

Ohio Mayors Alliance Education Advocacy Awards

Overview of Our Cities' Programs

August 26, 2019

City of Akron

The **City of Akron** is partnering with the **Summit Education Initiative** and the **University of Akron** to encourage recently "stopped out" students to return to school and complete their degrees or credential programs. By removing financial obstacles and providing assistance to students, this program will support individuals wishing to return to school. The **Student Loan Forgiveness Program** will forgive debt of up to \$1,500 per student at the completion of his or her program. Partners also will provide other forms of help and coaching to these students.

City of Columbus

The **City of Columbus** will partner with **Columbus City Schools** and **I Know I Can**, a local nonprofit. This team will encourage Columbus seniors to commit to working toward their graduation, while publicly recognizing them for their extraordinary efforts and stressing the importance of graduating high school and enrolling in college. The Mayor and Superintendent will host events for the students and public during the school year. **I Know I Can** counselors will work one-on-one with seniors to provide support and guidance on their college path, completing the **FAFSA**, and filling out college applications.

City of Dayton

The **City of Dayton** is partnering with **Learn to Earn Dayton**, **Dayton Public Schools (DPS)** and **Sinclair College** to increase **FAFSA** completion rates and decrease "summer melt" rates for **DPS'** graduating seniors. Funding will be used to purchase text messaging software to send messages to **DPS** seniors about **FAFSA** completion. Each **DPS** high school will develop plans for activities and engagement to support seniors in completing their **FAFSA** applications.

City of Lancaster

The **City of Lancaster** will promote career readiness and connect high-school students to in-demand jobs after graduation as a bridge to their earning a workforce credential, a certificate, or a degree. Working in partnership with the **Fairfield 33 Alliance's Career Readiness** initiative, the City will conduct a marketing campaign to encourage juniors and seniors to complete the **Fairfield County Career Readiness Endorsement**. This includes the completion of the **Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal**, which requires meeting benchmarks such as strong attendance, participation in a job fair, completing one mock interview and taking a tour of a business. Other requirements include completing 20 hours of community service; acknowledgement of the ability to pass a drug screen; and having access to reliable transportation.

City of Lima

The City of Lima, Lima City Schools and the Lima Chamber of Commerce will launch a year-long campaign to encourage FAFSA completion and publicly recognize seniors who are accepted into college, enlist in the military, or are job-ready upon graduation, while also fostering partnerships that create stronger connections between the education and business sectors. Using existing partnerships, Lima will promote and implement strategies that lead to enhanced credential and degree attainment.

City of Toledo

Working with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Toledo Public Schools, Washington Local Schools, Lucas County, ProMedica, and PNC Bank, the City of Toledo will increase FAFSA awareness and FAFSA completion. By hosting events, offering counseling, conducting social media efforts and partnering with local universities, Toledo will work to increase their region's FAFSA completion rates to ensure a well-prepared and diverse workforce.

City of Youngstown

The City of Youngstown, Youngstown State University and the Youngstown City School District will highlight the accomplishments of graduating seniors, local attainment goals and critical wrap-around services provided by local anchor institutions for students and families. These partners will reinvigorate the "City of YOU" campaign and infrastructure to feature graduating seniors who are going to college, the military or directly into the workforce with skills learned at the YCSD Career and Technical Center. Highlighting young people's accomplishments on this platform will bring Youngstown together to celebrate as a community.