



DREAM BIG. WORK HARD. WE'LL HELP.™

Annual Report **2016**

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Mission

Inspire, enable and support Columbus City Schools students in pursuing and completing a college education.

Financials
Fiscal Year 2016
at a glance

TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,840,290
IKIC Book	\$86,865
IKIC Grant Endowment	\$1,850,588
Contracted Services	\$1,287,500
Corporations	\$940,000
Foundations	\$562,337
Individuals	\$1,113,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,736,804 *
Operating	\$644,706
Blueprint:College	\$272,442
College Retention	\$254,716
Early Awareness	\$255,652
High School College Advising	\$1,571,752
IKIC Grants and Scholarships	\$1,550,000
Save Smart	\$187,536

*Budgeted Expenses



The moment is now

It all started with a BOLD 2020 goal: A 20 percentage point increase in the number of Columbus City Schools (CCS) students who graduate prepared for college and career. And, in our second year of expanded services, with many thanks to CCS, stakeholders, donors and board members, I Know I Can (IKIC) is poised to help more Columbus students enroll in college than ever before.

Now two years into a strategic plan that gave each CCS high school its own full-time college advisor, IKIC continues to provide students with the right assistance at the right time, empowering them to turn college dreams into a reality. Across all CCS high schools, IKIC has significantly increased students' completion of critical college access milestones, including the percent of students participating in 3 or more one-on-one advising sessions, taking college entrance exams, and applying for the IKIC grant. Furthermore, our advisors worked hard to increase the number of students submitting a FAFSA by 11%, despite a national decline in FAFSA completion.

We are excited and encouraged by the growth we have seen through our partnership with CCS and look forward to another year of expanding our reach and ensuring more students are prepared for college, career or the military upon graduation. We cannot thank you enough for the time and investments you have contributed to ensuring more hard working CCS students reach their goals.

Sincerely,

Tanny Crane Board of Directors President

On behalf of the IKIC Board of Directors and staff, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank Tanny Crane for her visionary leadership as board president over the past four years. During her tenure, she steered our organization through its 25th anniversary celebration, the development of a five year strategic plan, and the expansion of I Know I Can services, which resulted in the quadrupling of IKIC staff in order to provide full-time college and career advising in every CCS high school. Thank you, Tanny, for dreaming big, working hard, and helping more students achieve their college dreams.

As her tenure comes to a close, we are excited to welcome Dr. Rich Rosen as our 2017 Board President. Rich has served on the IKIC Board of Directors for over eight years. As a thought leader in education, his work focuses on engaging the education and business sectors to collaborate for systemic change. These experiences, along with his past and current involvement on community boards such as COSI, The Past Foundation, and Columbus State Community College, position him to be a great leader as IKIC continues to navigate through its largest growth stage in organizational history.

With Rich's leadership and the continued support of our board, community and donors, I wholeheartedly believe that IKIC will reach more students and families with the information and resources they need so that the decision to go to college is solely their own.

Sincerely,

Katina Fullen Executive Director

Logan Gin

Student at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
and graduate of Columbus Alternative High School

Piloted in 2010, the I Know I Can Founders' Scholarship program was developed to help exceptional students cover the gap between the cost of their dream institution and their ability to pay. Since then, 75 students have been awarded and are making a tremendous impact in their communities. While some have returned to Columbus City Schools as teachers, others are pursuing grad school, studying abroad, and working for Fortune 500 companies like Microsoft. Read about two of these amazing students and how they are making a difference in the communities that have served them.

In September 2016, Logan Gin, I Know I Can Founders' Scholarship recipient and graduate of Columbus Alternative High School was elected Mr. UNC at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Logan was motivated to run for Mr. UNC

in an effort to bring awareness to an issue affecting his campus: access and inclusion for students with disabilities. "I saw how the previous winners of Mr. and Miss UNC used the platform and campaign to generate excitement, awareness and support for projects that they each cared deeply about," Logan shared.

Logan's campaign was shaped around promoting adaptive sport options for students on campus. Logan's ultimate goal is to specifically get wheelchair basketball approved as an intramural sport at UNC – Chapel Hill and then move on to tackle the challenge of getting it recognized by the NCAA. Using wheelchair basketball, a more commonly known adaptive sport, Logan says he hopes to "generate interest and eventually add more sports such as wheelchair rugby, goalball and sitting volleyball."



"Through my project, I hope that students with disabilities will feel more empowered and included and call Carolina home," Logan shared, adding that "It has opened the door to productive conversations about access and inclusion of students with disabilities on our campus through the common ground of sports."

Before beginning his "We ALL Can Play" campaign, Logan also served the campus as a Resident Advisor, co-chairman of Advocates for Carolina at Campus Y and was a mentor for a local high school student, helping him get on track for college.

Logan's success at his dream school is the perfect example of the impact all students can have when given the opportunity.

“ I appreciate the family and community aspect of I Know I Can and always feeling welcomed in a space of scholars, mentors and leaders who want the best for me and my future. ”

KayMesha Knox

Student at The Ohio State University
and graduate of South High School

Rounding out the final year of her undergraduate degree, KayMesha Knox is acutely aware of the impact one person can have in ensuring a student's postsecondary success.

