

2022-2023

Detroit College Access Network

Annual Report



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Dear Education Advocates,

For many of you, this is the first time we've met. For others, I have had the pleasure of getting to know you since I became Executive Director of the Detroit College Access Network (DCAN) in February 2022. It has been a busy yet rewarding journey thus far, and I'd like to start by thanking you for your support.

I came into this role with a collaborative heart, and I'm happy to report that it's been filled many times over by the people and organizations who partner with us and by the foundation we're providing for student success. No one organization in Detroit possesses all the resources needed to support students with college access and success. However, I remain excited about what we can achieve together.

It's an equally exciting time for education across the state of Michigan! Our state legislature recently passed a record-breaking education budget for the 2023-24 school year. It includes investments in early childhood learning and the largest ever per-pupil allocation for K-12. Additionally, funding increases for both community college and university operational funding and investments in educator recruitment and retention all contribute to what can best support Detroit students along the cradle-to-career continuum.

Yet it's no secret that these are still difficult times for many in our education ecosystem, and the recent Supreme Court rulings will have a significant impact on the educational and financial prospects for Detroit youth. In light of this, it is even more important for DCAN to communicate our commitment to be intentional about what, why, and how we do the work we do to make post-secondary education a reality for all Detroit students.

This report will highlight not only where we've been, but where we're going next. We've seen the highest Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion numbers in years. We've amplified our professional development support for college access professionals. We're expanding our reach to nurture middle school students and are excited about giving voice to older students by bringing them into DCAN leadership roles.

We have also formulated a new, three-year strategic plan and continue to pursue partnerships and opportunities that benefit our youth and, by extension, the greater Detroit community. Lastly, we are expanding our reach from citywide breadth to community-level depth with the launch of our college access and success hubs!

As always, we couldn't do any of it without you. The pages that follow represent a celebration of the collective power of our community. On behalf of the entire DCAN team, thank you for embracing the vision of what DCAN can be.

I look forward to our continued growth together.

Sincerely,

Cykeia Lee
Executive Director
Detroit College Access Network





DCAN is Rooted with Room to Grow



This past year was full of change that inspired significant self-reflection. As we celebrated post-pandemic opportunities for in-person programs, we contemplated the impact of an uneven social climate.



While we have deep ties and strong support within our Detroit community, we recognized that by optimizing our infrastructure, redefining and revitalizing existing partnerships, and casting an active eye toward new opportunities and post-secondary pathways, we could broaden our reach.



With The State of Michigan's "Sixty by 30" goal—to increase the number of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree to 60% by 2030—we are uniquely positioned to implement initiatives that sustain or surpass that growth.

Over the past decade, we have evolved from the "College Ready" team focusing on one aspect of the college access and preparation journey to a formal collective of organizations championing a holistic approach toward achieving our mission. We celebrate all that we have been able to accomplish this year with your support and look forward to what lies ahead.



Did You Know?

DCAN programs and activities go beyond broadening educational opportunities; they are dedicated to reshaping the trajectories of students' lives, impacting their families, future prospects, and communities.

5.5% unemployment rate for those without a high school diploma. Rate decreases as education increases¹

6% increase in SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and a 3.7% increase in SAT Mathematics for 11th grade DPSCD students outpace state, county, city, and charter school² numbers.

92% of students who complete the FAFSA continue their pursuit of higher education.³

73% four-year high school graduation rate for Detroit Schools (DPSCD and Charter).⁴

25% of first-year college students don't return for their second year. One of the top three reasons is challenges transitioning from high school.⁵

65% higher median earnings for full-time workers with a bachelor's degree versus high school diploma.⁶

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022

² Michigan Department of Education, 2021-22

³ National College Attainment Network

⁴ Michigan School Data, 2021-22

⁵ National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

⁶ The College Board, 2021

What's Good



Although there is a lot of work to be done to improve educational access and completion rates and to help our youth attain the benefits provided by post-secondary opportunities, there is also a lot of work that DCAN is already doing. On the pages that follow, you'll see the breadth of programs and resources that anchor our work. These include programs offered for the educational professionals who support our youth, recognized by the Michigan Department of Education as valuable sources of State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH), and programs that serve as the foundation for our youth's next stage of growth.





