing. College Now is fortunate to receive continued support from the Northeast Ohio community to provide scholarship funding for students. This past year, College Now worked with community supporters to establish several new scholarships, four of which include the Benko Scholarship, the Thaxton Scholarship, and the Manley-Parham Scholarships.

ROBERT PATRICK BENKO SCHOLARSHIP

John Wilson created the Robert Patrick Benko Scholarship to honor his childhood friend Bob Benko and his deep love of learning and education. Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Bob passed away at the age of 31 while completing his Ph.D. in economics. Along with the involvement of Bob’s family, John established this fund to support an outstanding LGBTQ high school student or ally. This is the first scholarship at College Now to specifically recognize an LGBTQ student or ally who has contributed to initiatives that support diversity and inclusion. The first recipient of the Benko Scholarship matriculated to the Cleveland Institute of Art in fall 2020. This is the second scholarship created by John at College Now. Along with his partner, Lawrence Li, John established a fund at the Cleveland Foundation to provide renewable scholarships to College Now to award to academically qualified immigrants and first-generation U.S. citizens called The New Generation Scholarship. John and Lawrence hope that these scholarships will continue to drive forward thriving, diverse communities by expanding education opportunities for students.

“This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my schoolwork by lessening the stress of financial worry. Going to the Cleveland Institute of Art and studying animation has been a dream of mine for years and I’m able to do this now thanks to the scholarship.”

BRIDGET WITWER
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE BENKO SCHOLARSHIP

“The College Now New Generation Scholarship has given me the opportunity to pursue my education and further develop as both a community member and leader. After graduating, I plan to pursue professional school to obtain my Doctorate in Optometry.”

SANDY HUYNH
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE NEW GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP

GREG AND SUZANNE THAXTON SCHOLARSHIP

Along with support from the Nordson Corporation Foundation, where Greg worked for 30 years, including 12 as Chief Financial Officer, Greg and Sue established the Thaxton Scholarship to reinforce their strong belief in the value of education. As a first-generation college graduate, Greg experienced first-hand the personal satisfaction and professional growth earning a college degree brings. Greg and Sue feel strongly about giving back to their community. In addition to their newly established fund with College Now, the Thaxtons have supported a scholarship at their high school alma mater in Huron, Ohio, for the last seven years. In establishing this scholarship opportunity at College Now, the Thaxtons hope to motivate and assist future students to achieve the gratification and success that can come with educational attainment. The first Thaxton Scholarship will be awarded to a graduate of Elyria High School or Lorain High School in summer 2021.

CORA PAULINE PARHAM AND BRAVITT COLA MANLEY, SR. SCHOLARSHIPS

In honor of their grandparents, brothers Matt Manley and Justin Manley established the Cora Pauline Parham and Bravitt Cola Manley, Sr. Scholarships in the summer of 2020. Both Cora and Bravitt highly valued education. Cora was a homemaker, and while not a college graduate herself, emphasized the importance of education to her daughter (Matt and Justin’s mother), who went on to graduate from the University of Virginia with a degree in economics. Bravitt also encouraged his children to pursue higher education and served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years, retiring with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. His service was another factor inspiring the Manley brothers to give back to others through the gift of affordable education. Because of their grandparents and parents, Matt and Justin understand that education leads to opportunities. They believe that, “through education, all things are possible.” Through their scholarships, which will be awarded to Black students in Greater Cleveland, Matt and Justin hope to inspire the next generation of scholars with this same sentiment.

SANDY HUYNH
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE NEW GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP

BRIDGET WITWER
FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE BENKO SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to the ever-growing new support of College Now’s scholarship program, we are grateful for longstanding scholarships supported by the Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County, the George Gund Foundation, the John Huntington Fund for Education, Jimmy Malone, and the Jane D. White Fund #2. It is this continued investment by so many funders that truly makes College Now’s work community-driven.
This list reflects gifts, payments, and multi-year pledges from January 1 - December 31, 2020. We have made every effort to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this report. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our sincere apologies.

