

WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY • OHIO
COLLEGE PROMISE



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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are proud to fulfill the Montgomery County Ohio College Promise mission by providing mentorship and a college scholarship to deserving students in our community. In an effort to continuously improve, this past year we took strides to make the program accessible to prospective students, attempted to better meet the needs of our mentors, and offered wraparound supports to students in the program.

College Promise originally offered the opportunity to about 50 students each year. Over the past four years, we have increased the number of students we are able to serve. In 2024, we selected 55 deserving College Promise Scholars, who began high school this past August. With another year of support from the Scarlet Feather Fund, we were able to ensure Black and African American students from West Dayton were fairly represented. Just as we have gradually increased the number of students participating each year, we expect that trend to continue beyond 2024.

In order to better serve more students, we have asked for a greater commitment from the community in terms of volunteer mentorship. This past year, a significant number of individuals stepped up to serve in this vital role for our students. In order to meet the needs of mentors, we moved the training to an online course, which new mentors can complete when it's convenient. It also takes half the time of our previous in-person trainings. In order to keep the sense of camaraderie, we held a New Mentor Luncheon prior to the start of the year. We continue to offer quarterly "Mentor Roundtables" to provide program updates and a discussion forum.

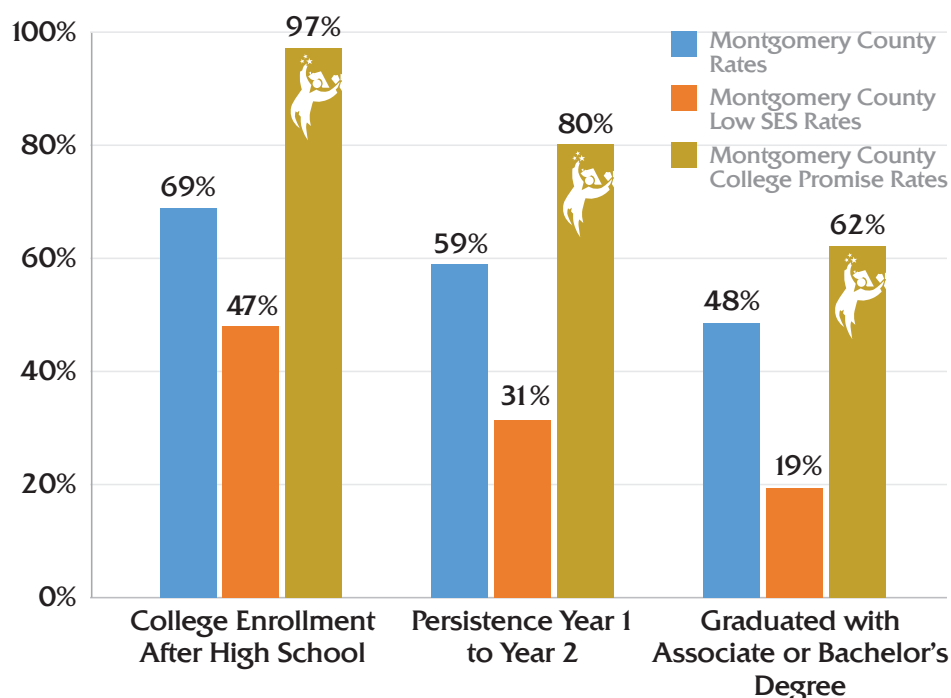
The real focus of our program is on the students, so we have been working to better engage with them during the school year. This past year, we held pizza parties at area high schools, where we were able to interact with students (and mentors) in a group setting. Also, we scheduled drop-in sessions at each high school this fall, where students could meet briefly with a program representative and let us know how things are going (and get a snack during their day). We also established a partnership with Bottom Line Ohio, an area nonprofit that helps scholars get into and through college and successfully launch a career. All of our seniors and recent graduates are now eligible for those services.

It has been an overwhelmingly positive year for College Promise. As we reach our fifteen-year milestone, we thank you for your continued support of our work in the community.

– Patrick W. Gill, PhD

COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES

We know this model works. The first four 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
\$19.4M IN
ADDITIONAL
UNIVERSITY &
GOVERNMENT
AID FOR OUR
STUDENTS.**

Our mentors have spent

66,000

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



\$2,800,000

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 ARIANA NGUYEN AND KATHY GALL

Ariana Nguyen is a Montgomery County Ohio College Promise Scholar. She attended Mad River Schools and graduated from Stebbins High School in 2019. She then enrolled at Sinclair Community College for the next two years before transferring to Wright State University to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business in Supply Chain Management.

Ariana gained a lot from her college experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. She shared that her favorite part of college was the opportunity to connect with like-minded people who shared similar interests. Also, by stepping out of her comfort zone, she learned the value of networking and collaboration, which have already proven vital at the outset of her career.

