



# 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OHIO  
COLLEGE PROMISE



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This year began the same as any other for Montgomery County Ohio College Promise, but it ended far differently than any we had ever seen.

We kicked off the year with our annual Celebrating Success dinner, hosted by Sinclair Community College, to welcome the 9th Cohort of College Promise Scholars. We also celebrated the achievements of our 5th cohort of College Promise Scholars and heard from some dynamic speakers, two of whom were recent college graduates.

Whenever we recognize the achievements of our college graduates, we must stop and acknowledge the college and university partners that help to make this program work. This past year, we have been able to bolster those partnerships and create opportunities that will be of great benefit to students in years to come.

College Promise selected the 10th cohort of College Promise scholars in the spring, putting us securely in position to serve 500 students over 10 years, which was the program's original mission. More than 50 mentors again volunteered to be matched with one of those new scholarship recipients.

Despite all the positives we saw, the pandemic affected the ability for mentors to connect in the ways in which they had become accustomed. Last spring, students across the county went remote, and the program was forced to find creative ways to engage with students. Much of the focus turned to students' immediate needs and ensuring they had the ability to engage with school in a productive manner.

Unfortunately, that trying time did not end at the end of the school year. We are grateful to have such resilient students and mentors and such accommodating school and university partners. We all did what we could to take the situation in stride, knowing that the needs of our students always come first.

Thank you for all you have done to support us this past year. It truly is a community effort.

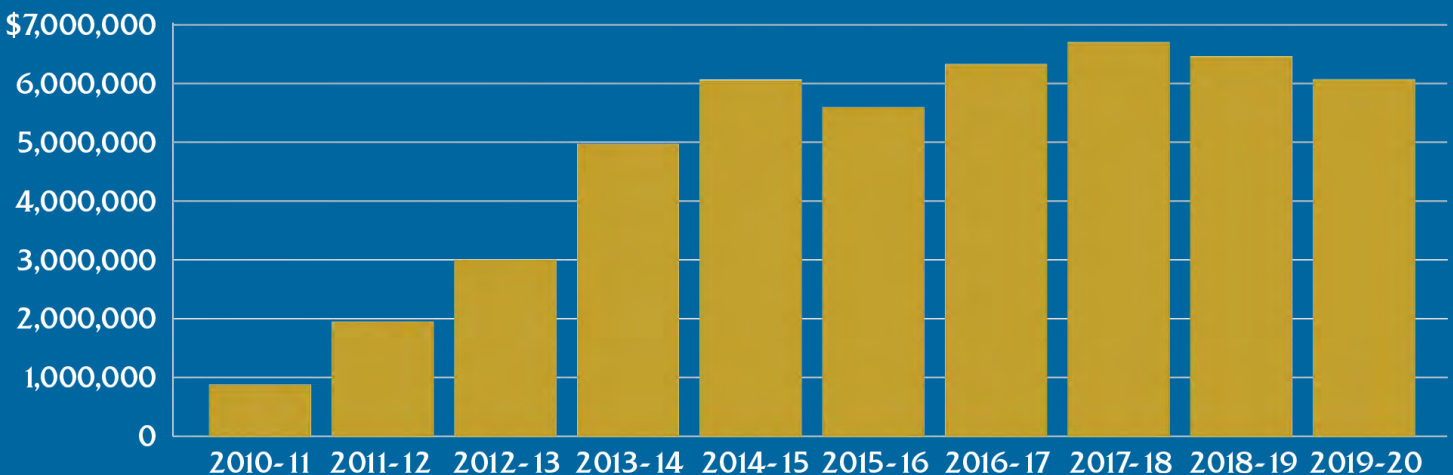
– Patrick W. Gill, Ph.D.



Patrick W. Gill, Ph.D, Executive Director, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise

\* Note on the chart below: Montgomery County Ohio College Promise set the goal of raising \$6.2 million to fund 10 cohorts over the next 18 years. Over time, that money was intended to be spent down. Thanks to good investments and cost savings, the program should continue beyond the original goal.

