



**College Now**  
*Greater Cleveland*

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# Mentoring Students through the “Hidden Curriculum” of College

Bob Durham, Senior Director

Madeline Rife, Director

College Now Mentoring Program

College Now Scholarships and Financial Aid

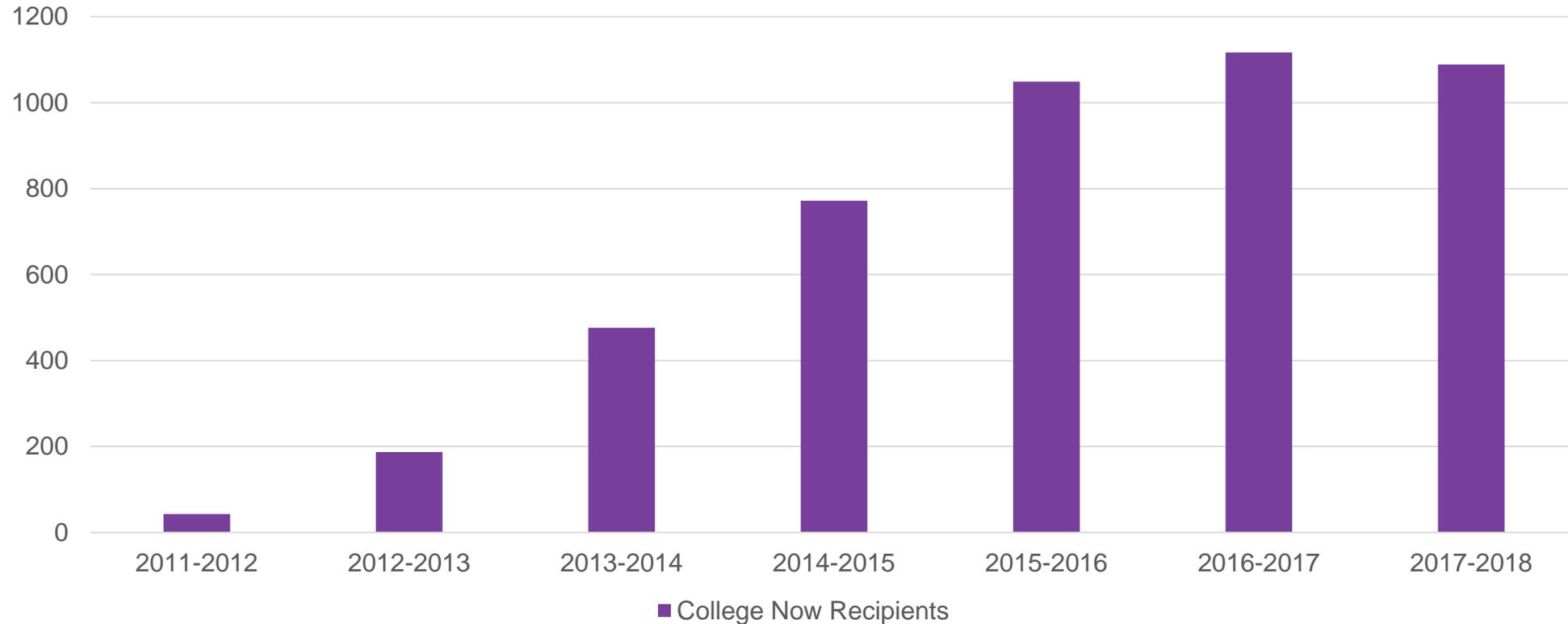
# Mentoring's Motivation

We believe everyone should have the support they need to **successfully complete their postsecondary education**, allowing them to **lead more satisfying and productive lives** and **contribute to the regional economy.**