Kathy Gall served as Ariana's mentor. She and her husband, Gary, made the decision to serve as volunteer mentors back in 2011, when the program began. Following that positive experience, each felt

“Kathy encouraged me during tough times and provided guidance when I needed it most.”

called to work with another student, which is when Kathy met Ariana.

Ariana acknowledges that mentorship was one of the most impactful aspects of the program. She said, “Kathy encouraged me during tough times and provided guidance when I needed it most. Not only is she a mentor, but she's also a friend, and we continue to stay connected regularly.” Kathy still remains in contact with her former student, Minh, as well.

Kathy shared how much these students have enriched her life.



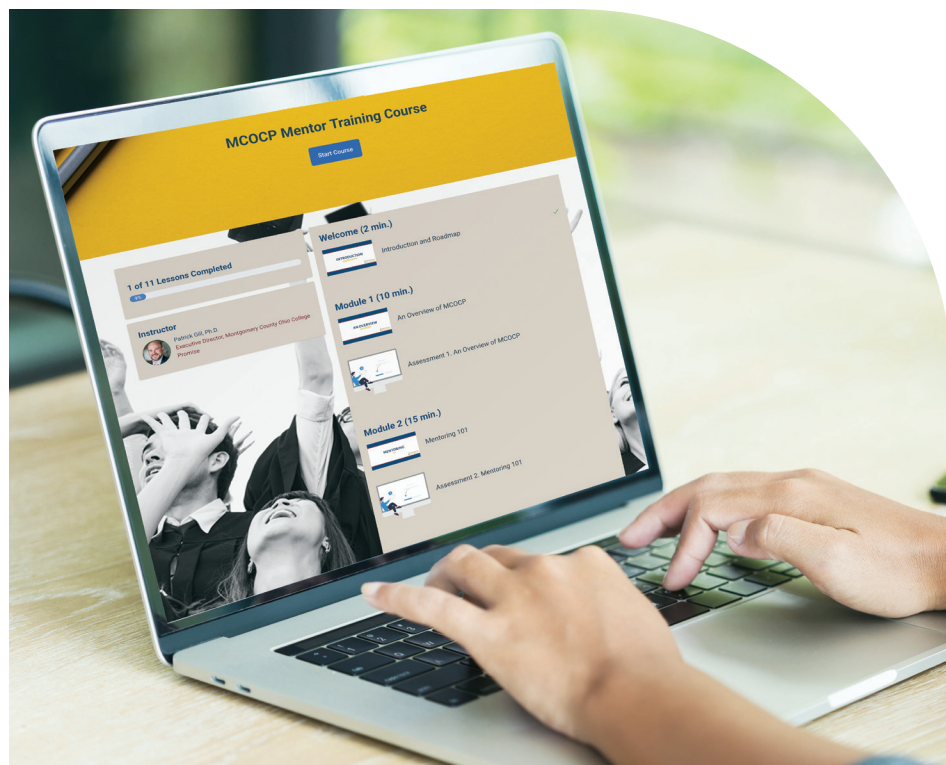
MENTOR TRAINING UPDATES

She said, “College Promise has made my world bigger. It’s been a very rewarding experience for me. I enjoyed staying in touch with a much younger generation.” She also shared that both of her students are Vietnamese, so she learned a lot about Vietnamese culture through this experience. Reflecting upon her time as a mentor, Kathy said, “I feel honored and grateful to have witnessed each of my students mature, succeed academically, and work hard to become amazing, successful women.”

Like all students in the program, Ariana followed clear expectations by committing to weekly meetings with her mentor and maintaining student responsibilities that ultimately earned her a scholarship. Ariana followed a transfer pathway that allowed her to graduate with a degree from Wright State University debt free.

The benefits of the program extend beyond a free degree. Ariana said, “Programs like this provide so much more than financial support – they open doors to mentorship, guidance, and a network of people who genuinely want to see you succeed.” Kathy witnessed how Ariana came to believe in herself and see that achieving her college education was attainable.

By embracing this opportunity, Ariana was ultimately able to turn her dreams into reality. Ariana now works as a Purchaser for a local residential and commercial supply company, WinSupply. Her long-term plans include developing a comprehensive understanding of the supply chain management industry and advancing in her career by continuously learning and growing.



This past year, Montgomery County Ohio College Promise moved our training to an online module. We did this for a few reasons, which have had a positive impact.

The primary reason for the change is due to scheduling, which can be a challenge when trying to get 50 or more individuals in person for a half day. Even with three to four trainings per year, more often than not, we scheduled additional sessions in order get everybody up to speed. In addition, we wanted to ensure that the material was consistent. While, generally, all content was covered, each training session introduced nuances that maybe shaped how information was received. Finally, we wanted to provide an opportunity for participants to revisit the material as needed once they completed the training.

The online module, provided through Course Creator 360, features a series of videos, along

with materials and assessments. As soon as an individual completes a volunteer mentor application, they are enrolled in the training and can complete the next step when it is convenient for them. Most volunteers have expressed clear motivation and want to begin right away.