## FUND LEVEL OVER 10 YEARS\*



# ADAPTING TO THE TIMES

The 2019-20 school year began as any other. Montgomery County Ohio College Promise was moving ahead as normal before the COVID-19 pandemic. As we do every year, we selected our 10th cohort of College Promise Scholars in February, and we were actively recruiting mentors for the following year. In a few short weeks, our attention shifted to helping students finish out the school year on a positive note.

As students went remote, our mentors were forced to meet with students virtually. Before Zoom became part of our daily lives, in most cases that meant phone calls, texts, and emails. Needless to say, our students and mentors had to make the best of a challenging situation. Food security was a concern, but, thankfully, school districts stepped up to make meals available for students.

Recruiting mentors for the next year was tricky due to a sense of uncertainty that surrounded everything. As a result, we pushed trainings back and were able to secure enough mentors by summer.

College decision-making also looked different. Many students



delayed their decision, some beyond the May 1 deadline, in hopes for clarity. All but one student immediately attended college following high school graduation. Surprisingly, that 98% matriculation rate is the second best we have as a program.

In a year that ended far differently than we could have imagined, we (our students, mentors, families,

school districts, and college and university partners) showed resiliency. Thanks to that outlook, we had achieved much of what we would have in a normal year, and our students were in a much better position to navigate academic life in this new normal.

## THE VITAL ROLE OF MENTORING

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise was founded on the idea that high-performing poverty-impacted students deserve the opportunity to attend and graduate college at little to no cost to them or their families. An important step to ensure that possibility has been to pair students with a volunteer adult mentor, who they meet with on a weekly basis.

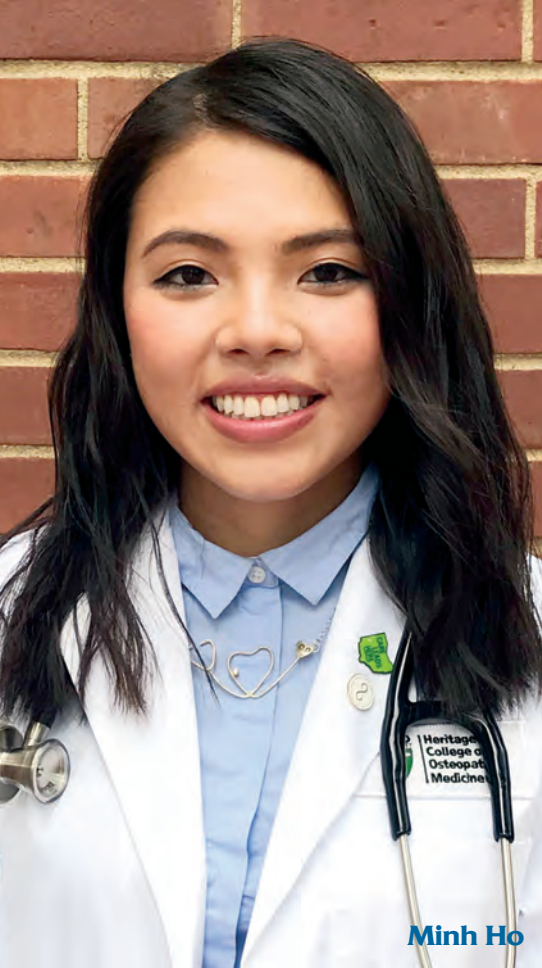
College Promise provides students with this caring adult to support them as they navigate decisions during a

critical time in their lives. The mentor serves as somebody that the student can turn to outside of their home and school. In addition, the mentor helps the student to plan and holds them accountable. Mentors also help to expand the student's network as they take the necessary steps to move out of poverty.

Each year, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise welcomes 50 individuals to serve as mentors. We thank them for their service and

encourage other qualified adults to consider becoming a mentor.

College Promise has established strong partnerships in the community to support this endeavor. CareSource, The Connor Group, Premier Health, Sinclair College, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and Wright State University have encouraged employees to serve as mentors and have been integral in helping the students find a suitable match. We thank them for their continued support.



Minh Ho



Ngan Ho

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: MEET MINH HO AND NGAN HO

The annual Celebrating Success dinner took place on August 5, 2019. As always, we were thrilled to have many of our largest donors present, as well as school leaders and college and university partners. College Promise launched the ninth cohort of College Promise scholars and celebrated the first success of the fifth cohort scholars, now high school graduates. The most touching moment, however, was hearing from two recent college graduates Minh Ho and Ngan Ho.