During her senior year at South High School, KayMesha was grateful for the counselors and advisors in her building. As a first-generation college student, KayMesha recognizes that the help and guidance she received was critical to her success, "from initial help with the ACT, to the Founders' Scholarship, to my mentor, Blossom Barrett, I Know I Can has been a very important part of my journey."

During her time at The Ohio State University (OSU), KayMesha has taken her good fortune and paid it forward by volunteering as a mentor for current college-bound students in Columbus City Schools (CCS). "Through my experience at East High School,

I've discovered that a majority of the students do not have access to a computer or internet at home," she shared, "this makes it difficult for them to access the necessary applications and resources when they aren't in school. Many also weren't able to stay and get these tasks done after school or at their local libraries due to other responsibilities."

It was based on this realization that KayMesha created the program, Steps to Success, and in November of her senior year, applied and was selected to be one of the first ever recipients of The Ohio State University's President's Prize. The award, created to empower OSU students to transform the world, provided her with \$100,000 to begin implementing her program. The greater part of her work will begin in Fall 2017 and will focus on equipping 50 CCS seniors with both the



personal and technological support needed to be college ready by spring of 2018.

Through the program, KayMesha will provide these students with personal laptops and in-home internet access that will give them and their parents or guardians the opportunity to work on college applications from home. They will also have mentors who will help with ACT prep, college applications, homework, scholarship and grant applications and financial training. By removing these barriers and building a program of support, KayMesha hopes to enroll 50 students in college in Fall 2018. Through this opportunity to pursue her passion at OSU she is able to help more CCS seniors get on the path to reaching their greatest potential.

“ I Know I Can has motivated and supported me through the toughest patches of my life and helped me see that a postsecondary degree is attainable. ”

Capital
University



COLUMBUS
STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

DENISON

FUTURE
READY
COLUMBUS



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Seniors commit to reach higher at All Seniors In Rally

Mershon Auditorium fell silent as Wes Moore, author of The New York Times bestseller *The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates*, spoke to over 1,200 seniors during the 2nd Annual All Seniors In Rally, hosted in partnership by I Know I Can (IKIC), Columbus City Schools (CCS) and The City of Columbus.

Moore spent his time with the students impressing upon them the importance of making the most of their time, their resources and their lives — that every small decision can and will lead to greater outcomes.

With a story that emulates the results of making hard but good choices, Wes is passionate about helping students take the right path and build bright, successful futures. He encouraged them to stand strong against peer pressure, and to maximize the support systems that exist to bolster them as they move into their next stage of life.

The event was organized as part of IKIC’s continued involvement in First Lady Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative, an effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing education beyond high school — whether at a professional training program, a community college or a four-year institution. The annual All Seniors In Rally brings high school seniors together to commit to making the most of their senior year and graduating this spring, college and career ready.

Throughout the morning, students heard from recent graduates who shared their experience and wisdom; counselors and

advisors who offered important “to-do list” items; and, the superintendent who offered words of inspiration based on the famous Dr. Seuss poem, “Oh The Places You’ll Go.” Mayor Andy Ginther also shared a message of encouragement to stay focused and work hard.

It was a moving and impactful day for students, who since have been preparing and making plans for college, a career or the military after high school.

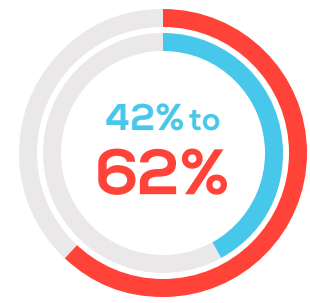
Colleges and universities from around the state offered their support of the event. Sponsors included The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Capital University, Ohio Wesleyan University, FutureReady Columbus, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, The City of Columbus, Denison University, Columbus State Community College, DeVry University, Franklin County Children Services and Ohio Dominican University.

“Life’s impermanence, I realized, is what makes every single day so precious. It’s what shapes our time here. It’s what makes it so important that not a single moment be wasted.”

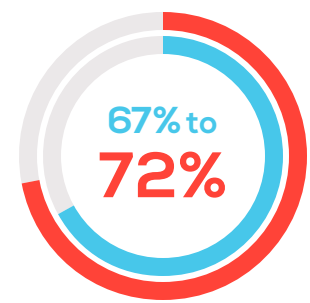
Wes Moore, *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*

I Know I Can Bold Goals

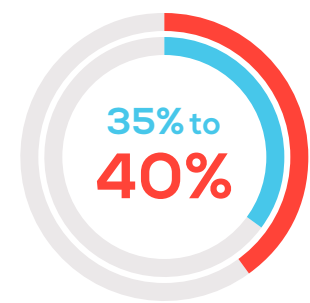
College Enrollment
Increase the number of students enrolling in college from



College Persistence
Increase the number of students persisting in college from



College Completion
Increase the number of students graduating from college



Programs and Services

Blueprint:College

Blueprint:College is an innovative approach to parent engagement and college planning. The program consists of college and career planning workshops designed for Columbus City Schools (CCS) 6th–11th grade families. These workshops provide key college readiness and financial education to parents and students to get them set on a college trajectory.