Metro Detroit College Access & Success Conference

This annual event brings together educators, counselors, community leaders, and college access professionals to discuss best practices, share resources, and collaborate on initiatives that help students navigate the college admissions process and thrive in higher education. Through keynotes, program sessions, and workshops attendees receive valuable information and strategies on general topics as well as targeted solutions to ensure equitable access to higher education by underserved populations.

DCAN IMPACT:

In 2022, we hosted 103 attendees and provided 1,000+ SCECH credits.

Lunch & Learn

Our most extensive professional development program brings together college-access professionals for a full day of networking and training to increase their capacity for support. This year's Lunch & Learn themes included finding financially safe post-secondary pathways, skilled trade, and finishing strong.



DCAN IMPACT:

We hosted 247 attendees across four sessions and provided 16 SCECH credits to each attendee.



STRIVES

Originally established to support counselors during the pandemic, our Detroit Successful Transitioning Resources and Initiatives Virtual Education Series (STRIVES) is a monthly virtual professional development series. These sessions provide a deep dive into college access and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) strategy with the goal of providing information and resources that are useful immediately to support students. Session topics included building a college-going culture, supporting independent students with the FAFSA, student data tracking, and leveraging senior year momentum.

DCAN IMPACT:

We were recognized in the Detroit News for our **double digit** FAFSA efforts ahead of the state. We were also ahead of national averages!

FAFSA

The past year's professional development topics emphasized FAFSA. As a result, we saw historical FAFSA numbers, with 57% citywide FAFSA completion efforts (a nearly 14% increase) putting us 3% behind our 60% goal! We attributed this increase of Detroit students filling out FAFSA forms to our face-to-face engagement with students, college decision day events and other in-person activities after students & counselors alike combatted Zoom fatigue following the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only was this metric a highlight for DCAN, but it also outpaced state and national averages!

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS EDUCATION

More Detroit students complete 'magic form' seeking aid for college



Kim Kozlowski
The Detroit News

Published 11:00 p.m. ET July 9, 2023



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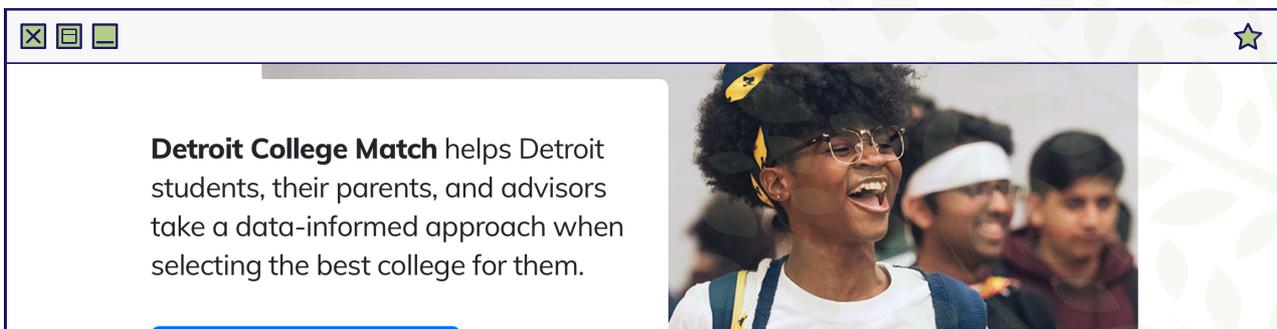
Nijuel Stewart has long dreamed of going to college, but as he got closer to high school graduation, he worried it might cost tens of thousands of dollars every year to get a higher education.

Stewart's counselor encouraged him to fill out a form known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, which one expert called a "magic form" that helps students unlock federal, state and institutional financial aid to help pay for college.



Detroit College Match Tool

Using students' GPA and SAT scores to determine match, reach, and safety schools, the Detroit College Match Tool offers a data-informed approach to school selection for students, parents, counselors, and advisors. Students can share or edit their lists during their decision-making process. The tool also helps underclassmen research and gain awareness of school requirements to better prepare and align themselves to meet the requirements when they become seniors.



Detroit College Match helps Detroit students, their parents, and advisors take a data-informed approach when selecting the best college for them.

DCAN IMPACT:

During the 2022-23 academic year, we had 922 website users and 413 college lists exported from the site.





SAT Prep

Although the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) has become an optional assessment for many colleges and universities across the state, we believe it has proven to be an important part of a student's preparation as they transition into their post-secondary pathway. (Take a look at the statistics on our Did You Know? page in this report). Given its influence, this year, DCAN partnered with Doorway to College to provide free virtual SAT Prep seminar courses for our high school students.