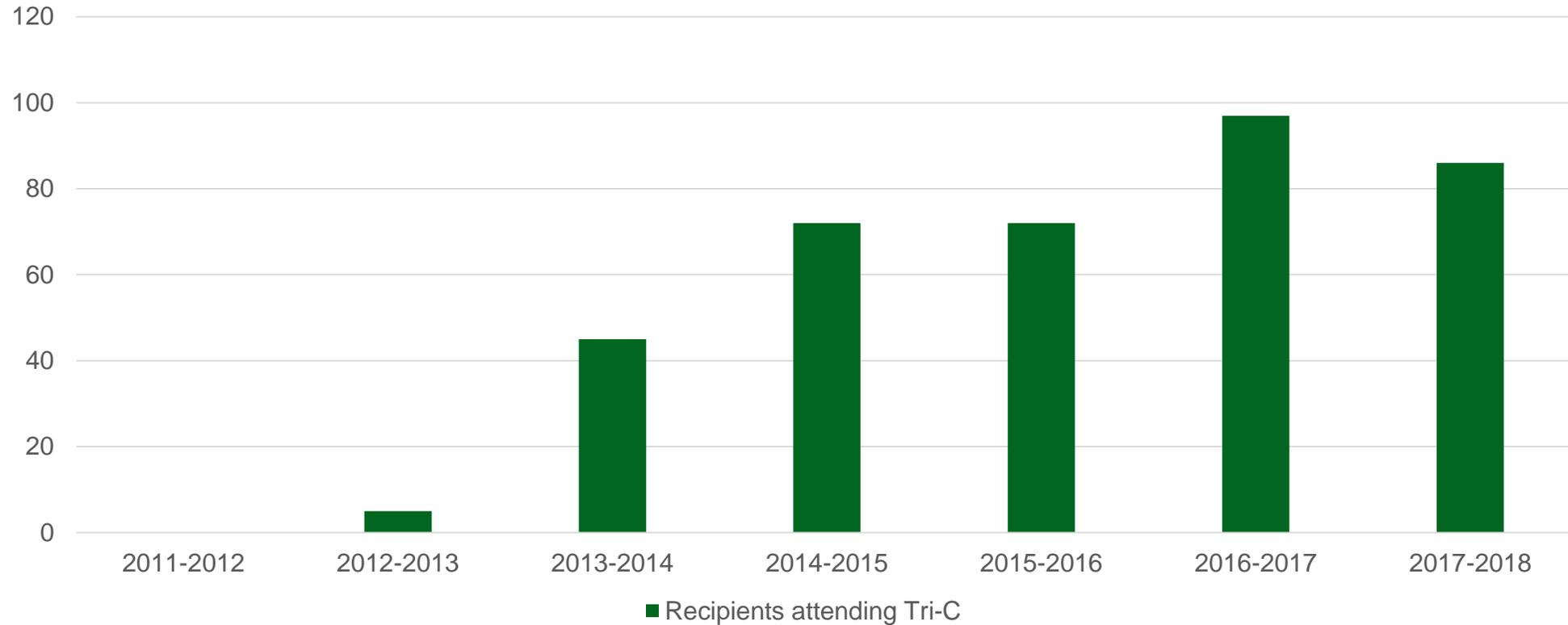
# Mentoring Program History

Growth of the Mentoring Program Overall

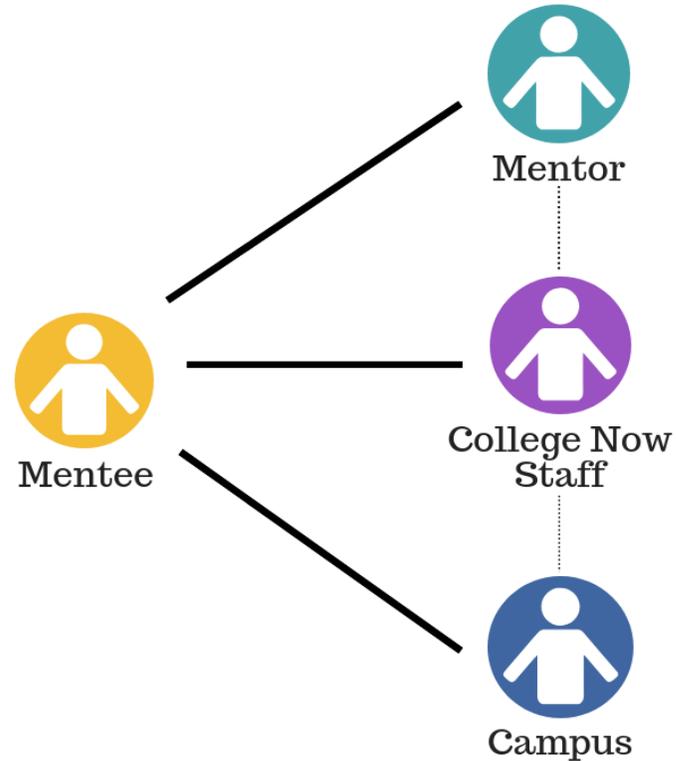


# Mentoring Program History

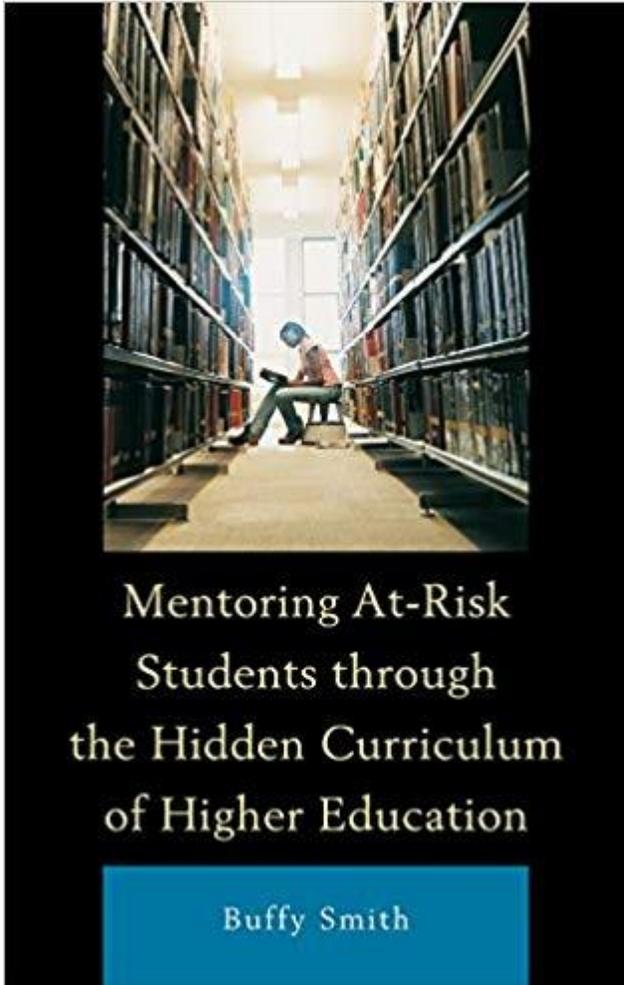
Growth of the Mentoring Program at Tri-C



# Support Structures for Students



## hidden curriculum of college:



- “**unwritten** norms, values, and expectations that are known and taken for granted by the **dominant social actors.**” (p.9)
  - “academic common sense” (p. 9)
  - “the values, dispositions, **social and behavioral** expectations that brought rewards in school for students . . . these features of school life and requirements for conformity to institutional expectations had little to do with education goals, but were essential for satisfactory progression through school.” (p. 59)
- Dr. Buffy Smith, Mentoring At-Risk Students through the Hidden Curriculum of Higher Education



# Quick Note



# Our Curriculum

Freshman Fall Semester		^
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">Are You Ready?</a>	Jul 01, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">What I Wish I Would Have Known</a>	Aug 03, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">Off to a Good Start</a>	Sep 01, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">College Study Skills 101</a>	Sep 15, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">Financing Your Education</a>	Oct 01, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">What I Hold Dear</a>	Oct 15, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">From High School Teacher to College Professor</a>	Nov 01, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">Building Your Resume</a>	Nov 15, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">The Social Scene on Campus</a>	Dec 01, 2018
 MENTOR AND MENTEE	<a href="#">The Holidays: Home Culture versus School Culture</a>	Dec 15, 2018





Mentoring At-Risk  
Students through  
the Hidden Curriculum  
of Higher Education

Buffy Smith

“One of the most significant reasons for mentors failing to transmit higher degrees of institutional cultural capital and social capital to their mentees . . . was because they primarily responded to topics that were proposed by their mentees. . . . It is unrealistic and unfair to expect students to seek help with the ‘hidden curriculum’ issues when many of them do not know what they do not know what they need to know in order to succeed in school.” (p. 79)

- Dr. Buffy Smith, Mentoring At-Risk Students through the Hidden Curriculum of Higher Education



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# “Hidden Curriculum”: College Study Skills 101 Prompt

The first semester is under way! As the first exams of the semester approach, it's time to discuss the importance of developing effective study habits. Getting a handle on how you study best will be a big help to you not only this semester, but throughout your college career.