$1,000,000 AND ABOVE
The Cleveland Foundation
Ohio Department of Education
ServeOhio

$500,000-$999,999
Cuyahoga County
The George Gund Foundation
The Huntington Fund for Education
Ohio Department of Higher Education
U.S. Department of Education

$250,000-$499,999
Merdex M. Hathcock
Judith and Thomas J. Embrescia
Katinka Domotorffy
DiGeronimo Family Foundation
Cleveland Indians
Cargill Incorporated
M.E. & F.J. Callahan Foundation

$100,000-$249,999
Barberton Community Foundation
KeyBank
The Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust
Lumina Foundation
Ohio Machinery Education and Opportunity Foundation
Pipefitters Local 120

$50,000-$99,999
ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland
Jack W. & Shirley Berger Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland City of Cleveland
Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc.
Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
The KnowledgeWorks Foundation
Malitz Museum of Jewish History
David & Inez Myers Foundation
The Rainer Miller Shafton Foundation
Saint Luke’s Foundation of Cleveland
Fred E. Scholl Charitable Foundation
The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation
Starting Point
United Way of Greater Cleveland
The George Garretson Wade Charitable Trust #2
Westfield Insurance Foundation

$25,000-$49,999
The Bruming Foundation
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
Cleveland Browns Foundation
Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
Medical Mutual of Ohio
One Candle Foundation
PNC
The Presidents’ Council Foundation
PNC
The Reuter Foundation
The Sherwin-Williams Company
Summit Education Initiative
Swanglob Company
Greg and Suzanne Thaxton
Third Federal Savings & Loan
Trust Bank Foundation
The Thomas H. White Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
Anonymous (3)
AT&T
Bank of America
Margaret Dorothy Bray Trust
Capital One
Cavaliers Community Foundation
William and Cathy Christopher Cleveland Beer Week, Inc.
Cleveland Clinic
The George W. Codrington Charitable Foundation
The Community Foundation of Lorain County
Colleen M. Craven
Dominion Foundation
Eaton Corporation
Lauren Rich Fine
FirstEnergy Foundation
The Sam J. Frankino Foundation
Erwin & Katherine Gets Charitable Foundation Fund
Giant Eagle Foundation
The Gail & Sheldon Goodman Family Foundation

The Graduate! Network
Huntington National Bank
Patricia M., Jaelyn, and Kathryn Inglis
Margaret A. Kennedy and Robert Paul
Laborers’ International Union of North America, Local No. 894
The Lincoln Electric Co.
Gilbert and Carol Lowenthal
The Lubrizol Corporation
Toby and Melanie T. Maloney
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation
Matt and Justin Manley
The Meisel Family Foundation
District of Columbia Charitable Giving Fund
John P. Murphy Foundation
National College Attainment Network
The Perkins Charitable Foundation
Preformed Line Products Co.
Julie A. and Peter E. Raskind
The Reinhberger Foundation
RPM International, Inc.
Stacey Schroeder Team NEO
The Treu-Mart Fund
Visible Voice Charitable Foundation
William M. Weiss Foundation
Milton A. & Roslyn Z. Wolf Family Foundation
Dan & Ellen Zelman Family Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
Hammet Allen
Suzanne Alat-Boutous and Akram Boutous
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP
M.E. & F.J. Callahan Foundation
Cargill Incorporated
Cleveland Indians
DiGeronomo Family Foundation
Katinka Domotorffy
Judith and Thomas J. Embrescia
Fortney Foundation
Michael Gleesepn
Mercedes M. Hatcock

Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation
Kivianos Foundation of Cleveland, Inc.
Legacy Village Lyndhurst Community Fund
Toby D. Lewis
Catherine L. & Edward A. Lizziack Foundation
Jimmy Malone
MDRT Foundation
The Burton D. Morgan Foundation
The Murch Foundation
Nissan of North Olmsted
The O'Neill Brothers Foundation
Parker Hannifin Corporation
Policy Matters
Rotary Club of Cleveland
Scholnick Family Foundation
The Sears-Swerdlow Foundation
Joseph D. and Catherine-Sullivan TCF National Bank
Tucker Ellis LLP
Union Home Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation
Friends of Sandra Williams
John S. Wilson and Lawrence Li Yard Systems, Inc.
Mark and Janice Zupon
Anna L. Zverina*