DCAN IMPACT:

We had 85 students participate during the 2022-23 academic year.



#WhyApply & Michigan College Month

#WhyApply isn't just a day, it's a movement! Sponsored by the American College Application Campaign, this social media effort encourages people to wear college gear and share why they applied or think students should apply. The DCAN team participated in the September event, followed by Michigan College Month in October. That initiative encourages college access professionals to provide time and support during the school day to ensure every senior has the opportunity to apply. They assisted those who may not otherwise apply and fostered a college-going culture.

DCAN IMPACT:

In October 2022, we had 22 Detroit high schools participate, with a collective total of 1,086 seniors submitting 3,445 college applications.

Detroit College Ambassador Program

Positive peer pressure gets results. The youth-led Detroit College Ambassador Program pairs Detroit high school students and recent graduates who promote college-going culture in schools and the community. Ambassadors are trained to provide support and share knowledge that helps with post-secondary planning, completing applications, and more.

DCAN IMPACT:

13 ambassadors from institutions, including Detroit Edison Public School Academy, Renaissance High School, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University supported 677 students in and around Detroit with 677 FAFSA completions, 60 Detroit Promise completions, 567 college applications, and nine scholarship applications.



Decision Day

Our first post-pandemic Decision Day was a celebration of the mental, emotional, and academic challenges students overcame to make a decision to attend a college or university, pursue a trade, or join the military. We partner with Detroit Promise for this annual event and, with 70+ volunteers, numerous colleges and universities, and our generous sponsors, we provided students with a day filled with guest speakers, a student panel, live performances, FAFSA applications, food, and fun.

DETROIT decision day.

The Day

Decision Day is an annual event that celebrates Detroit seniors as they prepare for a major milestone: graduating high school! The event highlights students' post-grad pathways, whether that is college, trade school or a career program.

This year, the morning kicked off with a pizza party and resource fair. Students engaged in a hype hour hosted by Detroit's own DJBJ, Hopper, the Pistons Dancers and influencer @Itsmestewe before hearing words of encouragement from former NBA player Earl Cureton, Deputy Mayor Todd Bettison and Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield. Next Emmy award winning journalist Orlando Bailey moderated a student panel and the inaugural DCAN Decision Day Awards ceremony, featuring virtual appearances by Detroit Promise scholars, took place. Topping off the day students got "Aktivated" by the special guest performer, Sada Baby.

Schools of Honor

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL | MUMFORD HIGH SCHOOL |
| RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL | JALEN ROSE ACADEMY |
| CESAR CHAVEZ HIGH SCHOOL | LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL |
| JOHN J. PERSHING HIGH SCHOOL | UNIVERSAL ACADEMY |
| THE SCHOOL AT MARYGROVE | |



2023

IMPACT

70+

VOLUNTEERS

9

SCHOOLS

600+

STUDENTS

HOSTED BY:



DCAN IMPACT:

Mini grants were awarded to 9 seniors from each participating high school who were nominated for their outstanding academic achievements.



College Bound Mini-Grant Winners

Our Mini-Grant program is designed to help middle and high school staff move the needle in the areas of College Talk (ongoing conversations about college access and success), Information and Resources (up-to-date information incorporated into daily classroom practices), Comprehensive Counseling Model (all counselors and advisors collaborating to keep post-secondary goals in mind), Family/Adult Advocate Involvement, and College Partnerships. Last year's grant recipients were Martin Luther King Jr. Sr High School, Lincoln-King, Loyola High School, Renaissance High School, University Prep Art & Design, and Voyageur Academy.



DCAN IMPACT:

Six schools received \$3,000 to support college-bound culture coaching and programming.



Skilled Trade Opportunities

Students and professionals in Detroit can gain exposure to trade opportunities through DCAN and our collaboration with Union Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center & Opportunity Network. With virtual information sessions, a skilled trades fair, and various site visits, we're building students' knowledge of these programs and how to apply for and finance them. Additionally, we are providing education to professionals on how to effectively assist students with an interest in pursuing careers in the trades.

DCAN IMPACT:

We hosted site visits for 29 professionals at Industrial Sewing and Innovation Center, Southeast Michigan Construction Academy, and Union Carpenters and Millwrights Skilled Training Center and hosted site visits for 152 students from five schools at Wayne County Community College District, Henry Ford College, and Pensole Lewis College of Business & Design.



