



Ascend:

A Celebration of Style,
Spirits & Student Success

Thursday, May 20, 2027

5 - 8 p.m.

Hilton Cleveland Downtown



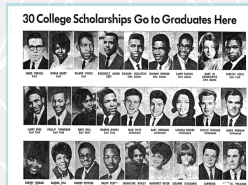
Your support elevates opportunity.

For nearly six decades, College Now has been creating pathways to higher education and transforming lives across Northeast Ohio. What began in 1967 as the Cleveland Scholarship Programs—the nation's first college access organization—was founded on a simple belief: **every student should have the opportunity to pursue higher education, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.** The organization began by providing scholarships to graduates from a small group of Cleveland high schools and has since grown into a comprehensive college access and success organization serving students and adult learners throughout the region.

Today, College Now is the nation's largest comprehensive college access and success organization, providing the guidance, resources and support individuals need to achieve their educational and career goals. While our programs and services

have evolved to meet the changing needs of students, our mission has remained constant: removing barriers, expanding opportunities and helping individuals reach their full potential through education.

Each year, College Now serves more than **42,000** students and adult learners across Northeast Ohio. During the 2024–25 academic year, we awarded **\$9.6 million** in scholarships to more than **3,400** individuals, bringing our lifetime scholarship investment to **\$121 million.** Through college and career advising, financial aid counseling, mentoring, student success coaching and student loan restructuring services, we help individuals enroll, persist and graduate. The impact of this work is reflected in outcomes that exceed national averages, including a **93%** first-to-second-year retention rate and a **67%** graduation rate among our scholarship recipients.





As we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, we invite you to join us for **Ascend—College Now's signature 60th anniversary celebration and the next evolution of our beloved Bags & Bourbon fundraiser**. Inspired by the journey of reaching new heights, Ascend will bring together alumni, supporters, community leaders and corporate partners for an unforgettable evening honoring six decades of impact while investing in the future of Northeast Ohio's students.

The need for this work has never been greater. Within the next decade, nearly two-thirds of jobs in Northeast Ohio will require a college degree or high-value credential, yet only about half of Ohio's workforce is prepared to meet that demand. Every student who earns a degree or credential strengthens not only their own future, but also the future of their family, community and our region.



Like a diamond, every student's potential is extraordinary. It is uncovered through opportunity, strengthened through perseverance and polished by a community that believes in them. **Your sponsorship of Ascend will help ensure more students have the opportunity to rise, achieve and shine—celebrating 60 years of impact while investing in the next generation of Northeast Ohio leaders.**



Overview of Benefits	Presenting Sponsor	Horizon Hero	Generous Groundbreaker	Talented Trailblazer	Excellent Explorer	Determined Discoverer
Sponsorship level	\$85,000	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
Event tickets	28	32	24	16	8	6
Logo and/or name recognition on event materials						
Recognition on College Now website						
Name recognition in media releases & stories						
VIP recognition						
Verbal recognition during event						
Promotions via College Now's social media channels						
Speaking opportunity at event	 KeyBank 					



\$60,000: Horizon Hero

- Up to 32 tickets to Signature Event
- Premier logo placement across event promotions, including College Now's website (60th anniversary pages)
- Speaking opportunity at event
- VIP Recognition
- Up to two (2) reels highlighting organization on College Now social media
- Logo recognition and reel played on Hilton screens during event
- Name recognition in event-related media releases and stories
- Logo recognition in event program and pre- and post-event communications
- Opportunity to engage with College Now employees and/or programs

\$30,000: Generous Groundbreaker

- Up to 24 tickets to Signature Event
- VIP Recognition
- Logo recognition on Hilton screens during event
- Logo on College Now's website (60th anniversary pages)
- Logo recognition in event program and pre- and post-event communications
- Name recognition in event-related media releases and stories
- Verbal recognition during the event



\$15,000: Talented Trailblazer

- Up to 16 tickets to Signature Event
- VIP Recognition
- Logo recognition in event program and pre- and post-event communications
- Logo on College Now's website (60th anniversary pages)
- Name recognition in event-related media releases and stories

\$7,500: Excellent Explorer

- Up to 8 tickets to Signature Event
- Logo recognition in event program
- Logo on College Now's website (60th anniversary pages)

\$5,000: Determined Discoverer

- Up to 6 tickets to Signature Event
- Name recognition in event program

Reserve Your Sponsorship

cngc.org/ascend



info@collegenowgc.org



216-241-5587

or mail a check payable to:

College Now Greater Cleveland
1500 W. Third St., Suite 125, Cleveland, OH 44113