



Education Within Reach

Dubuque College
Access Network
(DCAN)

Many students dream of continuing their education after high school, but they face barriers in getting there. We work to make their dreams of college and career prep reality by bringing together leaders from many community areas to find ways of increasing access to post-secondary education and training.

Why It Matters

While Dubuque has a high school graduation rate of over 90%, just 70% of graduates enroll in post-secondary education or training.

First-generation students, students from low-income families and students of color, in particular, face barriers to continuing their education, including navigating the application process, affordability and cultural perceptions of college.

Our goal is for 80% of Dubuque high school graduates to be enrolled in post-secondary education or training by 2025.

Our Unique Role

Hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, DCAN builds on the Foundation's role as a convener and collaborator to share resources among community partners and develop systemic solutions that remove barriers to college access.

We also leverage the Foundation's capacity to build relationships with generous community members who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of Dubuque's youth and set them on a path to thriving futures.

How It Works

We bring together leaders from areas like education, government, nonprofits and business to understand the educational landscape for Dubuque's high school and college-bound youth. By analyzing data and researching available resources, we can identify and create opportunities that support students who face hurdles to realizing their dreams of enrolling in college or a career training program

Our Accomplishments

- Awarded \$3,000 in "mini grants" to first-generation students, students from low-income backgrounds and students of color. The grants help cover unforeseen and unmet costs of college and other post-secondary experiences, such as dorm essentials, desk supplies and course materials.
- Organized Dubuque's first panel discussion for high school students featuring first-generation college students answering questions and sharing their stories.
- Partnered with Woodward Communications to pilot a free ACT prep program for 24 qualifying students.

Get Involved



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