Summer N.E.T.

(Navigating Educational Transitions)

Formerly known as Summer Bridge, Summer NET connects Detroit students to the colleges and universities they will attend to better prepare them for the fall semester. We partnered with the Detroit Regional Chamber and Detroit Promise to create a student-centered experience featuring educational workshops, campus resource panels, relationship-building with academic coaches, and campus tours of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Oakland University, Wayne State University, Michigan State University, Oakland County Community College, and Henry Ford College.

DCAN IMPACT:

We provided an opportunity for 133 students to spend a full day on the campuses of six higher education institutions.

Regional Summer STEP

(Student Transition and Engagement Program)

Formerly known as Summer Melt, we once again partnered with DCAN Detroit Promise, the Detroit Regional Chamber and Detroit Drives Degrees to assist students with maximizing resources to achieve their academic goals. Students from Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb counties were eligible for free, one-on-one support from a personally assigned Summer STEP Coach in the areas of financial aid, budgeting, housing, transportation, food, and enrollment.

DCAN IMPACT:

We supported 421 students in their transition from graduating seniors to first-year college students.



What's Gaining Momentum

As we noted at the beginning of this report, we have deep community roots that keep us strong even as we branch out to explore new opportunities. We want to introduce you to a few initiatives that reflect the evolution of DCAN's impact on changing the narrative of post-secondary education and professional achievement for Detroit's youth.

Meet Our New Strategic Plan

Especially in light of new and persistent barriers to entry, we're working to shift the narrative to emphasize that college offers a viable path toward economic mobility. DCAN is uniquely positioned to fuel a "college is for me" movement for Detroit youth, and our new strategic plan outlines how we will meet that objective while also supporting the State of Michigan's Sixty by 30 goal. In year one, we'll focus on Partnerships & Infrastructure, assessing what's working and optimizing our areas of opportunity. In year two, we'll focus on Collecting Data & Engagement through research and increasingly capturing the voices of our youth. In year three, we'll focus on Communications & Reporting by sharing key findings and actionable content on college access.

We encourage you to read the full [2023-2035 Strategic Plan](#) and welcome your additional ideas.





Community Hubs

We envision a Detroit where students, adults, and their families have easily accessible, community-driven spaces that holistically address their needs as current, aspiring, and re-connecting college-goers and career professionals. In partnership with the Jamie and Denise Jacob Family Foundation and support from Strategic Community Partners, we are working to make that vision a reality by establishing an equity-focused Community Hub model across four quarters in the city. The DCAN-owned, community-led hubs will serve as a key point of access for information about college, DCAN programs, resources, and activities while also providing the space and infrastructure to better align our work with our partners.

Middle School Partnerships

While most of our work is geared toward impacting the populations that are a part of the Sixty by 30 goal, DCAN recognizes the need for a pipeline of post-secondary preparation to sustain progress. That's why we play a pivotal role in transforming the trajectory of students' lives by focusing on the crucial early stages of education. Our goal is to partner with ten middle schools and proactively empower students to set their sights on academic goals, break down barriers to entry, and ultimately increase college enrollment rates, thus contributing to a more educated and prepared workforce for Detroit and beyond.





Partnership Roundtables

Collaborating closely with post-secondary partners and community-based organizations enables DCAN to enhance college access and drive positive outcomes for students. Through these partnerships, we can leverage expertise and resources that provide tailored assistance to address the unique needs and challenges faced by Detroit students and support them as they navigate the college application process, explore financial aid opportunities, and confirm academic preparation. This will ultimately result in more students being equipped with the information, tools, and support necessary to pursue their dreams of attending college and achieving their educational goals. To achieve this, we will implement partner MOUs and host informative roundtable discussions with key stakeholders.

Asset Maps

Streamlining the process of finding college access resources and making it easier and more efficient for counselors, students, and families seeking assistance are significant steps toward reaching our goals. One initiative DCAN has undertaken to achieve this is revamping our asset map. With the updated map, counselors can quickly identify the resources available to guide their students on the path to higher education. Students will have a user-friendly platform to discover a wide range of resources tailored to their needs. The map can also assist families with locating valuable information and support systems.

DCAN IMPACT:

During the past year, DCAN provided 1 on 1 support to 21 schools/organizations working within the college access sector.