Minh and Ngan are sisters (not twins) who entered the program the same year, attended Walter E. Stebbins High School, and ultimately graduated from college at the same time. Both are first-generation immigrants who are bilingual.

**“... the most important thing was a precious mentor in high school, who cheered and supported me throughout high school and college.”**

Minh graduated from the University of Dayton in Pre-Medicine. After college, she is attending medical school with plans to become a pediatrician. Minh shared that College Promise helped her in two key areas. She shared that the “most important thing was a precious mentor in high school, who cheered and supported me throughout high school and college.” The other way College Promise helped her was by

providing her a scholarship, which “made college more affordable” and helped her to graduate in four years.

Ngan graduated from Wright State University in Accounting. She is working for a management consulting company. Ngan said, “College Promise helped me to reach my goals by helping me out financially so that I could focus all my energy on academics.” As a result, Ngan was involved in academic and leadership organizations at Wright State, which included The Golden Key International Honour Society, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Honor Society, and The National Society of Leadership and Success. Ngan is hearing challenged, but that has never stopped her from being actively involved, as shown by her experiences in Miss Teen events locally, statewide, and nationally.

These most impressive young women spoke in front of over 300 guests at the Celebrating Success dinner. They shared these and other noteworthy accomplishments from the eight years they had participated in the program.

Minh and Ngan have a younger sister who is a College Promise Scholar, so this opportunity has truly shaped the entire family. Experiences of students like Minh and Ngan speak to the transformative power of investing in youth through mentorship and scholarship support.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FOCUS ON D'AIREA WATKINS

D'Airea Watkins, a 2020 graduate of Dayton Early College Academy (DECA), attends Xavier University and is studying Criminal Justice to eventually become a lawyer in the juvenile justice system.

Ms. Watkins' path to Xavier began in 8th grade, when she was selected to become part of the College Promise program. She was paired with her mentor, Connie Jackson, who she met with on a weekly basis all four years of high school.

Ms. Watkins shared that the best part of her experience at DECA was the relationships she developed, including those with her mentor and her teachers. She served as an Advisory Leader, a role that supports the freshmen with academics and other enrichment experiences. In addition, she was a cheer captain and played volleyball at Thurgood Marshall.

Ms. Watkins chose to attend Xavier with support from her college

**“...mentoring brought awareness to opportunities not readily available, including community service and job shadowing.”**

counselor and mentor. She applied to Xavier because it was a College Promise partner, and she learned more about the university as she researched her best fit. One aspect of Xavier that was appealing to her was its commitment to diversity. Ms. Jackson put her in touch with U.S. House of Representatives candidate and Xavier Alumna Desiree Tims, and this opportunity offered direction during the process.

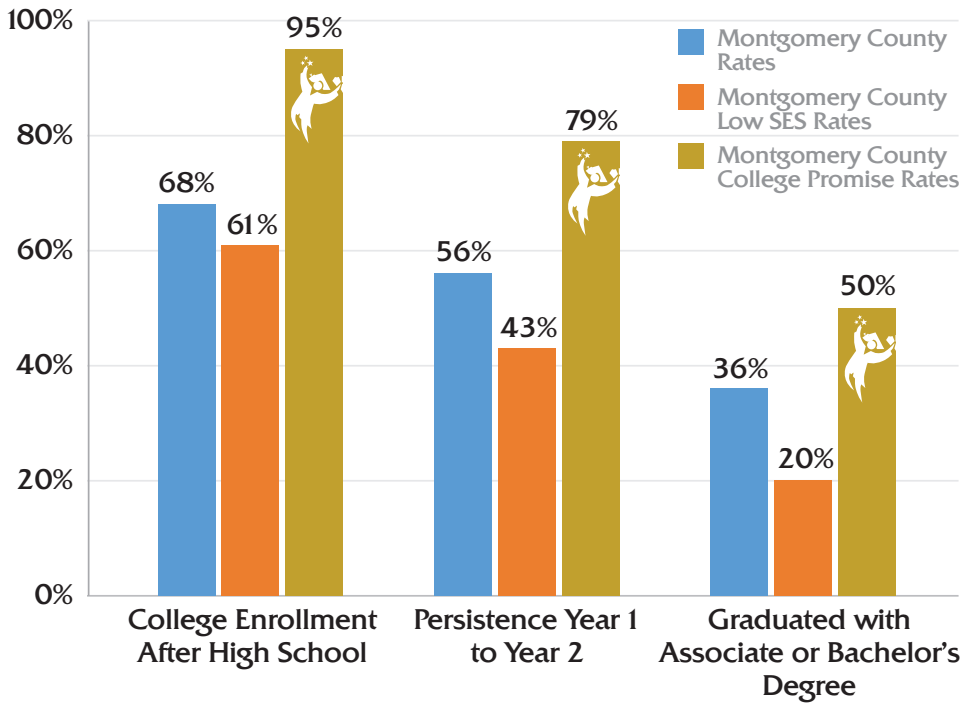
One aspect of the mentor-mentee relationship that Ms. Watkins highlighted was the academic support. She said, “Ms. Jackson allowed me to actually reflect and look back on what I was doing and needed to improve.” In addition, mentoring brought awareness to

