WE COULDN’T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

UCI President Chris Ronayne welcomed approximately one hundred attendees to the donor appreciation event held at One University Circle to honor leadership donors and celebrate the accomplishments they helped to achieve through philanthropic support.

It was the perfect autumn evening to enjoy the spirited music of a local quintet of students from Case Western Reserve University while looking out over University Circle from the top floor Sky Lounge at sunset. What better place to hold a special event to recognize the kindness of University Circle Inc. donors who support ongoing efforts to beautify and activate this vibrant neighborhood. The modern glass building offers breathtaking views of University Circle, as well as downtown Cleveland. At 20 stories high with nearly 300 units, One University Circle is Cleveland’s first high rise residential tower built in 40 years. Located at 10730 Euclid Avenue, the building opened to residents in the spring of 2018.

UPCOMING DONOR EVENTS WITH UCI PRESIDENT CHRIS RONAYNE

June 27 – Lolly the Trolley ride through University Circle
July 8 – Leadership Donor Dinner
September 25 – Donor Appreciation Event

To learn more about our giving levels and donor opportunities, please visit universitycircle.org
Last fall we titled our annual meeting “Future Connections,” as a follow up to the launch of our strategic plan in the spring of 2018. We intentionally used the title Future Connections to highlight our efforts to build stronger relationships with our surrounding communities and our forward looking vision for the neighborhood.

Future Connections was not only the title of our annual meeting, it’s also the name of a UCI education program for rising high school seniors that provides an eight week internship experience in addition to academic and professional development opportunities year-round. In 2018, 55 students spent their summer at organizations like Karamu House, NASA, University Hospitals, and more. Students are supported in their work through life skills workshops that focus on financial literacy, resume writing, and interview skills.

Every year I am impressed with the drive, maturity, and aspirations of the students. One of them, Cyan, a Future Connections participant from Maple Heights, told me that her goal was to serve on the Supreme Court. Just a few weeks ago she called me to catch up. Now in her third year at The Ohio State University, she just landed an internship with the Ohio Supreme Court! Future Connections has helped countless students like Cyan take the first step towards achieving their career goals.

At UCI we are always looking to build connections, develop partnerships, and create shared success. If you’d like to engage with the Future Connections program at UCI, please contact Director of Community Education Greg Deegan. We offer opportunities to host a student in the program or you can sponsor a student, donating $3,500 to cover one child for the year. As always, we are grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Chris Ronayne
President

Above all else, University Circle is a place of discovery. Working together, more than 40 non-profit education, medical, and arts and cultural institutions offer unique learning opportunities to students of all ages in one spectacular square mile.

For six decades, UCI has built bridges between our institutions and the community, from preschoolers to seniors, ensuring that the Circle is a space for life-long learning. UCI’s education programs are collaborative, forward thinking, and bring the Circle to life for thousands of learners each year.

One of the programs that I have followed closely since I have been on the UCI Board is the Early Learning Initiative (ELI). Last year, UCI educators worked with 1,000 four- and five-year old children, their teachers, and their families in Cuyahoga and Lorain County preschools. Educators visit students in their classrooms to create an inquiry-based experience that is reinforced with a site visit to institutions around the Circle including the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and many more.

The ELI program’s interactive learning curriculum engages, teaches, and inspires preschoolers just as their formal education begins, and connects them to the incredible cultural opportunities that we have in the Circle.

I invite you to read further about UCI’s education programs in this newsletter and online at universitycircle.org. Please feel free to reach out to UCI if you would like to learn more or if you would like to participate in any of the programs.

Thanks,

Paul Clark
Chairman

University Circle celebrated the 25th anniversary of its signature winter event, Holiday CircleFest November 30-December 2, 2018. More than 25,000 people gathered in University Circle to embrace the spirit of the holiday season, and to visit the neighborhood’s remarkable attractions.

The event began on Friday – a first for Holiday CircleFest – with a lively polka skate on The Rink at Wade Oval featuring the Chardon Polka Band. The festivities continued on Saturday with more ice skating, an outdoor Holiday Market, horse-drawn carriage rides, ice carving demonstrations, a special performance by The Singing Angels, and a spectacular fire art display by Fire and Light Performing Arts. Sunday’s warmer weather drew record crowds to University Circle’s museums and institutions, most of which offered free admission and special holiday activities. The event concluded with The Cleveland Museum of Art’s dramatic Winter Lights Lantern Procession.

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Greg Deegan is the Director of Community Education at University Circle Inc. In this role, he oversees an education team that connects children and adults, especially in the neighborhoods around University Circle, to the learning opportunities and resources of the Circle. Prior to his work with UCI, Greg taught social studies at Beachwood High School for 21 years and is the owner of Cleveland Landmarks Press, Inc., a local publishing company that produces books on the history of Cleveland. As a teacher, he established and chaired the Beachwood City Schools’ Differential Achievement Committee to study and address the racial achievement gap in the district.

At UCI, the education team impacts approximately 15,000 people each year, providing them with meaningful educational experiences in the Circle. Preschool children and their teachers participate in the inquiry-based program Early Learning Initiative (ELI). K-8 students participate in the Linking Education and Discovery (LEAD) program and Circle Scholars, an after-school program for 7th and 8th graders, was recently launched. High school students experience the Circle through the Future Connections program, a paid internship for rising high school seniors in Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) schools and inner-ring suburban schools. Thousands of older adults stay current with the resources and educational opportunities in the Circle through University Circle Interactive Cleveland (UCIC) an interactive distance learning program.

