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Top Performing CMSD Students Accepted into More Prestigious Colleges Than Ever

CLEVELAND, April 17, 2018 — Each year, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) highest-achieving students are selected to participate in the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program, which focuses on matching these students with their “best fit” postsecondary option. These students work one-on-one and in groups with advisor Martha Basile to determine the students’ academic, financial, social and environmental needs, and find the higher education institutions that will meet those needs and set the students up for success on their campuses. Often, this includes looking at more highly-selective institutions. This year, the students participating in the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program have been accepted into more prestigious colleges and universities than ever before and have been offered over \$1.5 million in financial aid (including Federal, state and institutional aid; subsidized and unsubsidized students loans; and work study).

Students in the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program, which began in 2011, must have a 3.3 weighted GPA and at a least a 25 composite ACT score to participate. This year, 47 CMSD students participated in the program. The average ACT score was a 29, and the average weighted GPA was 4.1771. Along with the individualized and focused guidance supplied by Basile, students in the program also benefitted from guided college tours throughout their senior year. This year, students visited the campuses of Barnard College, Bucknell University, Columbia University, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, NYU, Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Jhonatan Ewunetie Accepted to Four Elite Universities

Jhonatan Ewunetie, a student in the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program from the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine with an ACT score of 33 and 4.4744 weighted GPA, has been accepted at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and Yale University, and he has been placed on the waitlist at Columbia University. Ewunetie is a participant in the QuestBridge College Match program at Stanford University, which helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation’s most selective colleges. Academically outstanding high school seniors from families earning less than \$65,000/year for a family of four are encouraged to apply to QuestBridge, and students are selected to participate in the program after a holistic application review. The application is also used as the college admission and scholarship application and is submitted to the QuestBridge partner institutions in which the students are interested. Admissions officers review the application and then make the admittance and scholarship determination.

Ewunetie is still making his final decision as to where he will matriculate in the fall, but he will be choosing between some of the most elite colleges in the country. He is the first student in the program to be accepted into Stanford University.

Students Receive Full Scholarships to Elite Institutions

Along with Ewunetie, three other students in the 2017-2018 Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program participated in the QuestBridge National College Match and received full four-year scholarships to elite institutions. Benjamin Drake at the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine (31 ACT, 4.2813 weighted GPA) will attend Vassar University on a full scholarship in the fall; Arianna Jackson at John Hay Early College (30 ACT and 4.3846 weighted GPA) will attend Wesleyan University on a full scholarship in the fall; and Briahnah Streeter at the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine (28 ACT, 4.35 weighted GPA) will attend Vanderbilt University on a full scholarship in the fall.

Outside of the QuestBridge full scholarships, students also received full scholarships from institutions directly. Eduardo Williams Medina, a student at the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine, received the Morrill Scholarship from the Ohio State University, and Joshua Phelps, also at the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine, received the Joan C. Edwards Scholarship at Case Western Reserve University, which provides a four-year scholarship in the amount of tuition, room, board, fees, books and personal expenses, as well as conditional admission to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, a medical school scholarship in the amount of tuition and a \$20,000 per year stipend.

Overall, this year's participants in the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program were accepted at 74 different institutions, including Bard College, Barnard College, Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Case Western Reserve University, Harvard University, Howard University, MIT, Northwestern University, NYU, Oberlin College, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, the United States Air Force Academy, Vanderbilt University, Vassar University, Wellesley College, and Yale University, among others. It has been the most impressive list of acceptances of the Cleveland Foundation College Now Scholars Program's history.

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 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 27,000 students each year, delivering college and career access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services in Greater Cleveland schools, in the College Now Resource Center and through community-based programs. For more information, visit www.collegenowgc.org.

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