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Education

Dayton university's partnership with nonprofit will expand access to college for first-generation students




The university stands among others in the region already working with the nonprofit.

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By [Nicole Mistretta](#) – Data Reporter, Dayton Business Journal
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A local college, serving about 11,000 students and offering nearly 300 degree programs, is partnering with a nonprofit to expand access to higher education for students in the Dayton region. The nonprofit is already partnered with other local schools and hopes to expand its reach across the region.

Wright State University is partnering with Bottom Line, a nonprofit that works with first-generation students to get into and graduate from college. The partnership creates a pathway to college for local first-generation students from under-resourced backgrounds to obtain a four-year college degree.

Wright State is the first university to sign a memorandum of understanding with [Bottom Line Ohio](#) since the organization expanded to Ohio after receiving support from The Connor Group Kids & Community Partners program.

“We are excited to partner with a university whose values align with our organization,” said James Cosby, executive director of Bottom Line Ohio. “We both want to see students thrive and achieve success, and I know that this partnership with Wright State will have an incredible impact.”



James Cosby, executive director of the Ohio Region, Bottom Line

KNACK VIDEO + PHOTO

Sue Edwards, president of Wright State University, said the college is excited to partner with Bottom Line and expand access to hire education while helping students meet their academic and career goals.

“Our partnership with Bottom Line underscores our commitment to offer an affordable and accessible education for students in the region and to support workforce needs,” Edwards said.



Susan Edwards is president at Wright State University.

ERIN PENCE

Bottom Line partners with high school seniors as they navigate the college admissions process, including building college lists, writing essays, submitting applications, applying for financial aid and scholarships, and selecting a college. Bottom Line helps students determine their strong college match with a balance of academic fit and affordability.

Once students enroll in college, Bottom Line advisors provide them with advising and mentoring to graduate. The organization also helps its students start their career, partnering with them to identify a first-destination role post-graduation.

“We start working with students in their senior year of high school and partner with them throughout college, through free one-on-one advising,” said Emily Broughton, director of development and external relations for Bottom Line Ohio.



Image: Knack Video + Photo

Emily Broughton, director of development and external relations, Bottom Line Ohio.

KNACK VIDEO + PHOTO

Wright State's undergraduate admissions staff plans to promote Bottom Line's program when visiting local high schools and recruiting students. Staff will also work closely with Bottom Line students throughout the admissions process.

In addition, Wright State will provide space on campus so Bottom Line advisors can connect with students while they are at Wright State.

Bottom Line is recruiting its first cohort of high school students for fall 2024. Students in the program would be eligible to apply for and enroll at Wright State in 2025. Students can apply on the [Bottom Line website](#).

Bottom Line started in Boston in 1997 and has since expanded to Chicago and New York.

In Ohio, Bottom Line has agreements with Dayton Public Schools, Mad River Local Schools, the Dayton Early College Academy, Chaminade Julianne High

School and the Trotwood-Madison City School District. The nonprofit plans to expand its partnerships to other school districts in the Dayton region.

T H E L I S T

Dayton-Area Colleges and Universities

Total enrollment

Rank	Prior Rank	Institution
1	1	Sinclair Community College
2	2	Miami University
3	3	University of Dayton

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