

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY • OHIO  
COLLEGE PROMISE



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

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise has continued to make good on the promise to provide mentorship and a college scholarship to deserving students in our community.

Following last year's Extend the Promise campaign, we launched our first annual campaign, the proceeds of which go toward core operating support. Any contributions received throughout the year ultimately help us send more students to college. We are grateful to contributors who have continued to make this opportunity possible.

When College Promise began in 2010, the goal was to provide 500 students over 10 years this life-changing opportunity. The mission to annually impact the lives of 50 students continues to this day. We know, however, that additional students could benefit from our efforts. In addition, College Promise can fill a greater need related to local college access and attainment strategies.

For the past few years, College Promise has incrementally increased the number of students selected for the scholarship. We have done this through partnerships with our 16 public school districts and select private and charter schools. In addition, we have targeted communities where we have seen the greatest need. In this report, we are happy to share more about a grant received through the Scarlet Feather Fund, which is part of a larger effort to better serve a historically underrepresented population of students.

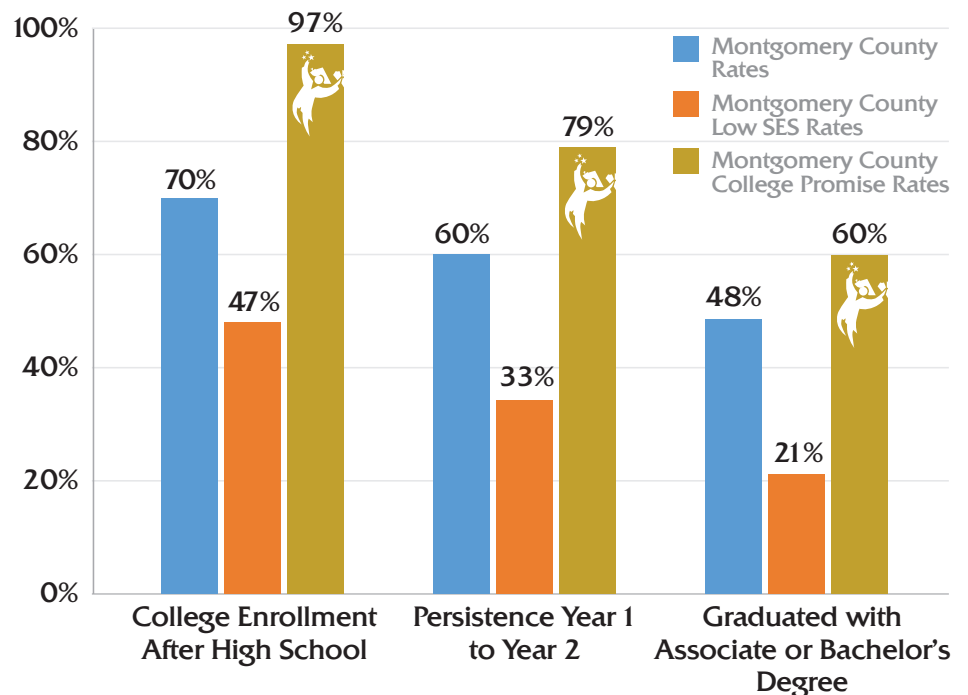
While we are committed to broadening our reach, we are also focused on serving our students who are part of the program. We were able to create a Student Support Specialist position that is focused on providing wraparound services for our students. This includes offering guidance and making appropriate referrals, so students can achieve targeted learning outcomes. The Student Support Specialist works alongside mentors to ensure our students have the resources they need to thrive.

College Promise is committed to lifting students out of generational poverty, something that benefits the entire community. We are thankful to the dedication from parents and families, donors, mentors, school staff, college student personnel, and community leaders, who have all helped to make this happen. We remain dedicated to moving our mission forward!

– Patrick W. Gill, PhD

## COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES

We know this model works. The first three cohorts have had enough time to complete a degree, and our success rates are substantially higher than rates for students from low-socioeconomic (Low SES) backgrounds and even students across the county as a whole.



# COLLEGE PROMISE BY THE NUMBERS



**COLLEGE PROMISE HAS GENERATED \$16.7M IN ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY & GOVERNMENT AID FOR OUR STUDENTS.**

Our mentors have spent

# 60,000

hours connecting with their students since the program began, which is life-changing!



# \$2,300,000

has been awarded in scholarships to date.

**IT COSTS \$20,000 TO SPONSOR A COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLAR.**

College Promise Scholars are over

# 2.5

times more likely to graduate from college than their high school counterparts.



# 100%

of students receive a volunteer adult mentor.

