



2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY*OHIO
COLLEGE PROMISE



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise began as an idea. Local business leader and philanthropist John Taylor, Dayton-Montgomery County Scholarship Board Chair Ned Sifferlen, and Executive Director Gary Smiga helped bring this idea to life.

Thanks to the Taylor family's generosity, a strong partnership with The Dayton Foundation, and outstanding community support, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise was able to raise the \$6.2 million needed to provide 500 poverty-impacted students an opportunity to attend and graduate college at little-to-no cost.

Even during an unconventional year, College Promise was able to launch the 10th cohort of College Promise scholars in the fall of 2020. As a result, College Promise has now provided this life-changing opportunity to 500 students.

One of the defining attributes of College Promise is the role that mentors take in shaping the lives of young people. Today, a growing number of "promise" programs exist throughout the country, but very few devote the same time, energy, and resources to their students' development.

College Promise is a community effort and includes contributions from mentors, local school districts, and regional colleges and universities. Without these ongoing partnerships, which provide resources and financial support, the program would not exist today.

This past year offered an opportunity to pause and reflect upon such a significant milestone. We are encouraged by this achievement and ultimately grateful for the opportunities afforded to our students.

As College Promise Scholars graduate from high school, enroll in college, earn a degree, and go out into the workforce, we are confident that this program will continue to be a worthwhile investment for our students, their families, and the surrounding community. Thank you for your continued support.

– Patrick W. Gill, Ph.D.



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

On the Horizon

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise (MCOCP) has been a great investment for our schools, our college and university partners, and the community at large. We know that this model works. As a result, MCOCP has taken next steps to extend the program. We look forward to sharing more in the coming year about the future of this great initiative.

LEVERAGING THE COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

The \$20,000 it takes to sponsor a College Promise scholar generates an additional \$28,000 in federal and state aid, and \$109,200 in college and university aid, with the individual student paying only \$12,000 for their four-year degree. Multiple College Promise pathways are at no cost to the student.



* The average cost of a four-year college education ranges from \$51,600 to \$278,000.

ADAPTING TO THE TIMES

The 2020-21 school year was unlike any other we have seen. School districts all responded to the COVID-19 pandemic using the best information they had available to do what was right for the students, faculty, and staff.

As a result, many of our College Promise Scholars completed some if not most of the year online. For the greater extent of the year, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise (MCOCP) required that student and mentor meetings take place remotely. Mentors and students had practice from the previous spring, but this required a new level of sophistication in terms of scheduling. Mentors, independently or with help from high schools, used video chat technology to keep the meetings as normal as possible.

Remote mentoring was especially difficult for new mentors who had yet to meet with their student in person. The distance created another



barrier to establishing rapport that we usually take for granted. Toward the end of the year, MCOCP revised the policy to allow in-person meetings to take place if the mentor followed school policies for visitors.

MCOCP more regularly communicated with mentors and began virtual roundtable opportunities for staff and mentors to connect and share.

As a whole, students did not perform at the same level as previous years. However, they overwhelmingly showed perseverance to make the most of what could have easily been a lost year. MCOCP recognizes the determination by students, families, schools, and mentors for making the most of a terribly tough situation.

COLLEGE PROMISE PARTNERSHIPS

Montgomery County Ohio College Promise is pleased to recognize such strong college and university partnerships. These include: Antioch College, Central State University, Denison University, Kettering College, Miami University, Miami University Regionals, Ohio Northern University, Ohio University, Sinclair Community College, University of Dayton, Wittenberg University, and Wright State University.

Some of these partners have been with the program since its inception and others are recent additions. The College Promise goal is provide poverty-impacted students an opportunity to attend and graduate college at little to no cost to their

families. This could not happen without partners dedicated to that same mission.

The College Promise financial package was designed to be a shared endeavor and leverage available funding. Students are initially selected to take part in the program because they have financial need. Assuming their circumstances remain the same, they should qualify for free federal and state aid when they graduate from high school. College Promise also provides a meaningful scholarship to those who attend one of our partner colleges and universities.

Colleges and university partners make a significant commitment to students from a financial and

student support standpoint. For the estimated \$20,000 College Promise spends on each student, these college and university partners spend an average of \$109,200. Some partners spend considerably more and some less, but the impact is that every dollar spent on scholarships generates about five and a half times that amount.

In addition, our college and university partners have devoted resources to support student success and retention. This additional commitment ensures that each student has the opportunity to not only attend a quality college or university but to graduate with a marketable degree.



Gianna Delander



Ashtin Stargell

CELEBRATING SUCCESS: MEET GIANNA DELANDER AND ASHTIN STARGELL

The 2020-2021 school year saw a great group of College Promise scholars graduate from high school and make plans for college. Gianna Delander and Ashtin Stargell are two such students.

Gianna and Ashtin had the opportunity to share a fantastic mentor, Christine Murphy. Christine is a multiple-time mentor who originally mentored Ashtin but accepted the opportunity to mentor Gianna when her mentor could no longer continue. This was a unique and ultimately rewarding opportunity for her to work with students in the same graduating class at different high schools.

Gianna Delander is a 2021 graduate of Kettering Fairmont High School. She graduated with an International Baccalaureate diploma, where she took six different groups of classes in core subjects. While in high school, Gianna volunteered frequently and was involved in clubs, such as Spanish Club, Fairmont Optimist Club, and Creative Writing Club. She expressed a strong interest in English but ultimately decided to major in Psychology in college. Gianna said, "I want to help in any way I can to get rid of the stigma of mental health and help the people who struggle with that."