$2,500-$4,999
Dan Abrams and Nan Cohen
Apple Growth Partners
Banks-Balbunin Foundation
Brian and Kirsten Barren
Glenn and Jeanette Grassell Brown
Harry and Mary Ann Carlson
The Sally H. and Pitt A. Curtiss Charitable Fund
DeWine Family Foundation, Inc.
Christine & Guido DiGeronimo Foundation
Fortney & Wegman, Inc.
Harry K. Fox & Emma R. Fox Charitable Fund
Charles and Kathe Hardin
Michael J. and Jane R. Horvitz
Intown Club Legacy Fund
Douglas and Karen Katz
Paul and Nanette Keopar
William and Jean Koehler
Bobby R. Larkin, Sr.
Charitable Foundation
Joyce Glickman
Hasell Fund
Shane Hollett
Joseph K. and Anne Juster
Bernard L. and Nancy Karr
Charles and Joyce Kullie
Steven Kutnick and Jacqelyn F. Derron
The Laub Foundation
Megan L. Mehalick
John G. and Karen R. Nestor
NeXstar Broadcasting Inc.
Roland S. Philip and Linda M. Sandhaus
Charles and Sally Inglis Rich
Walter J. and Janice A. Romansky
Mark Ross

Richard F. and Elizabeth A. Schiferl
Lawrence M. and Sally Z. Sears
Edwin Z. and Naomi Singer
Sean and Laurel Stack
David and Deborah Stahler
Teamsters Local 407
Truck Drivers Union
TEGNA Foundation
WAV Fox & Blevin
Timothy and Sandra Wuliger

$1,000-$2,499
Kristen Baird Adams and David Legay
Jennifer L. and Mark J. Altsstadt
Stephanie and Juan Antunez
Belle Artificial Intelligence Corporation
The Benezity Community Impact Fund
Christopher Brandst and Beth Sersig
Gabriel and Tracy Bruno
Buckley King LPA
Michael Tz Chung Chan and Brittany Williams
Yolanda Chanoine
Cleveland Chapter of Links
Michael and Jennifer Cogan
Richard and Michelle Creg
Robert R. & Gay C. Cull Family Foundation
William W. Cushwa
Manohar and Chandra Daga
Ward and Colleen Dumm

Third Fifth Bank
Steven and Mary Weatherhead Feldman
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Kathleen Kennedy and Doug White
Kinuzia Environmental, Inc.
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1,850
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND ADULT LEARNERS WHO RECEIVED COLLEGE NOW SCHOLARSHIPS LAST YEAR
MORE THAN 10,000
FINANCIAL AID THE
AMOUNT OF
Million

$160 Million
AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL AID THE MORE THAN 10,000 CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS SERVED BY COLLEGE NOW HAVE RECEIVED

MacDonald Kopp Trust
Greg and Shelley Marcus
Jonathan and Hannah Marshall
Andrea Marutman Peters
Melissa Mauk
Brooke McClain
Ronald and Marilyn McCoy
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Simone G. Polk
Tameka Pollard
Elnor G. Polster
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Amanda Pratt
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Peter Schlechtman
Kate Schonherr
Susan and Debra A. Sedlak
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VENUES IN NORTHEAST OHIO WHERE COLLEGE NOW PROVIDES SERVICES

185
IN HONOR OF

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Paul Byrnes

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Cheyanne Martin
Katie Gliny

James Merz
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$2,300
AVERAGE AMOUNT OF COLLEGE TRADITIONAL AND ADULT LEARNER RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Matching Gift Companies and Organizations

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90%
FIRST-TO-SECOND-YEAR AVERAGE RETENTION RATE AMONG COLLEGE NOW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 74% FOR ALL STUDENTS