# 100%

of mentors are background checked and trained.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: MEET ALAN ALVAREZ AND DEAN PETERS



Alan Alvarez is a Montgomery County Ohio College Promise graduate. He was part of the fifth cohort of the College Promise program, where he attended Archbishop Carroll High School. Alan has a promising career ahead of him, and he has a compelling story about how he got there.

Dean Peters served as Alan's mentor for all four years of high school, and they still remain in contact today. Regarding their relationship, Dean said, "I think it started out a little slow, as you might expect. It took a little time for the two of us to break the ice." Alan echoed that sentiment, saying, "He was a complete stranger at first." Both felt

that the relationship developed as they got to know each other.

Similarly, Alan's commitment to academics took some time. Dean said, "Between his sophomore and junior year there was just this monumental change, and he started to apply himself." Alan said, "That's when I realized that I had the right people around me and I had a great opportunity on my hands." With the help of Dean, the College Promise program, and his family, Alan knew he would be successful.

A great benefit of the mentoring relationship was that Dean exposed Alan to insights and opportunities, even making connections from within his own family. Dean tutored Alan and found him academic

**"...that's when I realized that I had the right people around me and I had a great opportunity on my hands." With the help of Dean, the College Promise program, and his family, Alan knew he would be successful.**

# SCARLET FEATHER FUND GRANT

resources at Sinclair Community College, where his wife Patty works. Also, Alan had been exploring criminal justice as a career path, and he had the opportunity to interact with Dean's son, who was a police cadet.

These connections proved invaluable for his future. Alan was interested in the military or law enforcement and ultimately chose to go into Criminal Justice. Dean's insights were helpful, but Alan cited his first ride along in 2019 as the moment he knew he wanted to become a police officer. Alan said, "Once I did that ride along for my project in college my freshman year, that's when I knew this is what I want to do."

Alan graduated from Sinclair Community College with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice. He then transferred to Wright State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Crime and Justice. Lastly, Alan completed the Police Academy at Sinclair Community College. He now serves as a Dayton Police Department Officer in the West District.

Serving on a police force like Dayton's offers many specialized opportunities. Alan has aspirations to one day become a detective; however, he is focused on his day-to-day responsibilities right now. Alan shared that a key part of his position is helping people when they might be having the worst day of their lives. He said that ultimately police officers are there to help find a solution.

We are proud of Alan and commend him for taking full advantage of the scholarship opportunity. We are also very grateful for his service in our community.

In 2023, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise received a grant from the Scarlet Feather Fund. This grant sponsored five additional scholarships for Black or African-American recipients from West Dayton. Students from this area of Dayton are historically underrepresented, and the Scarlet Feather funding allowed us to address this need in our selection process.

By securing those five additional spots, we were able to select 56 students in 2023, compared to the 50 we annually select. With their ongoing support, we will hopefully be able to continue to address this need in the community for future years.





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: IFEANYICHUKWU NWANORỌ

Ifeanyichukwu (Ifeanyi) Nwanoror is a Montgomery County Ohio College Promise Scholar. Ifeanyi graduated from Northmont High School in 2019. He then graduated from the University of Dayton in 2023, where he majored in Communication with a concentration in Management.

Ifeanyi shared some insight about how the College Promise program has helped him. He said, “The mentoring program impacted me a lot throughout high school as well as my college career.” His mentor, Mike Morton, has been part of Ifeanyi’s life

for the past eight plus years. Speaking of Mike, Ifeanyi said, “He’s been a crucial part of my development. There are so many values that I’ve learned from him, one of the biggest revolving around the importance of emotional intelligence and servant leadership”

While they have spent his high school and college years together, Ifeanyi described how some of those lessons have really taken hold more recently. He said, “In a way, the lessons he taught me were ahead of their time, as those values and teachings now have been topics of

Speaking of Mike, Ifeanyi said, “He’s been a crucial part of my development. There are so many values that I’ve learned from him, one of the biggest revolving around the importance of emotional intelligence and servant leadership”

conversation in these last few years.” Ifeanyi shared that his relationship with Mike has been a blessing in his life because ultimately he has had somebody who believes in him.

Ifeanyi took part in the Flyer Promise Program at the University of Dayton, where he developed new and long-lasting friendships. In addition, he graduated with a degree in Communication through which he can pursue his passion for directing films and writing scripts. He said, “I will give it my all to pursue my goals. I believe wholeheartedly in my vision and will continue to take steps regardless of the conditions. Doing this requires a continuous development of love for my craft, myself, and people.”