“I loved the experience—learning about the different resources as a college student and learning more about DCAN, the different organizations that are partnered with, and how they are influencing higher education to make sure we become great leaders and lead by example.”

Caleb B.
Summer NET Participant

“The camaraderie of post-secondary planning professionals from a variety of schools and districts across Detroit and Wayne Country was groundbreaking. The wealth of knowledge shared to take back to our schools was priceless, and to offer the trainings and meals at no cost is extraordinary! DCAN is a Detroit gem, modeling the way for excellence.”

Nechole D.
College Transition Advisor
Lunch & Learn Participant





Financial Summary



Total Raised This Year:
\$1,030,380



Total Expenses This Year:
\$779,862

Donors

Foundations & Nonprofits

Jamie & Denise Jacob Family Foundation
Skillman Foundation
United Way Southeastern Michigan
Detroit Children's Fund
Kresge Foundation
General Motors
Ballmer Foundation
Ally Bank
National College
Attainment Network
DTE
Berman Foundation
Song Foundation
Closing the Gap Detroit
Charter Office Grand Valley

Corporate

Xstreme Kidz

Individuals

John Ambrose
Dawn Aubry
Penelope Bailer
Valencia Bevibrant
Darryle Buchanan
Rachel D'Alio
DeOnica Davis
Gary Dems
Onjila O'deneal
Brianna Fitzpatrick
Nathan Frantz
Veronica Gracia-Wing

Individuals (cont.)

Paul Greer
Ronicka Hamilton
Ericka Jackson
Montia Jackson
Ashley Johnson
Silvio LaMarra
Chantel Lee
Cyekeia Lee
Randy Liepa
Jametta Lilly
Adam Lowe
Elizabeth McCallister
William Moses
Neha Patel
The Perfect Pucker
Lindsay Regalado
Nicole Samuel
Anna Smith
Tracy Smith
Elise Sturdivant
Kimberley Sundy
Olivia Tubaro
Mark Walker
Demetrius Wolverton

Thank You

There are many things someone can start on their own, but few that can be completed without the help of others. We recognize each partnership, volunteer, and donation—large and small—that contributes to the work we do and the success that we've had. Please know that we see you and appreciate you for all you have done for us and our mission to help Detroit youth prosper. We look forward to continued collaborations and celebrations of everything we can achieve together in our unity.



Leadership Team



DCAN is led by a cross-sector team of K-12, higher education, philanthropy, nonprofit, business, government, and community-based organizations and leaders. This team provides the vision, strategic direction, oversight, and support needed for DCAN to operate and administer our programs and initiatives.

 Ashley Aidenbaum, Executive Committee	 William Moses, Executive Committee	 Greg Handel, Executive Committee	 John Ambrose, Executive Committee
 Nicole Carter, Executive Committee	 Ericka Matthews-Jackson, Member	 Jametta Lilly, Member	 Kim Lijana, Member
 Dawn Aubry, Member	 Shane Lewis, Member	 Anita Martinez, Member	 Amanda Said, Member
College Prep International Doreen M. Odom, Member	 Patrick O'Connor, Member	 Ahmad Ezzeddine, Member	 Clarissa Russell, Member
 Justin Remington, Member	 Ryan Fewins-Bliss, Member	 Doug Ross Member	 Jade Scott, Member



Staff



Cyekeia Lee.
Executive Director



Dr. Ashley Terry
Deputy Director



Jasmine Brooks
Deputy Director



Ashley Lane-Barrett
Program Manager



Daniel Valentine
Professional Development
Program Manager



Latayia Byars
Program Coordinator



Daija King
Engagement Coordinator



How You Can Help

Volunteer.

Every moment makes a difference, and any minute can change a life. We welcome your contribution of time and skills to our mission.

Advocate.

There is great power in sharing stories and insights. We encourage you to reach out to policymakers and potential supporters to talk about the importance of our work.

Donate.

As much as we need every type of support, we can't operate without funding. We hope you think of your donation as an investment in a better future for all of us. Visit www.detroitcan.org/donate to give.

Connect.

We are here for you. Follow us on social media, and feel free to reach out anytime with questions or suggestions. To keep up with our latest news, we invite you to [sign up for our newsletter](#).

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The Detroit College Access Network (DCAN) is a collaborative network between local schools, organizations, and the community. The mission of the network is to promote higher education in Detroit and make a college degree or credential a reality for students in Detroit.