College Now is very appreciative of those individuals whose planned gifts will benefit future generations of students

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Jeanette Grasselli Brown
Estate of Dorris Michalske
Danny Stolow and Audrey Davis
Estate of Frances R. Zverina

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25+ YEARS

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18 College Now Greater Cleveland
2021 Report to the Community 19
RECEIVING THE NATIONAL AVERAGE LAST THREE YEARS, RECIPIENTS OVER THE NOW SCHOLARSHIP RATE FOR COLLEGE

College Now Greater Cleveland 2021 Report to the Community

STUDENTS RECEIVING MENTORS FOR
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
College Now Greater Cleveland 2021 Report to the Community

1,900 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVING AS VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING TRADITIONAL COLLEGE NOW AND SAY YES CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIPS

Kent State University
KeyBank
LakeLand Community College
Lakeview City Schools
Link 4 Schools
Lorain County Community College
Lorain County JVS
Lorain County Urban League
MAGNET
Magnificat High School
Manufacturing Works
Mayfield City School District
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The MetroHealth System
Miami University
Midview Local School District
Minds Matter of Cleveland
Norman S. Minor Bar Association
Moms First
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National Scholarship Providers Association
Neighborhood Connections
Neighborhood Leadership Institute
NEXTEL Talent Exchange
New Hope Fellowship Church
NewBridge Cleveland
Norson Corporation
North Olmsted High School
Notre Dame College
Oberlin College
Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Higher Education
Ohio Means Jobs
The Ohio State University
Ohio University
OhioGuidestone
Olmsted Falls City School District
Open Doors Academy
Padua Franciscan High School
Parma City School District
Passages
Playhouse Square
PNC
Polaris Career Center
Promise Academy
PwC
Rocky River City School District
Salvation Army
Say Yes to Education Cleveland
SevenOhSeven
Shaker Heights City School District
Solon City School District
South Euclid-Lyndhurst City School District
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St. Ignatius High School
St. Joseph Academy
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WKYC
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$137 Million
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3 Bard High School Early College
4 Bay High School
5 Bedford High School
6 Berea-Midpark High School
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8 Brunswick High School
9 Brush High School
10 Charles Dickens K-8 School
11 Charles Eliot K-8 School
12 Clearview High School
13 Cleveland Central Catholic High School
14 Cleveland Heights High School
15 Cleveland High School for Digital Arts
16 Cleveland School of the Arts
17 Cloverleaf High School
18 Collinwood High School
19 Columbia High School
20 Davis Aerospace & Maritime High School
21 Design Lab Early College
22 East Technical High School
23 Elyria High School
24 Euclid High School
25 Facing History New Tech High School
26 Fairview Park High School
27 Firelands High School
28 Garfield Heights High School
29 Garrett Morgan School of Science
30 Ginn Academy
31 Glenville High School
32 Highland High School
33 Holy Name High School
34 James Ford Rhodes High School
35 Jane Addams Business Careers Academy
36 John Adams College & Career Academy
37 John F. Kennedy/Eagle/PACT
38 John Hay High School-3 Schools
39 John Marshall High School-3 Schools
40 Lakewood High School
41 Lincoln-West High School-2 Schools
42 Longfellow Middle School
43 Lorain County JVS
44 Lorain High School
45 Magnificant High School
46 Max S. Hayes High School
47 Mayfield High School
48 MC2STEM-10th Grade
49 MC2STEM-11th and 12th Grades
50 MC2STEM-9th Grade
51 New Tech West
52 Normandy High School
53 North Olmsted High School
54 Olmsted Falls High School
55 Padua Franciscan High School
56 Parma Senior High School
57 Rocky River High School
58 Saint Martin de Porres High School
59 School of One
60 Shaker Heights High School
61 Shaw High School (East Cleveland)*
62 Solon High School
63 St. Edward High School
64 St. Ignatius High School
65 St. Joseph Academy
66 Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy
67 Trinity High School
68 University of Akron Resource Center
69 Valley Forge High School
70 Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
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73 Warrensville Heights Middle School
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