



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

What: Press Conference re \$500,000 Award to Learn to Earn Dayton

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Sinclair College, Building 12, [Room 131](#)

Contact: [Tom Lasley](#), 937-825-2200

This information is embargoed until 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018.

Learn to Earn Dayton awarded \$500,000 from StriveTogether 'Equity Fellows' will work in Dayton-area schools

The national nonprofit StriveTogether announced today that it will support Learn to Earn Dayton's work to identify and implement strategies to close the educational achievement gap in Montgomery County and help place "Equity Fellows" in several school districts, including the Dayton Public Schools.

Modeled after a successful STEM Fellows program led by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center, Equity Fellows will be charged with identifying practices and policies that impede underrepresented students' school success. For example, the Fellows will track and monitor achievement and suspension data disaggregated by race and gender. They also will help school staff understand their building's disaggregated data and promote culturally responsive teaching.

The Montgomery County Educational Service Center and Sinclair College are co-partners in this initiative, and the [National Equity Project](#) will be providing significant amounts of the training.

The \$500,000 award is part of StriveTogether's Cradle to Career Community Challenge, which seeks to create local change to enable economic mobility. The program's goal is to strengthen and align the many systems, such as education, employment, health and housing, that shape opportunity for children and families.

Through the Community Challenge, more than \$20 million over the next three years will fund projects across the country that aim to shift public policy and engage the systems needed to help students progress from kindergarten to postsecondary completion and finding a job.

"Education is key to a strong economy, and every child should have the opportunity to achieve his or her fullest potential, but existing systems don't always support the success of students, particularly students of color and those from low-income families," **StriveTogether President and CEO Jennifer Blatz** said. "Using the common language of data, we can create better, more equitable systems to improve outcomes for major milestones in every child's life. Our Cradle to Career Community Challenge will enhance and expand the real, lasting results underway across our 70 communities."

Tom Lasley, CEO of Learn to Earn Dayton, said, "The Dayton community is proud and grateful to receive this important recognition from StriveTogether, an organization that is promoting systemic change all across the



country to benefit young people. We're excited to be one of StriveTogether's 'proof point' communities, which, along with being named a 'Talent Hub' by the Lumina Foundation, paved the way for this generous investment."

Sinclair College President Steven L. Johnson said, "Sinclair is deeply committed to helping all young people reach their full potential. By helping train and assist Equity Fellows in eliminating barriers to school success, we're ensuring that more Dayton-area young people will be college- and career-ready."

"We're excited to welcome Equity Fellows in our schools," said **Dr. Elizabeth Lolli, Superintendent of Dayton Public Schools**. "Our principals and teachers appreciate the support the Fellows are providing. We're dedicated to ensuring that every student succeeds."

The other eight Cradle to Career organizations receiving grants from StriveTogether are:

- Central Texas (E3 Alliance)
- Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky (StrivePartnership)
- Dallas County (The Commit Partnership)
- Tacoma, Wash. (Graduate Tacoma)
- Portland/Multnomah County, Ore. (All Hands Raised)
- Racine County, Wis. (Higher Expectations for Racine County)
- Shelby County, Tenn. (Seeding Success)
- Spartanburg County, S.C. (Spartanburg Academic Movement)

Grantees are expected to match StriveTogether's funding through local fundraising efforts in Year 2 and Year 3 of the program.

In addition to grants to community-based cradle-to-career organizations, StriveTogether is awarding policy-focused grants to seven statewide campaigns, including in Ohio. Ohio's effort will be led by Cincinnati's StrivePartnership, in collaboration with Learn to Earn Dayton. That work will be focused on promoting and achieving Ohio's Attainment Goal that, by 2025, 65% of adults will have a 4-year or 2-year college degree, or a post-secondary workforce credential.

About Learn to Earn Dayton

Learn to Earn Dayton is dedicated to fostering the success of all Montgomery County children from birth until their graduation from college or selection of a career. Our "Big Goal" is that 60% of Montgomery County's workforce will have a college degree or high quality credential by 2025.

About StriveTogether

[StriveTogether](#) leads a national movement of 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.