



DAYTON/MONTGOMERY COUNTY ONE OF 10 COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AWARDED FUNDING TO EXPAND STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING INITIATIVES

Dayton, Ohio, May 23, 2018 — The Together for Students initiative, created by three national, education-focused nonprofit organizations — the [Coalition for Community Schools](#), [Communities In Schools](#), and [StriveTogether](#) — today recognized Dayton and Montgomery County for plans bringing key community members together to support the needs of local students. Dayton/Montgomery County is one of 10 that will receive approximately \$150,000 to support the activities and goals set forth in their collaborative plans.

Dayton/Montgomery County was chosen because of its focus on raising the academic achievement of all Montgomery County students, with a special focus on eliminating the achievement gaps between children of color and white young people, and between boys and girls.

"The Dayton community is grateful for the support of the Together for Students' initiative," said Tom Lasley, chief executive officer of Learn to Earn Dayton. "Our elected and business leaders, schools, non-profits, faith communities and higher education institutions are united around making sure that all children get a great education and have the chance to participate in experiences that help them succeed in school, on the job and in life."

"Dayton Public Schools is thrilled to be part of this partnership," said Dr. Elizabeth Lolli, Superintendent of Dayton Public Schools. "The Dayton community is creating innovative and empowering strategies to ensure every child excels. When schools, families and the community all come together, there is no stopping our young people."

Selected from a pool of 86 applicants, these communities display strong school district and cross-sector partnerships, the ability to scale their plans, empowerment of family and student voice and a clear plan for identifying the best supports for students.

The 10 award communities are:

- Birmingham, AL ([United Way of Central Alabama](#))
- Chicago, IL ([Thrive Chicago](#))
- Dayton, OH ([Learn to Earn Dayton](#))
- Fresno, CA ([Fresno Cradle to Career](#))
- Lehigh Valley, PA ([United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley](#))
- Memphis, TN ([Communities In Schools of Memphis](#))
- Milwaukee, WI ([United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County](#))
- Nashville, TN ([Metro Nashville Public Schools](#))
- Vancouver, WA ([Vancouver Public Schools](#))



- Washington, D.C. ([DC Public Education Fund](#))

Each of the lead applicants listed will work with a variety of local partners.

“It’s extremely exciting to be working with and learning from communities that are committed to using what they have to create the conditions, climate, and culture necessary for learners to achieve their dreams.,” said **José Muñoz, director of the Coalition for Community Schools**. “Our schools succeed when communities come together to address the underlying issues facing our learners and their families.”

“These communities are uniquely positioned to grow their programs that are already closing achievement gaps, while engaging with broad groups of community organizations and outlining solid goals,” said **Dale Erquiaga, Communities In Schools president and CEO**. “With these awards, they will be able to build out their efforts to reach even more students on their paths to careers.”

“This initiative highlights what can be accomplished when collaboration brings the right partners together to focus on the needs and interests of every child in a community,” **StriveTogether President and CEO Jennifer Blatz** said. “These communities have begun to create a more equitable education system for children to succeed despite challenges. We look forward to seeing how they extend their reach for the optimal student-centered learning environment.”

With support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and the Ford Foundation, the three organizations launched Together for Students to advance student-centered learning. Under their vision, the needs of every individual student are carefully considered and provided for, from health, food and shelter to high-quality mentoring and enrichment activities.

Together, The Coalition for Community Schools, Communities In Schools and StriveTogether are leading a movement that unites families, educators and local partners, with their combined networks totaling nearly 300 communities.

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About the Coalition for Community Schools

The [Coalition for Community Schools](#), an initiative of the [Institute for Educational Leadership \(IEL\)](#), is an alliance of national, state and local organizations that utilize community schools as an equitable continuous improvement strategy for public schools, and an approach to build stronger and healthier families and communities.

About Communities In Schools

Working directly in more than 2,350 schools in 25 states and the District of Columbia, [Communities In Schools](#) is the nation’s leading dropout prevention organization proven to keep students in school and on the path to graduation. For the 2016-2017 school year, Communities



In Schools served nearly 1.6 million students and successfully helped 99 percent of our case-managed students stay in school.

About StriveTogether

[StriveTogether](#) leads a national movement of nearly 70 communities to get better results in every child's life. We coach and connect partners across the country to close gaps by using local data, especially for children of color and low-income children. Communities using our proven approach have seen measurable gains in kindergarten readiness, academic achievement and postsecondary success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 10.4 million students, involves 10,800 organizations and has partners in 30 states and Washington, D.C.