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College Now to Host Mobile College Clinic for High School Students

CLEVELAND, March 18, 2021 — College Now Greater Cleveland advisors and AmeriCorps members will be hosting a free mobile college clinic for high school students and families throughout Greater Cleveland on Saturday, March 27, to reach students where they are during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, College Now has relied on delivering many advising services virtually for students not in school buildings, but will be partnering with BEST
Community Resource Center to conduct mobile services aboard their Mobile Academic Classroom to reach students who may be unable to access virtual services or who need additional in-person support as they plan for their journey after high school.

College Now is able to provide this service through its partnership and support from ServeOhio and AmeriCorps.

The Mobile Academic Classroom will be at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio at 6114 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44127 on March 27 from 10 am – 2 pm to serve students and their families in their postsecondary preparation. Students and families can register for an appointment at the link here. Appointments and services provided by the Mobile Academic Classroom are free to students and families.

Students and families will be able to meet with advisors on the Mobile Academic Classroom following strict health and safety protocols. Face coverings over the nose and mouth must be worn at all times while on the bus and in surrounding waiting areas. Students may be accompanied by one parent/guardian while working with an advisor on the bus. All surfaces and equipment will be sanitized between each appointment. A tent will also be set up at each location for outdoor meetings, which will still require masks and social distance guidelines to be followed.

Advisors who meet with students and families at the Mobile Academic Classroom will provide them with assistance on any and all aspects of the postsecondary process, including outlining steps needing to be taken to graduate and/or apply for a postsecondary program; scholarship and financial aid support, including FAFSA completion; standardized test guidance; and more. Students and families interested in working on the FAFSA are reminded that they will need to bring tax return and financial information to the Mobile Academic Classroom.

"During a typical school year, our advisors are able to meet with nearly every student while physically in their school – from scheduling appointments to finding someone in the hallway that they need to talk to, advisors have numerous avenues to conduct outreach," said Dr. Michele Scott Taylor, Chief Program Officer at College Now Greater Cleveland. "During COVID-19, we have to adapt many of our standard outreach models. Postsecondary education is still vital to our students' futures, and students still need our support in planning for their life after high school. We knew we had to get creative in how we provide that support during this unprecedented year."

"If we cannot reach students through email, phone, or video call, and if in-school meeting opportunities are limited, we need to meet them in their neighborhoods and places that are accessible to them," Dr. Scott Taylor continued. "Our students will always be our number one priority, and we will do what we need to do to make sure they receive the quidance and support they need."

The Mobile Academic Classroom will visit other locations throughout Greater Cleveland during the spring and summer months, and those dates and times will be shared as they are finalized and will be included on <u>College Now's website</u> events calendar.

For more information on the Mobile Academic Classroom, including what services will be provided, please contact College Now at 216.241.5587 or info@collegenowgc.org. Virtual services are still available, and appointments can be made to meet with an advisor virtually by emailing info@collegenowgc.org or calling 216.241.5587.

About College Now Greater Cleveland, Inc.

College Now provides Greater Cleveland students with guidance and access to funds to prepare for and graduate from college. For more than 50 years, our goal has been to help students pursue educational opportunities that empower them to embark on rewarding careers and strengthen our community. College Now assists more than 25,000 students each year, delivering college access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services in Greater Cleveland schools, in the College Now Resource Center and through community-based programs. For more information, visit www.collegenowgc.org.

About College Now Greater Cleveland's AmeriCorps Programs

The AmeriCorps team at College Now Greater Cleveland works with Advisors and school-based staff to guide students through postsecondary exploration and preparation. AmeriCorps members celebrate diversity, creatively problem-solve, and embrace teamwork while preparing students for thriving and productive lives that contribute to the region's economic vitality.

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at Americorps.gov.

About ServeOhio

ServeOhio, Ohio's governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, strengthens Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement. Through programs and initiatives funded and supported by ServeOhio, thousands of Ohioans of all ages engage in and are recognized for their service. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at www.serveohio.org, or on Facebook and Twitter.

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