



COLLEGE NOW GREATER CLEVELAND

THANK YOU, **LEE FRIEDMAN**, FOR 14 YEARS
OF GROWTH & EXCELLENCE

● 2010: A NEW BEGINNING

- **Lee Friedman** becomes CEO of Cleveland Scholarship Programs
- **Reach:** 20,000 students in 76 schools in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties
- **Budget:** \$5M | **Employees:** 40
- **Scholarships Awarded:** \$2.7M
- **Focus:** College enrollment, not completion
- **Lee's First Hire:** Dr. Michele Scott Taylor as Chief Programs Officer

● 2011: REBRANDING & MENTORSHIP

- Organization renamed **College Now Greater Cleveland** - becomes the largest comprehensive community-based college access org. in the U.S.
- Launched **Mentoring Program** to increase college retention and graduation rates; pilot cohort of 43 mentors/students

● 2013-2022: MILESTONE GROWTH

- **2013:** First **Bag Lady Luncheon** fundraiser for Mentoring Program
- **2019:** Helped bring Say Yes to Education to Cleveland, offering \$100M in scholarships to CMSD graduates
- **2021:** Launched **Planning and Career Exploration (PACE)** curriculum
- **2022:** Began managing **Cleveland Foundation's** 60 scholarships

● 2024: RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **CEO Transition:** Dr. Michele Scott Taylor named next CEO
- **Scholarships Awarded:** \$9.3M | **Cumulative Total (Since 1967):** \$111M
- **Budget:** \$40M | **Employees:** 175
- **Reach:** 38,000 individuals in 200 locations in 5 counties (Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Richland, Summit)
- **Bags & Bourbon:** Raises \$370K for Mentoring Program
- **Lee Friedman Student Emergency Fund:** Nearly \$150K raised

● 2025: LOOKING AHEAD

- **Expansion:** Serving 4,800 additional students via two **GEAR UP** grants



RECENT COMMUNITY RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- **Lee Friedman:**
 - 2024 Richard A. Shatten Award, Greater Cleveland Partnership
 - 2024 Business Hall of Fame, Cleveland Magazine
 - 2023 Notables in Education Leadership, Crain's Cleveland Business
- **Michele Scott Taylor:**
 - 2024 Citizen of the Year, Zeta Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
 - 2024 Woman of Note, Crain's Cleveland Business
 - 2024 Emerging Leader, Team NEO

COLLABORATIVE IMPACT PARTNERS

- **2011:** Cleveland mayor Frank Jackson and other community leaders launch the **Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland** to align efforts in growing college attainment for CMSD students. College Now is a partner and fiscal agent.
- **2019: Say Yes to Education** launched in Cleveland. Lee was a driving force in bringing \$100M in college scholarships to CMSD graduates. College Now is Say Yes Cleveland's fiscal agent.
- **2021: Planning and Career Exploration (PACE)** established. Curriculum-based career exploration that complements our postsecondary advising.
- **2022: Greater Cleveland Career Consortium (GCC)** established with multiple partners, including College Now, to help Northeast Ohio students design their best-fit career plan.

BY THE NUMBERS: THEN & NOW

THEN (2011-2012):

Individuals served: 20,000

Annual Budget: \$5 million

Employees: 40+

AmeriCorps College Guides: 15+

NOW (2024-2025):

Individuals served: 38,000 (90% increase)

***Annual Budget:** \$37.5 million, including fiscal agencies in operations (607% increase)

Employees: 175 (313% increase)

AmeriCorps College Guides: 25+ (67% increase)