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College Now Programming to Expand with 21 New and Renewed Federally Funded Grant Awards

CLEVELAND, October 19, 2021 — With 21 new and renewed federally funded grants awarded to College Now Greater Cleveland, its programmatic partners, and the State of Ohio this fall, more students across Northeast Ohio than ever before will benefit from College Now's college access services. These highly competitive grants span multiple years and support a variety of programs and services to be conducted by College Now and its partners for students from low-income backgrounds. College Now will receive \$4.1 million from these awards in its 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Awarded programs include: **Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers** which funds College Now's after-school programming; **Talent Search** which funds college access services for students from low-income backgrounds and first-generation students; **Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)** which funds programs, services and outreach to support adults' educational attainment; and **GEAR UP State** and **GEAR UP Partnership** programs both support students from low-income backgrounds and first-generation students to improve postsecondary readiness and access. Details on each of these programs, including the number of awards and award amounts, are provided below.

"We are thrilled to be awarded and to partner on these important, student-focused programs thanks to these federal grant awards," said College Now CEO Lee Friedman. "Not only do these grant awards demonstrate the deep need in our community and across the state for increased postsecondary guidance and support, but they also demonstrate the expertise of College Now's entire team in delivering impactful, effective services that truly make a difference in the lives of students of all ages and in our communities. We are proud of the work of our team and our partners and receiving this number of competitive grants certainly speaks to the ability of all involved to deliver on these new and renewed programs."

Grant Award Details

**Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers: one new grant in Cuyahoga County; \$800,000 over five years; intensive supports for at least 225 students
12 renewed grants across Cuyahoga and Lorain counties; \$1.9 million for 2021-2022; intensive supports for at least 540 students/year**

- College Now's new Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant was awarded by the Ohio Department of Education and will allow College Now to provide its impact! programming at Bedford High School. The grant, which totals \$800,000 over five years, will serve up to 45 students with intensive entrance exam prep and other activities designed to support reading, math, family engagement, and youth development.
- The Ohio Department of Education also renewed funding (\$1.9 million for 2021-2022) to support College Now's 12 existing impact! programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs (Cleveland – Broadway Club); Clearview High School; Cleveland Public Library – Main Branch; Cleveland Public Library – University Circle Branch; City Life; Euclid High School; Garfield Heights High School; Lorain High School; Longfellow Middle School; Warrensville

Heights High School; Warrensville Heights Middle School; and Wellington High School.

Talent Search: One renewed and two new grants: \$4.14 million in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland and Cleveland Heights) over five years; serving 1,500 students/year

- The US Department of Education awarded College Now a renewal for its existing Talent Search program. This renewal award of \$1.38 million over five years will serve 500 Cleveland Metropolitan School District students from Glenville High School, John F. Kennedy High School, John Marshall High School, Patrick Henry School, Wilbur Wright Elementary School, and Whitney M. Young PreK-8 School every year. Launching this academic year, the program will run through the 2025-2026 academic year and will provide students with College Now's academic, individualized college access, and retention services. Talent Search is part of TRIO, a family of federal programs designed to support the educational attainment of students from low-income backgrounds and first-generation students.
- College Now's Talent Search programming will serve 1,000 additional students this year with two new Talent Search grants that support similar programming: One of these new grants will serve Garrett Morgan High School, Paul L. Dunbar, Riverside, and Waverly Middle Schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (totaling \$1.38 million over five years). The other will serve Cleveland Heights High School and Monticello and Roxboro Middle Schools in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District (also totaling \$1.38 million over five years).

Educational Opportunity Center (EOC): Two new grants; \$2.32 million in Cuyahoga and Summit counties (Cleveland and Akron) over five years; serving 1,700 adults/year

- The US Department of Education awarded College Now two new EOC grants for adult programs and services in Akron and Cleveland. In Akron, the new EOC grant, totaling \$1.16 million over five years, will enable adults to receive College Now's in-person advising and career access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services. Adults can access these services in a walk-in space or virtually. Currently, services can be found at a physical space at the University of Akron, with more locations in the Akron area to come. The United Way of Summit County will integrate this EOC's services into its Bold Goals 2025 to help financially empower Akron residents through high school equivalency and postsecondary credential attainment. The Cleveland EOC grant, also totaling \$1.16 million over five years, will allow College Now to expand its existing adult programs and services to increase postsecondary educational attainment among Cleveland's 50,000 adults who are without a high school diploma and the city's 85,000 adults who have just a high school diploma. Increased outreach to community members and area and partnering agencies is one strategy this EOC will employ to increase access to the program's life-changing postsecondary access services.

GEAR UP Ohio: Renewal; \$28 million across Ohio (\$2.1 million for College Now services in Cuyahoga County - Bedford) over seven years; serving 8,000 students/year across all Ohio sites

- College Now partnered with the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Higher Education to submit a \$28 million seven-year statewide GEAR UP grant. The US Department of Education awarded the grant to the Ohio Department of Higher Education to serve over 8,000 students each year at 17 schools in six Ohio communities (Bedford, Conneaut, Mansfield, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, and Reynoldsburg). Each community's GEAR UP Ohio programming is tailored and includes the support of local college access organizations and other community and higher education partners. Among participants, GEAR UP Ohio programming will increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education; increase high school graduation rates and postsecondary education enrollment; and increase educational expectations and increase student and family knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. College Now will partner with Bedford City School District to implement GEAR UP Ohio programming to students at Heskett Middle School and Bedford High School. College Now will also provide technical assistance to the Ohio Department of Higher Education and GEAR UP Ohio's other five sites.

GEAR UP Partnerships: Two new grants; \$5.88 million in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties (Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Clearview Local School District) over seven years; serving 1,050 students/year

- College Now partnered with Clearview Local School District and Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District to submit grants for each district's GEAR UP Partnership programs that were funded by the US Department of Education. Both grants will support district and College Now programming to increase academic performance, college readiness, and college enrollment for students, as well as family knowledge of the postsecondary process. Clearview's GEAR UP Partnership programming will support a total of 250 students starting in grades 6 and 7 at Durling Middle School and will follow them to Clearview High School and their first year of enrollment at a postsecondary institution. This grant award totals \$1.4 million in funding over seven years. The GEAR UP award for Cleveland Heights-University Heights programming will support a second

partnership of the GEAR UP to NEW HEIGHTS program. In partnership with Cleveland Heights-University Heights, John Carroll University, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, and the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland, GEAR UP to NEW HEIGHTS 2028 will support 800 students beginning in grades 6 and 7 at Roxboro and Monticello Middle Schools and following students to Cleveland Heights High School and the students' first year of enrollment at a postsecondary institution. This grant award totals \$4.48 million over seven years.

About College Now Greater Cleveland, Inc.

College Now provides Greater Cleveland students with guidance and access to funds to prepare for and graduate from college. For more than 50 years, our goal has been to help students pursue educational opportunities that empower them to embark on rewarding careers and strengthen our community. College Now assists more than 30,000 students each year, delivering college access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services in five Northeast Ohio counties, in the College Now Resource Center and through community-based programs. For more information, visit www.collegenowgc.org.

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