opportunities not readily available, including community service and job shadowing. Ms. Jackson said, “It is just really rewarding to me that I could help her stay focused and expand a little bit. Some of the service opportunities, not just her grades, but being involved outside of school.”

While mentoring helped with academics and beyond, they both shared that the personal connection they developed through outside-of-school opportunities will have a lasting impact.

Ms. Watkins is thriving at Xavier and has found ways to be involved in her major and beyond. During her freshman year, Ms. Watkins has taken part in an internship experience and works part-time on campus. She demonstrates the hard work and character of a College Promise scholar, something that will serve her well during the rest of her college experience and beyond.

## COLLEGE PROMISE SUCCESS RATES



## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

College or University	Recent Graduates Attending
University of Dayton	11
Wright State University	11
Wittenberg University	5
Ohio University	4
Sinclair Community College	3
Xavier University	3
Miami University	2
Ohio Northern University	2
Kettering College	1
Miami University Regionals	1
Out of Network	9

98% of our sixth cohort of students attended college. 83% attended in-network.

## OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



## CURRENT SCHOOL PARTNERS

- Brookville High School
- Belmont High School
- Carroll High School
- Centerville High School
- Chaminade Julianne High School
- Dayton Early College Academy
- Dixie High School
- Kettering Fairmont High School
- Miamisburg High School
- Northmont High School
- Northridge High School
- Oakwood High School
- Ponitz Career Technical Center
- Spring Valley Academy
- Stebbins High School
- Stivers School for the Arts
- Trotwood-Madison High School
- Valley View High School
- Vandalia-Butler High School
- Wayne High School
- West Carrollton High School

# THANK YOU!

Our success over the past decade is due in no small part to the generosity of our donors:

100+ Men Who Care  
Brock and Margy Anderson  
Anonymous Donors  
Paul and Janice Atkinson  
Lois and R. Alan Baker, M.D.  
Amy and Robert Barnhart  
Morris Bean & Company  
Scott Behnken (Behnken Financial Services)  
Berry Family Foundation  
Dan and Phyllis Brower  
Bob and Susan Brown  
Georgia Cali  
CareSource Foundation  
Leonard Cargan  
Kathleen and Marty Carlson  
Michael and Debbie Carter  
Centerville Noon Optimist Club  
Centerville Rotary Club  
Chapter CN PEO Sisterhood  
Kendell D. Cobb  
The Connor Group  
Dayton Daily News, a product of Cox Media Group  
Dayton Dragons  
The Dayton Foundation  
The Dayton Power and Light Foundation  
Frank and Julie DePalma  
Ida Dunkman  
Rob Durkle  
Economy Linen and Towel  
Mike and Diane Eddy  
Pamela Ellis  
The Farmer Family Foundation  
Shirley Farrar  
John R. and Julie Ferneding  
Fifth Street Co-op  
Ernest and Helen Flamm  
Richard K. Flitcraft II  
The Fordham Foundation  
Cynthia Fraley  
Rollin and Jennie Furnas  
Garrett and Kathy Gall  
Patrick and Casey Gill  
William and Linda Gillispie  
Gwen and Frank Gordnier  
Jenni and Katie Guanciale  
Nancy R. Guth  
Ron and Connie Guyer  
Jane Haley  
William and Linda Halsey  
Dr. Elizabeth Hardy and Rick Omlor  
Ralph and Mary Harper  
Lawrence Hayes  
Nancy and Dale Hines  
Dr. Harry R. and Zoe Hittner  
Thomas and Teresa Holton  
George F. Homan  
William A. Huffman  
Iddings Foundation  
Indiana Refractories  
Jeff and Ellen Ireland  
Beth Johnson  
Steve Johnson  
Kelchner Inc.  
Thomas and Dorothy Kemp  
Victoria L. Kennedy  
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation  
Key Bank  
Bill Krul and Donna Reist  
The Kuntz Family Foundation  
Nicholas and Brydgett Lair  
John Lenz Charitable Fund,  
Richard E. Gump Trustee  
Jerry, Susan and David Lienesch  
John W. Longstreth  
Richard and Betty Lou Ludwig  
George and Moni Malacos  
J. Tucker Marston  
The Steve Mason Family  
Mathile Family Foundation  
Pat McGohan  
Mike and Margaret McQuiston  
The Mentoring Collaborative of Montgomery County  
Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Clifton and Rosella Miller  
Dinah Miller  
Thomas and Jeredythe Miske  
Denice J. Moberg  
Montgomery County Educational Service Center  
John Moore  
Harry W. and Margaret Moore Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
Robert Nevin  
Northmont Rotary Club  
Northridge Optimist Club  
James Michael O'Brien  
Barbara O'Hara  
Ohio Northern University SAHI  
Otterbein College Women's Club  
Mike and Amy Parks  
Party with a Purpose Dayton  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
Levin Porter Associates, Inc.  
Premier Health Partners  
George B. Quatman Foundation, Fifth Third Bank Trustee  
Steve and Debbie Ribbink  
Mark M. Rich and Kathrin Engisch  
Patrick Rini  
John and Donna Runzo  
Colleen Ryan  
Dan and Susan Sadlier  
Patrick and Bernadette Santucci  
Peter and Maria Satre  
Mark Schlagheck and Jesse Lightle  
Schiewetz Foundation  
Bill and Diane Schneider  
Thomas and Madeline Schneider  
N. J. Schweller  
Tom and Ellie Shulman  
Ned and Joyce Sifferlen  
Charles and Ann Simms  
Alfred J. Smith Endowment Fund  
Gary and Pam Smiga  
Karrie and Philip Stock  
Andrew Suchocki and Kelsey Guanciale  
Rob Suttman (EBS)  
The Frank M. Tait Foundation  
Jerome Tatar  
Anthony and Kelly Taylor  
John and Connie Taylor  
Karen Thompson  
Greg and Casandra Trick  
John E. Tschantz  
United Way of the Greater Dayton Area  
David and Kathleen Vail  
Dan Valentine  
Vectren Foundation  
Lori and Luther Ward  
Darryl and Sharon Weatherly  
Fred Weber  
Lee and Betsy Whitney  
Dick and Mary Kay Wick  
Greg and Melissa Williams  
David and Terry Jo Williamson  
Jackie Zofkie

**Board of Trustees**

Kathleen Carlson, Captrust  
Pamela Ellis, Compass College  
Advisory  
Rebecca Kocher, Wittenberg  
University  
Mike McQuiston, Connor  
Group  
Anthony Taylor, Crest  
Commercial Realty  
Donnell Wiggins, University  
of Dayton  
David Williamson, Bieser Greer  
Chad Wyen, Mad River Schools

**Staff**

Patrick Gill, Executive Director  
Jennifer Guancia, Program  
Coordinator



MONTGOMERY COUNTY\*OHIO  
**COLLEGE PROMISE**

1401 S. Main Street,  
Suite 100  
Dayton, Ohio 45409  
Phone (937) 225-9922 or  
(937) 225-9957  
Fax (937) 222-0636

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Permit No. 688



College Promise mentor  
Ellen Ireland and mentee  
Te Nayia