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MAYORS ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES DAYTON
City Hall is taking up Ohio's Complete to Compete challenge
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The Ohio Mayors Alliance is recognizing Dayton for its work to increase FAFSA completion rates in Dayton Public high schools and also for its efforts with Sinclair College to support a summer texting campaign that gets support to students who have enrolled in college but are at risk of not being able to attend.

The Alliance is awarding a total of more than \$200,000 to seven cities that are stepping up to support Ohio's Complete to Compete challenge, an effort that is designed to help meet the State's goal that by 2025, 65% of working-age Ohioans will have a 2-year or 4-year college degree, or a high quality credential. Dayton will receive \$30,000.

Ohio's ability to attract and keep good jobs depends on having a highly qualified workforce. An estimated 2/3 of Ohio jobs in the near future will require education beyond high school. Ohio ranks 36th among the states for its citizens' educational attainment, according to the Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation.

The Mayors Alliance, in partnership with Learn to Earn Dayton, and with generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the AT&T Foundation, created the Mayors Education Advocacy Grant program to engage mayors and leverage their voice to help promote Ohio's educational attainment goal.

"We know that completing the FAFSA is critical for students to be able to afford college," said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. "We're increasing FAFSA completion rates in Dayton. But we can do even better. We also can't let young people who have enrolled in college slip away over the summer. Getting them the support they need to make sure they show up on campus in the fall is critical."

Elizabeth Lolli, Superintendent, Dayton Public Schools, affirmed the importance of FAFSA completion and working closely with graduating seniors as a means of mitigating what some describe as summer melt. "We know that FAFSA completion and connecting with our seniors is so critical to their success. These resources will help to strengthen so much of the college and career readiness work that we have underway with our Dayton students."

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About the Ohio Mayors Alliance:

The Ohio Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities. It has been working to strengthen the partnership between state and local leaders since its formation in 2016. For more information on the group's policy priorities and its members, please visit: www.OhioMayorsAlliance.org.

