



**College Now**  
Greater Cleveland



## ABOUT COLLEGE NOW

### MISSION

College Now's mission is to increase postsecondary educational attainment through college and career access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services.

### SOLUTIONS

- > College access and career readiness advising
- > Financial aid counseling
- > Need-based, renewable scholarships and retention services
- > Student loan counseling and restructuring

### WHO WE HELP

College Now serves more than 30,000 traditional students and adult learners each year in more than 185 settings, including schools, businesses, and community centers.

## LEADERSHIP IN COLLEGE ACCESS

### COLLEGE NOW IS...

- > The only college access organization with advisors staffed in Greater Cleveland schools throughout the academic year.
- > The first organization of its kind, the largest in Ohio, and one of the largest in the U.S.
- > An organization with a \$17.9 million budget and a staff of 180.
- > A national leader and model for other college access organizations.
- > A repeated Four-Star designee from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most utilized independent evaluator of charities.

### THE IMPERATIVE

- > Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the U.S. and falls behind 32 other states in degree attainment.
- > Ohio ranks 45th in term of college affordability.
- > By 2025, 65 percent of jobs in Ohio will require a postsecondary credential or degree.
- > In Greater Cleveland today, 75 percent of open jobs require at least some college and 42 percent require a degree. In Northeast Ohio today, there are 70,000 unemployed people and 40,000 open jobs, demonstrating the significant skills gap.
- > Increasing the attainment rate by 1 percent would boost the region's economy by \$2.8 billion annually.



## LEADERSHIP IN COLLEGE ACCESS

### IMPACT

**\$160 Million**

Amount of financial aid the more than 10,000 current college students served by College Now have received

**\$79 Million**

Amount of need-based, renewable scholarships awarded by College Now since inception (\$3.5 million awarded annually)

**\$70,000**

A \$500 investment in College Now advising services results in an average of \$70,000 in financial aid awarded per student over four years of college

**1,900**

Number of traditional students and adult learners who receive College Now scholarships yearly

**\$2,200**

Average College Now renewable scholarship award

**92%**

First- to second-year retention rate for College Now scholarship recipients

**71%**

Average graduation rate for College Now scholarship recipients over the last three years, compared to 42% nationally for students receiving the Federal Pell Grant

**1,800**

Community members volunteering as mentors in College Now's Mentoring Program

**80%**

Scholarship recipients participating in the College Now Mentoring Program are on track to achieve an 80% college graduation rate, the rate at which students from the highest income quartiles complete college

**\$126 Million**

Total estimated amount saved by 1,400 individuals who received College Now's student loan restructuring services over the last five years

### BLAKE DIXON

When he started at John Carroll University, Blake didn't know many other people who were or had been enrolled in college, which could have made his transition from high school to college very challenging. Luckily, Blake had received a College Now scholarship, which not only provided him with financial help, but also paired him with a mentor from the Cleveland area who was able to provide suggestions and support throughout Blake's transition.