Of his particular philosophy, Ifeanyi shared, “I think creating art should be like being in on an inside joke. Not everyone will get it, and not everyone should get it, but those who do will more than understand – they will feel it. As an artist, I want to share a moment with you. A moment of laughter, love, joy, and even sorry. I want to share a space for us.”

Over the last eight years, Ifeanyi has developed his own voice, in large part with the support of his mentor. After having graduated from college with this great opportunity, he has a clear sense of self, and we are excited to see what he will create in the years to come.

## OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

College or University	2023 Graduates Attending
Wright State University	13
University of Dayton	7
Miami University	6
Sinclair Community College	4
Ohio University	3
Ohio Northern University	3
Kettering College	2
Wittenberg University	1
Out of Network	11

100% of our ninth cohort students attended college. 78% attended in-network.

College Promise works with all

# 16

Montgomery County public high schools and select private and charter schools for a total of

# 25

school partners within the county.

## CURRENT SCHOOL PARTNERS

Belmont High School  
 Brookville High School  
 Carroll High School  
 Centerville High School  
 Chaminade Julianne High School  
 Dayton Early College Academy  
 Dixie High School  
 East Dayton Christian School  
 Kettering Fairmont High School  
 Meadowdale Career Technology Center  
 Miami Valley Career Technology Center  
 Miamisburg High School

Northmont High School  
 Northridge High School  
 Oakwood High School  
 Ponitz Career Technology Center  
 Spring Valley Academy  
 Stebbins High School  
 Stivers School for the Arts  
 Thurgood Marshall STEM High School  
 Trotwood-Madison High School  
 Valley View High School  
 Vandalia-Butler High School  
 Wayne High School  
 West Carrollton High School

### Board of Trustees

Darius Beckham, City of Dayton  
Kathleen Carlson, Captrust,  
retired  
Rebecca Kocher, Wittenberg  
University  
Mark Lane, Vivial, retired  
Mike McQuiston, The Connor  
Group  
Gabriela Pickett, Dayton Metro  
Library  
Anthony Taylor, Crest  
Commercial Realty  
Donnell Wiggins, University  
of Dayton  
David Williamson, Bieser Greer,  
retired  
Charles Woodhull, Gallagher  
Pool Wealth Management  
Chad Wyen, Mad River Local  
Schools  
Marquez Young, Sinclair  
Community College

### Staff

Patrick Gill, Executive Director  
Jennifer Guanciale, Program  
Coordinator  
Kyra Robinson, Student Support  
Specialist



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

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

**Our success is due in  
no small part to the gen-  
erosity of our donors:**

Margy Anderson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Steve Bailey  
Cassie Barlow  
Jim and Kathie Bartosky  
Benevity Community  
Impact  
Donald and Diana Blake  
Kathleen and Marty  
Carlson  
Annette Casella  
Kendall Cobb  
The Connor Group  
The Dayton Foundation  
Norm and Bobbie Eckstein  
Economy Linen and Towel  
Service  
Pamela Ellis  
Youssef Elzein  
Susan Fanelli  
Mike and Sharon Frandsen

Darrell and Terri Gill  
Patrick and Casey Gill  
Elizabeth Hardy, PhD and  
Rick Omlor  
Gayle and Tom Henighan  
Jeff and Ellen Ireland  
Sonja Kasch  
Todd and Lisa Kelchner  
Thomas and Dorothy  
Kemp  
Bob and Judy Knell  
Rebecca and Bradley  
Kocher  
Robert Laing  
Mark and Carla Lane  
Garth and Jacqueline  
Lawless  
Regis and Sandra Lekan  
Leland Family  
Maureen Lynch  
Kevin and Mary McDonald  
Peggie and Mike  
McQuiston  
Barbara O'Hara  
Michael Phillips

Dr. Gabriela Pickett  
Premier Health  
The Scarlet Feather Fund  
Susan Serr  
Stephanie Skelley  
Gary and Pam Smiga  
Richard Solomon and  
Alyce Flitcraft  
Eric and Karen Spina  
Mike and Ann Stemen  
Anthony and Kelly Taylor  
The Taylor Family  
Steven and Bonnie  
Thompson  
United Way of Greater  
Dayton  
Carl Vehorn  
Betsy Whitney  
David and Terry Williamson  
Thomas Williams  
Letitia Wilson  
Chad Wyen  
Mr. Paul Zimmer and  
Dr. Louise Moore

We are deeply  
grateful to these  
key donors who  
helped us raise  
\$100,000 in  
2023 to sustain  
our mission.

**HELP FULFILL  
THE PROMISE.  
DONATE AT  
MCOCP.ORG.**