Ashtin Stargell is a 2021 graduate of Centerville High School. While in high school, Ashtin cheered for Centerville Basketball, competed in Game Day Competition Cheer, had a leadership role in the Black Student Union, and was the Social Media Representative for the

Environmental Club. She also spent time outside of those clubs and activities hiking and playing guitar. Looking toward college, Ashtin said, "I think what I'm most excited for and what is actually the scariest thing is being on my own for the first time."

It just so happens that Christine has a background in Psychology, and the girls she mentored both expressed interest in the same field. Both Gianna and Ashtin shared that the guidance and support from Christine helped them to make key decisions about their future. Gianna

Both Gianna and Ashtin shared that the guidance and support they got from Christine helped them make key decisions about their future.

discussed how she came to rely on Christine for academic support and beyond. Ashtin shared that beyond Christine keeping her on track, they had a strong personal bond.

Gianna is now attending Miami University and Ashtin is attending The Ohio State University. Both look forward to keeping in touch with Christine over the next four years. While Gianna and Ashtin are attending different colleges, as they attended different high schools, they both have deeply benefited from this relationship and have a promising future ahead of them.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALEJANDRO PEREZ

Alejandro Perez is a 2017 graduate of Ponitz Career Technology Center. Alejandro was mentored throughout high school by two great individuals, Michael Sawyer and his late brother, Marc. In a sad but touching story, Marc passed away early on in the process and Michael stepped in to serve as Alejandro's mentor (Michael is now mentoring Alejandro's brother, Felipe).

In 2021 Alejandro graduated from Wright State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Prior to that, he earned his Associate of Arts from Sinclair Community College.

"...my family never considered it [college] a possibility... the day College Promise came to us during my middle school years, they saw that this could be a reality."

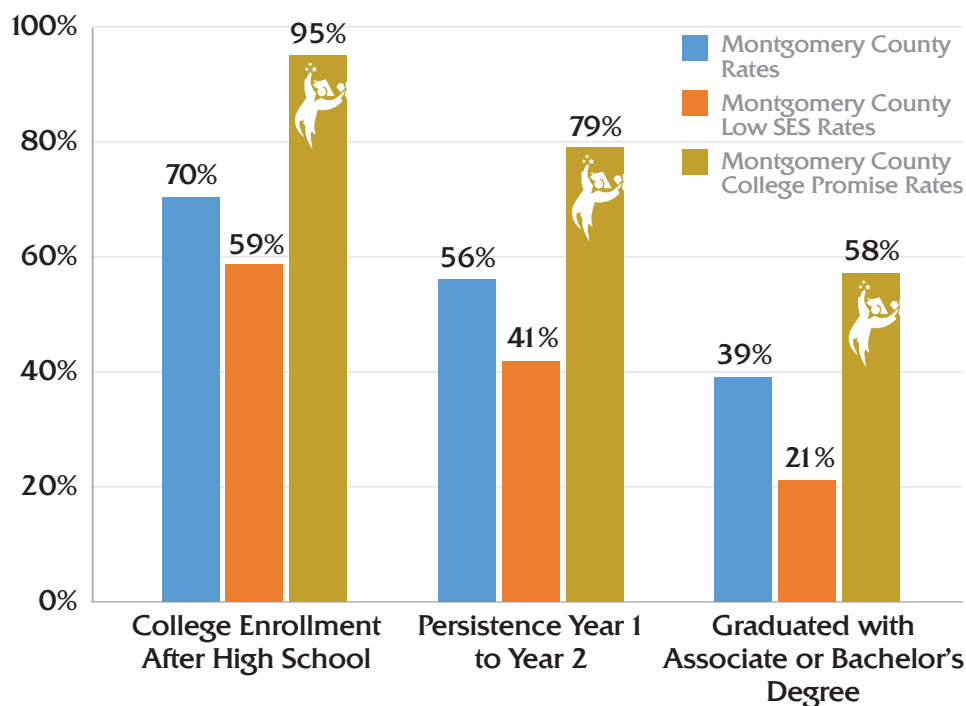
In college, Alejandro met individuals who would become some of his closest friends. He also was taught by some wonderful professors who helped to shape his experience.

Alejandro shared that education was a priority in his family but

going to college was not realistic. He said, "Because of the price, my family always looked the other direction and never considered it a possibility. However, the day College Promise came to us during my middle school years, they saw that this could be a reality."

From an early age, Alejandro dreamed of becoming a teacher. Today, he has achieved his goal and is a 4th grade teacher at DECA Prep. He said, "I am a male elementary school teacher, which is very rare to see in today's world. I live to inspire and be a role model not just to my students but to everyone around me."

COLLEGE PROMISE SUCCESS RATES



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

College or University	2021 Graduates Attending
Sinclair Community College	13
University of Dayton	9
Wright State University	7
Ohio University	3
Wittenberg University	3
Miami University	2
Kettering College	3
Out of Network	8

92% of our seventh cohort of students attended college. 82% attended in-network.

OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



ANTIOCH COLLEGE



OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY



DENISON



CURRENT SCHOOL PARTNERS

Archbishop Alter High School
 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
 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

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College Promise mentor
Christine Murphy and
mentees Ashtin Stargell
(left) and Gianna Delander