In addition, the online process helped us to streamline the training itself, so it should only take 45 minutes to an hour to complete. In order to keep the in-person component and provide the opportunity for large group interaction, we host a luncheon, which allows for some additional information to be shared as well as questions answered.

We have received positive feedback about the online training process. Along with our quarterly Mentor Roundtables, we hope to provide our mentors with a solid foundation and regular support.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RHYAN ALLEN



Rhyan Allen is a Montgomery County Ohio College Promise Scholar. Ryan graduated from Trotwood-Madison High School in 2020. She then graduated from Wright State University in 2024, where she majored in Organizational Leadership.

As part of her participation in the program, Rhyan met weekly with her mentor, Janice Allen, the Treasurer of Trotwood-Madison City Schools. She said, “The mentorship I received taught me the importance of trial and error, and instilled in me the confidence to pursue my dreams, knowing that I had the skills and resilience to overcome obstacles.”

Rhyan currently works as the Family Resource Coordinator at Fairview

Elementary School for Omega Community Development Corporation, an organization in Dayton committed to breaking the cycle of generational poverty through cradle-to-career place-based services. In this role, she provides resources and support to students, serving as a liaison between students’ families, the school, and the community.

She would like to pass along a message of resilience to other students in the program currently finding their way. She said, “Like life, college will have its ups and downs. The key is to keep pushing forward, and despite the challenges, persevere through the hardships and face each trial without giving up.”

Rhyan shared that she is passionate about giving back and working

“The mentorship I received taught me the importance of trial and error, and instilled in me the confidence to pursue my dreams, knowing that I had the skills and resilience to overcome obstacles.”

to support those around her. She always had a strong desire to help others, and she feels fortunate to be able to live out that dream.

OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

College or University	2024 Graduates Attending
Wright State University	13
University of Dayton	8
Miami University	7
Sinclair Community College	3
Ohio Northern University	2
Ohio University	2
Kettering College	2
Miami University Regionals	1
Wittenberg University	1
Out of Network	3

98% of our tenth cohort students attended college. 93% attended in-network.

College Promise works with all

16

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

24

school partners within the county.

CURRENT SCHOOL PARTNERS

Belmont High School
Brookville High School
Carroll High School
Centerville High School
Chaminade Julianne High School
Creative World of Montessori
Dayton Early College Academy
Dayton Regional STEM School
Dixie High School
East Dayton Christian School
Kettering Fairmont High School
Meadowdale Career Technology Center

Miami Valley Career Technical Center
Miamisburg High School
Northmont High School
Northridge High School
Ponitz Career Technical Center
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

Board of Trustees

Darius Beckham, City of Dayton
Kathleen Carlson, Captrust, retired
Rebecca Kocher, Central State University
Alana Kitchen, U.S. Air Force
Mark Lane, Vivial, retired
Mike McQuiston, The Connor Group
Gabriela Pickett, Dayton Metro Library
Anthony Taylor, Crest Commercial Realty
Donnell Wiggins, University of Dayton
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 generosity of our donors:

Margy Anderson
Anonymous
Anonymous
Amy Askins and Chris Schairbaum
Cassie Barlow
Jim and Kathie Bartosky
Benevity Community Impact
Brethen Fund
Kathleen and Marty Carlson
Kendall Cobb
The Connor Group
Marcia Corrado
Pat and Dave Diven
Economy Linen and Towel Service
Pamela Ellis
Susan Fanelli
Mike and Sharon Frandsen
Leigh Ann and Joseph Fulford

Dave and Theresa Gasper
Mary Geiger
Darrell and Terri Gill
Patrick and Casey Gill
Elizabeth Hardy, Ph.D and Rick Omlor
Ralph and Mary Harper
Charlotte M. Harris
Gayle and Tom Henighan
Jeff and Ellen Ireland
Sonja Kasch
Todd and Lisa Kelchner
Bob and Judy Knell
Rebecca and Bradley Kocher
Mark and Carla Lane
Garth and Jacqueline Lawless
Joseph and Kelly Lehman
Regis and Sandra Lekan
Judy and Sam Lumby
Kevin and Mary McDonald
Peggie and Mike McQuiston
Robert B. Moore
Pete and Laura Pannier

Dr. Gabriela Pickett
The Scarlet Feather Fund
Alan Schaefer
Susan Serr
Stephanie Skelley
Gary and Pam Smiga
Richard Solomon and Alyce Flitcraft
Eric and Karen Spina
Dr. Anne Taylor
Anthony and Kelly Taylor
The Taylor Family
Texas Instruments Foundation
Steven and Bonnie Thompson
United Way of Greater Dayton
Jim and Ellen Vaughn
Carl Vehorn
Betsy Whitney
Thomas Williams
Charles Woodhull
Chad Wyen
Marquez Young

We are deeply grateful to these key donors who helped us raise \$127,000 in 2024 to sustain our mission.

**HELP FULFILL
THE PROMISE.
DONATE AT
MCOC.P.ORG.**