College Advising

College Advising Managers with backgrounds in college admissions, financial aid and student life provide full-time, in-school college coaching for CCS students through one-on-one

interactions and classroom based presentations and workshops. In each high school, advisors play a key role in coordinating college readiness wrap-around services that include assistance with college applications, college entrance exams, campus tours, financial aid, scholarships and grants.

College Retention

College retention efforts are designed to ensure all CCS graduates who enroll in postsecondary education have a knowledgeable support system during the critical transition from high school to college and throughout their postsecondary journey. IKIC provides near-peer

In 2016, I Know I Can provided critical transition services to recent high school graduates resulting in **84%** of its college-bound students able to start their first semester with fees paid, schedules in hand and ready to learn versus a national rate of 60% for low-income students.

Early awareness is critical to a student’s journey toward college readiness. IKIC’s largest middle school effort, Blueprint:College, has **67%** of participants enroll in college versus an enrollment rate of 51% in other school districts similar to Columbus City Schools.

mentors and programming on 17 college campuses throughout the state to assist students in the creation and refinement of academic and career goals, navigating on-campus resources, and removing financial barriers to persistence through financial literacy and support.

Mentor U

The IKIC mentoring program connects first-year college students and current high school seniors with mentors from the professional community. These mentors ensure students are staying on track to enroll in and complete their postsecondary programs. Mentors and mentees are matched through an online platform and communicate through text, email and face-to-face meetings. Mentors are trained and prompted on the

topics needed to help students successfully transition to, and succeed in college.

Early Awareness

IKIC’s early awareness services focus on enhancing college knowledge and aspirations. Ohio College Guides work with 6th–10th grade students and provide information on college admission requirements and postsecondary costs. Students are guided through self-exploration activities utilizing an online college and career readiness platform. The platform also helps advisors ensure that each child has met specific milestones to assist with college preparation and persistence. IKIC also engages students in an active, hands-on financial education experience that gives more than 3,000 8th grade

Completing the FAFSA is one of the strongest indicators for subsequent college enrollment. In 2016, I Know I Can achieved an **11%** increase in the number of seniors completing the FAFSA. This increase occurred in spite of a decline in completion rates nationally.

I Know I Can awards over **\$1.5** million a year in financial aid for CCS graduates enrolled in postsecondary education.

students the opportunity to simulate lifestyle and budget choices that help them with future decision-making skills as it pertains to their postsecondary success.

FAFSA Workshops

Each year, IKIC College Advising Managers and volunteers assist more than 600 families in completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing this application is necessary for students to receive the most available financial aid for college. IKIC coordinates a workshop in every CCS high school where families can receive extra support to complete their FAFSAs by the priority deadlines set by many colleges and universities.

College Funding

Federal Pell Grant-eligible CCS graduates with demonstrated unmet financial need receive the \$1,200 I Know I Can Grant, which is renewable for four years. During the 2015-16 academic year, IKIC awarded more than \$1M in grants to high school seniors and CCS graduates enrolled in postsecondary education. Highly competitive students are given the opportunity to apply for the Founders' Scholarship worth up to \$40,000 over four years.

Read to Succeed Week

Read to Succeed Week is an annual, weeklong event designed to highlight the importance of reading and developing postsecondary aspirations among elementary-aged

students. In 2016, more than 100 community volunteers read IKIC's self-titled book to 2nd grade classrooms in 50 CCS elementary schools. Volunteers remind students of the importance of dreaming big and working hard to ensure postsecondary success. At the end of the reading, all CCS 2nd grade students receive their own copy of *I Know I Can* to take home to their families.

Save Smart

Save Smart is a federally supported college savings program offered to high school students as well as CCS graduates enrolled in postsecondary education. Save Smart provides

students with a 4:1 match on their savings for college, making higher education more affordable for participants. Participants who successfully complete the program earn an additional \$1,000 for college, which leveraged over \$200,000 in financial support for CCS students this year.

I Know I Can is working tirelessly to ensure more students are prepared for and able to pursue their college and career dreams. Today, more Columbus City Schools students are prepared for and enrolled in college than ever before!

But there is still progress to be made. And we need your help.

Join I Know I Can in supporting the dreams of hardworking students in Central Ohio.

It just takes one moment.

www.iknowican.org
info@iknowican.org

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614 - 233 - 9510

Business of Good Foundation	Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc.	Ohio University	W. W. Williams Family Designated Fund	Heather Brown
Capital University	Harry C. Moores Foundation	Ohio Wesleyan University	Weiler Family Foundation	Commissioner Marylin Brown
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Cardinal Health Foundation	Huntington National Bank	OSU English Undergraduate Organization	White Castle	Lois Burke
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Columbus Education Association	Kresge Foundation	Roush Honda	Bethany Adams	Mark Carter
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Vern Granger		Brett Meyer	Dan Pohl	Sarah Stout	Hannah Zimmerman



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