

## Covering the Actual Cost of College

For the past six years, scholarships from Say Yes Cleveland have helped more than 700 students from Cleveland Metropolitan School District attend and graduate from college. Say Yes Cleveland began by covering the cost of college tuition and fees but quickly realized that financial gaps remained that posed a steep barrier for many would-be college students.

“The costs that come after tuition—including books, room and board, transportation, and more—can still be substantial, especially for students who want and deserve the full on-campus experience,” said Maggie McGrath, a member of the executive leadership team at College Now, the nonprofit that manages the distribution of scholarship funding to higher education institutions.

Say Yes Cleveland expanded its support to include many of these expenses, but gaps remained. [The ACS Fund for Women & Girls](#), created by [Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC](#) (ACS) saw that need and eagerly lent additional support through four new scholarships for young women attending either the University of Cincinnati or the College of Wooster—the respective alma maters of ACS founders Lori McClung and Scarlett Boudier.

“We remembered from our own college days how challenging some of the expenses could be, and those have only increased since then,” said McClung.

“We saw an opportunity to make a huge, lifelong difference for other women—specifically women of color, low-income women and first-generation college women—with targeted support to Say Yes.”

“ACS saw what we were doing and wanted to expand opportunity to even more students,” said McGrath. “Their funds are really making a difference.”

The ACS Fund provides scholarships of \$2,000 per year for up to four years that students can use for any college-related expense. The first four scholarship recipients are currently immersed in their freshman years and are pursuing big dreams.



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–Maggie McGrath, College Now Greater Cleveland

Chloe Tunstall plans to become a pediatric nurse because of her love for children and caregiving. She is enjoying being in a new setting, meeting new people, and taking an active part in campus life.

Alana Correa wants to become a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology. "What solidified my wanting to be an OB-GYN was hearing all of the horror stories of how women of color were being treated or neglected and as a young woman of color myself, that is scary," she said.

KeiZiya LeiKaila Simone Doctor is diving into biochemistry with the goal of becoming a dentist. Despite the rigor of her science courses, she's committed to studying hard to maintain a B grade point average or higher.

Vee Johnson is looking forward to promoting men's mental health through a career in sports administration. "I care deeply about men's mental health, specifically Black men's mental health, and I feel like sports help them express their emotions that they wouldn't be able to otherwise. I enjoy being a part of that process," she said.

In addition to financial support, every Say Yes scholarship recipient is paired with a mentor from the Cleveland community and is assigned a success coach from their college campus or College Now. "From admissions to graduation, College Now and Say Yes are there with the student for their whole journey," said McGrath.

"As a first-generation college graduate myself, it's incredibly gratifying to see the excitement and possibility that our young women scholarship recipients have and

how they are now and will continue to be a positive influence on their communities," said Boudier. "And it's no surprise that each of these young women is preparing for a career that focuses on supporting the health and wellness of others. The more we can do to support women like these in their higher education journeys, the better."

### Join Us in Supporting Women & Girls with a Gift to the ACS Fund



The ACS Fund for Women & Girls is held at the Community Foundation for Lorain County. Donate online via the [Community Foundation website](#).

If you'd like to make a donation through another fund or make a gift of something other than cash, please contact Jamie Simoneau, [jsimoneau@peoplewhocare.org](mailto:jsimoneau@peoplewhocare.org), 440.984.7390.

If you'd like to make a multi-year pledge, please email Lori McClung, [lori@advocacyandcommunication.org](mailto:lori@advocacyandcommunication.org).

**Thank you!**