**Mentors:** Think back to the classes you took in your first semester of college. How were your study habits as a freshman? Did you have trouble adjusting to college-level work? What helped you develop successful study skills? Share your own experiences developing college-level study skills with your mentee.

**Mentees:** What sort of homework or assignments do you have to do for your classes? Share with your mentor how you've been studying and preparing for class. Is your strategy working well for you? Is there anything you think you need to change to improve your overall academic performance?

**Not sure what study techniques to use?** UC Berkley has some [great resources](#) on study strategies including a plan to beat procrastination. College Info Geek also has a [series of videos and posts](#) about study faster and more effectively. The important thing is to try out new things and figure out what works best for you!



# Values Prompt

Think about the things that are important to you. Perhaps you care about creativity, family relationships, your career, having a sense of humor, etc. Pick two or three of your values and write a paragraph detailing why they are important to you. Please try to spend at least 15 minutes exploring this concept. Then, share with your mentor/mentee.



**whistling vivaldi**

how stereotypes affect us  
and what we can do

CLAUDE M. STEELE

*"This is an intellectual odyssey of the first order—a true tour de force."  
—WILLIAM C. BOWEN*



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# Values Prompt: Mentor Response

Hey there! I hope everything is going well this semester. How is chemistry going? Getting any easier? If not, have you looked into any tutoring yet? It's important to keep up your grades in your core science classes, as it builds the foundation for everything else you're doing!

Did you get the prompt sent out by College Now about values? . . . . I think church is important for me in my life because it keeps me grounded and look at the bigger picture instead of just what is going on today. That can apply to anything: how is a fight with a friend, boyfriend, parent going to affect you long-term vs. "being right" today? How is one failed test going to affect the rest of the semester? How is helping someone else out today going to affect them for the rest of the week? . . . .

Loyalty to me . . . [is] not just being there for the people that you care about, it is being trustworthy, following-through with what you say you're going to do . . . , thinking of other's needs before your own, sticking by someone in a time of need instead of looking at their struggle as an inconvenience. Maybe some of that isn't the traditional way of looking at loyalty, but to me they all seem to go together. How important is it to be loyal to your coursework, not abandoning it, working hard to keep up with it?

Hard work was instilled in my when I was very young. My father is self employed, and neither of my parents finished college. I knew that if I wanted to make something of myself afterward that I would need to work hard. I'm sure that you see that, too!

How about you, what values mean the most to you?

# Values Prompt: Mentee Response

Creativity: I value my creativity because I love to design and decorate. I love to make things look pretty and extra. I plan on getting a degree in event planning and interior design.

