Ohio State is a leader in defining the modern land-grant mission, which connects the university and the P12 community to expand knowledge, educate students and teachers, explore pressing problems and assure access to higher education. Our partnership with Columbus City Schools advances shared learning opportunities in areas including literacy, STEM, health, academic success and teacher support.

Samples of CCS-centric programs include:

**STEM Outreach**

**Wonders of Our World (W.O.W.)** provides its partner Columbus City elementary schools year round teacher professional development given every 3-4 weeks over the course of three school years. These on-going sessions establish a thorough training for teachers and link elementary students with volunteers to learn together in small groups. W.O.W. recruits and organizes student volunteers from OSU and scientists from companies such as Battelle and Chemical Abstracts to conduct hands-on experiments with children in their classrooms. Experiments encourage an appreciation for science and demonstrate complex scientific concepts through fun activities. The W.O.W. program has served 22 Columbus City buildings, approximately 300 teachers and 6,800 students. Since 1999, the program has provided 1,495 hours of professional development to elementary school teachers.

Ohio State’s **Breakfast of Science Champions** offers Columbus City School middle school students the opportunity to explore science, math, and engineering in an annual program designed especially for them. Students spend a morning on campus and enjoy breakfast with faculty and graduate students. Students then tour labs and participate department sponsored, hands-on activities to engage attendees in STEM majors and careers. Last spring, nearly 300 students from ten Columbus schools visited eleven sites on campus.

**Health Services**

**Shakespeare and Autism: Intervention in the Columbus Community** is a collaboration between the Ohio State/Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) partnership, the Ohio State Theatre and the Nisonger Center. The project studies whether drama — particularly Shakespeare — can break through the communicative blocks of autism and whether this therapeutic intervention has long-term benefits. The 2012-2015 study with Columbus City Schools looks at how drama-based intervention is a useful tool to improve the symptoms of autism in children and adolescents.

**The Dental H.O.M.E Coach** (Health Outreach Mobile Experience) brings dentists and dental treatment to children in 16 Columbus City Schools during regular class hours. The Coach is staffed by faculty-supervised senior Ohio State dental students and dental assistants who provide comprehensive treatment that includes diagnostic and preventive care, restorative dentistry, digital radiography and minor surgery. The dental bus targets low income, high poverty (free & reduced lunch) CCS elementary schools. Over 2,000 children are treated each year.
Literacy

The Office of Student Life’s Stories for Students from Students Program is an annual semester-long reading and mentoring program that pairs OSU student with Columbus school kids to help inspire young readers to pursue a lifelong journey of learning. Books are bought based on the partner school’s student requests, the partner school’s teacher recommendations, and literary award winning lists. Last year, 2,879 school children in the City of Columbus were able to take home a book of their very own.

Access88 is a service outreach program focused on providing access to higher education for K-12 students and families living in Ohio, including those of low socioeconomic status and potential first generation college students. Ohio state students lead activities for K-12 children during after school homework help centers at the branches of the Columbus Metropolitan Library including Parsons, Franklinton, Southeast and Whitehall.

The Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing launched its first service-learning outreach course spring semester 2013. Dr. Nancy Hill McClary and her team of graduate students connect university undergraduates to K-12 students through onsite literacy workshops. Our outreach to Columbus City Schools is grounded in flexible, unique approaches so we can bring flavor and flair to reading, writing, and speaking. Graduate consultants and undergraduate mentor-tutors engage more than 150 elementary, middle, and high school students weekly in literacy-based in-school and after school literacy labs to build writing confidence and motivation.

Academic Success

Grant support from AT&T enables College of Education and Human Ecology faculty, supervisors and master’s degree students in school counseling to staff and administer two Student Success Centers which provide intensive support to high-risk 9th graders students. The program encourages teens who have the ability to succeed but need specialized mentoring, counseling, career and college advisement, and study skills training. The four-year $390,000 grant has had a positive impact on nearly 130 students at Linden-McKinley and South High Schools.

The Columbus Teaching Academy is a partnership between Columbus City Schools and the Ohio State Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. High school students considering a career in education meet each day in different sites across Ohio State’s campus. In addition to studying education as a career, students will serve internships in CCS elementary and middle schools and work with Ohio State Arts and Sciences faculty, staff, and students in pre-college enrichment activities.

Teacher Support

Teaching and Learning Professor Valerie Kinloch’s service learning initiative “Bringing Learning to Life” in Columbus City Schools decreases school dropout and provides leadership experiences for many teen students born into poverty. The project provides opportunities Columbus City School teachers to collaborate with students, parents, community members, and administrators in designing, implementing, and monitoring service-learning projects that have an impact on academic achievement and civic participation. Due to Kinloch’s real-world service learning model, the National Education Association and the Columbus Education Association aim to broaden the practice in Ohio and potentially, nationwide. To date 65 teachers have engaged about 4,000 CCS K-12 students in service-learning projects.
The College of Education and Human Ecology’s Project ASPIRE (Apprenticeships Supported by Partnerships for Innovation and Reform in Education) prepares future teachers by providing a year of experience in urban schools and intensive training in how to support urban students for success. By the end of the five-year, $12.9 million grant, the college will graduate 720 teachers - 600 with bachelor’s degrees and 120 with master’s degrees for placement in Columbus City Schools.

In response to the Professional Development requirements of CCS teachers, The College of Education and Human Ecology offers workshops and credit courses based on district needs. These fee authorizations can be used for on-campus career related coursework or delivered off-campus within the school district buildings. The customized courses are designed to meet teacher schedules and encourage lifelong learning. In 2012-2013, thirty-two graduate level courses were offered and over 500 teachers and administrators participated, many completing important certifications and endorsements. Last autumn semester alone, nearly $180,000 worth of professional development was delivered. The program has helped more than 350 Franklin County teachers receive their TESOL endorsement. Fee authorizations are also earned by the district when faculty or graduate research is conducted in Franklin County schools and is facilitated through the college’s Office of Research.