

Alfred University partners with Say Yes, commits to providing scholarships to disadvantaged youth

1/18/19

ALFRED, NY – Alfred University has partnered with Say Yes to Education, an organization that aims to increase educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth. Through the partnership, Alfred University is now a member of the Say Yes to Education National Higher Education Compact, a consortium that includes nearly 120 private colleges and universities in 26 states.

[Say Yes to Education](#) is committed to providing a comprehensive array of services aimed at increasing the graduation rates in some of lowest-income school districts in the country. One way to achieve that goal is to provide financial assistance to send students from those districts to college. Say Yes serves public schools in the partner communities of Buffalo, NY, Syracuse, NY, and Guilford County in North Carolina. Say Yes announced today that public schools in Cleveland, OH, are now being served as well.

In joining the Say Yes to Education National Higher Education Compact, Alfred University agrees to offer up to five new Say Yes Scholarships annually to qualifying students, primarily from the Buffalo Public School District. The University may also offer scholarships to students from schools in other Say Yes partner communities.

“We are pleased and honored to participate in this worthwhile endeavor,” said Mark Zupan, president of Alfred University. “Since our founding in 1836, Alfred University has prided itself on creating the intersection between opportunity and impact for our students.”

“Alfred University is thrilled to be a new partner of Say Yes to Education. The partnership embraces the spirit of opportunity and inclusivity that our campus welcomes,” said Brian Dalton, vice president for Enrollment Management at Alfred University. “It allows us to serve more students from New York – with a particular focus, at least initially, on the Say Yes partner community of Buffalo – for students who might not otherwise be able to experience all that Alfred University has to offer. Any program where high caliber students are given a platform for success is one that we are very interested in pursuing.”

Say Yes Scholarships are awarded to students whose families have an annual income of no more than \$75,000. Students must meet the regular admissions requirements of the institution to which they are applying and must meet financial aid filing requirements for each institution. The scholarships are meant to bridge the gap between any state or federal grants received and the cost of tuition and fees. Say Yes Scholars must maintain the minimum academic standard of the institution in which they are enrolled. While Say Yes does not require partner institutions to cover the full cost of attendance – including the cost of room and board – some institutions choose to do so using grants, loans and work-study positions.

Students from families whose income exceeds the \$75,000 income limit and who are attending a private college or university in the Say Yes Compact may be eligible for assistance through Say Yes’s Choice Grant program. Choice Grants of up to \$5,000 per year, provided by the local Say Yes partnerships, can be combined with state, federal and institutional grants and scholarships.

Money manager George Weiss founded Say Yes in 1987, with a promise to the entire sixth grade at a public school serving a low-income neighborhood in Philadelphia: if they graduated high school, he would personally pay to put them through college. In the three decades since, more than 13,000 public school students have attended two- and four-year institutions, as well as certificate-granting programs, with support from Say Yes, its partner communities and its partner colleges and universities.

Say Yes partner communities also provide students with the support services – academic, social-emotional, and health-and-wellness – from early childhood through grade 12, to ensure they are prepared to succeed in earning a college degree or other postsecondary credential. Services may include tutoring; after-school programming; guidance on

college application and FAFSA completion process; enhanced medical care; and free legal assistance and counseling.