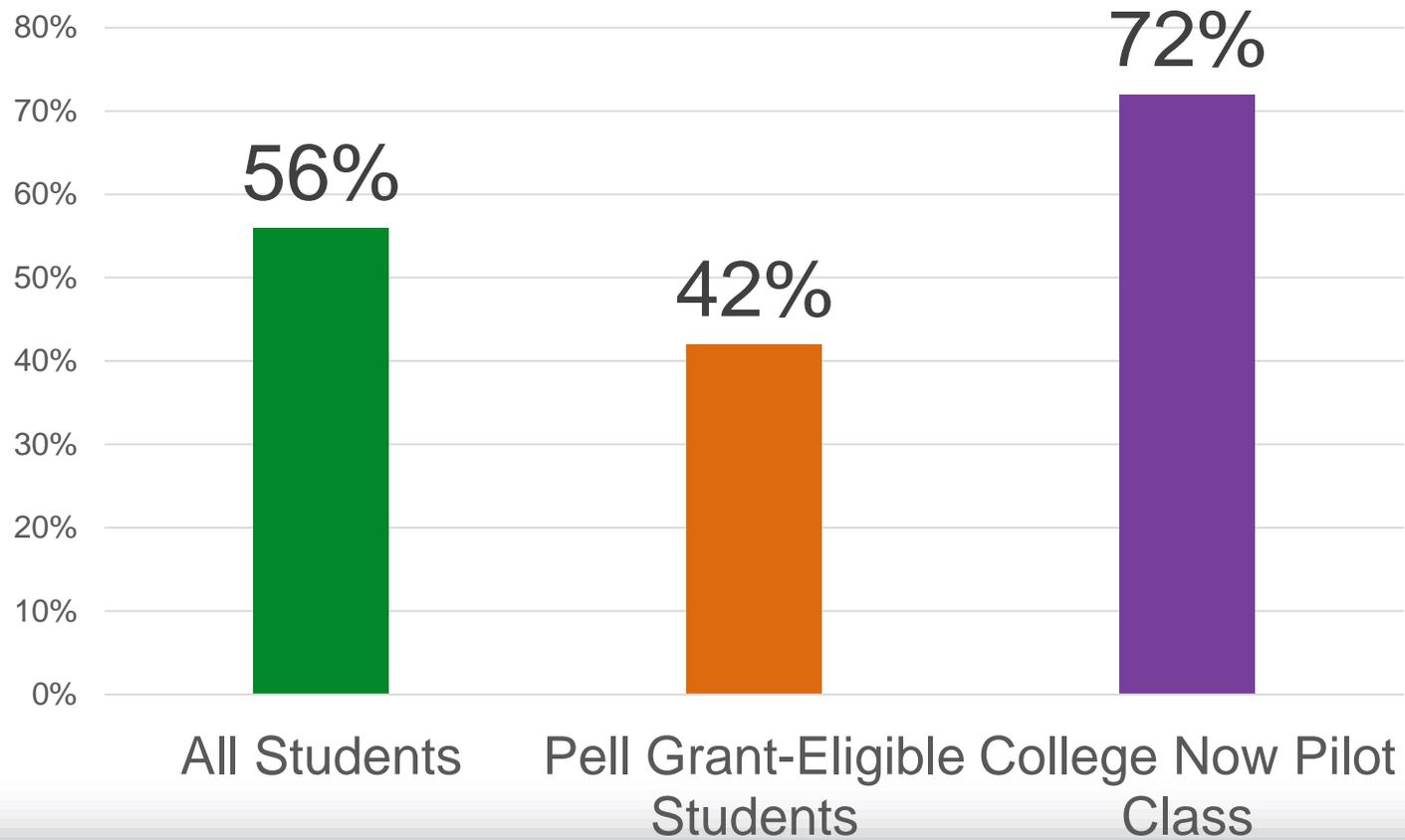
Family relationships: My family relationships are important because they are my support system and they encourage me to go to school and do my work and also still work even if I don't want to I know it'll help in the long run.

Achieving my goals: This is something I value because I want to make myself proud as well as my family as well. I want to set an example for my sisters and letting them see that you can achieve any goal no matter what is built against you.



# Our Outcomes

On-time Graduation Rate



# Our Outcomes: Student-level Perspective

## Without the College Now Mentoring Program:

I would not have the same **support system** I do now. Having a mentor is different from family or a school advisor, in that they can be more honest and helpful without being too formal or casual.

I would not have had the insightful opportunity to **learn about my major** online, or have **had the courage to call staff of the school** I planned to attend [when problems arose].

I would not have gained a professional mentor as well as a lifetime **friend**.

I would not have had such a **smooth transition** into college.

I wouldn't have understood **the importance of following through** with tasks required of me.

I don't think I would have had the **confidence to graduate a year early**, despite having the credit hours to do so.



# Get Involved!



# Contact Information

Robert Durham

Senior Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid

[rdurham@collegenowgc.org](mailto:rdurham@collegenowgc.org)

216.635.0450

Madeline Rife

Director, Mentoring Program

[mrife@collegenowgc.org](mailto:mrife@collegenowgc.org)

216.635.0163

**To mentor: [www.collegenowgc.org/become-a-mentor](http://www.collegenowgc.org/become-a-mentor)**



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