Greg hopes UCI and its Community Education team will be an essential community building entity in the educational landscape of University Circle and its neighborhoods. “I absolutely love working here because each day I am able to work with a group of individuals committed to equity and inclusion. I was lucky enough to join this team of knowledgeable educators who are constantly thinking of ways to eliminate barriers and allow more individuals to experience the Circle. It is so rewarding to work closely with the education teams of Circle institutions, helping to bind our educational ecosystem and foster a sense of community.”

Regarding the students that are reached by UCI programs, Greg shared, “I have seen the joy, interest, and enthusiasm in the eyes of students we bring into the Circle for programming that they might not otherwise experience.”

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That’s why we do our work – for them!”
At UCI, the Community Education Department engages the community and brings people together, reaching learners of all ages, creating meaningful experiences and inspiring collaboration among institutions and community partners.

The Early Learning Initiative (ELI) builds essential literacy skills and promotes school readiness for approximately 1,000 four and five year old students and their teachers representing 50 Northeast Ohio public schools and day care centers. ELI is implemented throughout the academic year. The program engages urban preschool teachers and their students in high-quality, informal learning experiences with instructional content delivered in classrooms through the introduction of a monthly lesson followed by a visit to a University Circle institution where additional hands-on learning takes place. A children’s map and activity book was developed to serve as an instructional and learning tool for teachers and students as part of their ELI program experience field visits. These learning tools are also offered to our community’s earliest learners and their families to enjoy as part of an informal CircleWalk tour experience. ELI partnered with the Shaker Heights School District during the 2017-18 academic year to provide “Step Into the Circle,” a mini-ELI program comprised of three classroom visits and three field trips.

Future Connections, a college and career readiness program for teenagers, now spans a full academic year and includes an intensive eight-week summer internship experience. Throughout the academic year, life skills workshops which focus on resume writing, interviewing, financial literacy, and other essential skills, expand and reinforce the program’s value and impact. The program engages up to 45 rising high school seniors from CMSD and other inner-ring suburbs with in-depth learning and job shadowing experiences through two four-week work placements at Circle cultural institutions and Cleveland organizations. Future Connections partners with 30 organizations and 12 school districts.

University Circle Interactive Cleveland (UCIC) brings high-quality arts and humanities life-long learning programs through interactive video conferencing to over 11,000 older adults annually in Northeast Ohio’s retirement facilities and community senior centers. Videoconferencing enables seniors to “travel the world” using interactive technology in real-time. The program also offers selected field trips to cultural institutions for concerts, lectures, and exhibitions. In addition, UCIC engages seniors and students in neighborhoods adjacent to the Circle, including Harvard-Lee, Hough, and Buckeye-Shaker, in collaborative, after-school learning experiences.

Linking Education and Discovery (LEAD), in its 46th year as UCI’s flagship community education program, provides thousands of K-8 Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students, as well as students from the East Cleveland City Schools and other schools located in Cleveland, with informal learning experiences through visits to any of nine Circle museums, gardens, and performing arts institutions. UCI supplies area teachers with an annual catalogue of learning experiences available to them in the Circle. UCI pays their admission costs and provides transportation to and from their school to eliminate any barriers to the experiences. This year, the LEAD program has added teacher professional development in nearby schools to support their trips into the institutions.

Circle Scholars, UCI’s newest education program provides students with enriching programming after school to keep them in a safe environment during otherwise high-risk hours. Educators at Mary M. Bethune School choose 10 seventh and eighth grade students for each semester cohort to participate in an 8-week, skills-based interdisciplinary exploration of community. Scholars take four visits each to the Cleveland History Center, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Cleveland Museum of Art, during which they practice skills of observation, classification, reflection, and synthesis. At the end of the experience, Scholars share original projects that reflect their unique ideas about the meaning of community.

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." - Aristotle
Future Connections

I was a Future Connections student during the summer of 2015 and did my internship at the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office in the General Felony Division. I was the first high school student to be placed in the downtown office. It was a very competitive role, so I started the position early and remained at the Prosecutor’s Office for the full eight-week program. It was an amazing experience that opened the door to so many additional opportunities. I was able to work among law clerks, attorneys, and judges on a daily basis, as well as form relationships with many colleagues. My mentor entrusted me with assignments and exposed me to so much of the justice system that it sparked a passion within me.

Judges often allowed me to see the behind the scenes work of the courtroom and offered advice as I prepared for my senior year of high school and college applications. During my Future Connections internship, I gained a wealth of knowledge and connections that have continued to benefit me.

I am still very close with my mentor from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office. When I was applying to college, he would help me edit my essays. Through his connections I was able to intern at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Public Defender’s Office in the summer of 2017. Although he is no longer a prosecutor, he has his own law firm where I often volunteer. As I am preparing for law school, he remains heavily involved in the process.

Today, I am in my third-year at The Ohio State University as a pre-law student with a Public Management, Leadership, & Policy as well as Sociology double major. I have made Dean’s List every semester, and this past summer I studied abroad in France and Morocco. In October of 2018, I was listed as an author on a published issue brief by The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Overall, I have been very involved in college, and I have been able to have an internship every year since I was a Future Connections student. This past summer, I worked at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office as an intern in the Crime Victims Services Section.

Currently, I am an intern at the Supreme Court of Ohio in the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission Office. I am beyond thankful for Future Connections because it has opened a world of opportunities for me, especially in my desired career field, while providing me with meaningful relationships.

Cyan Blackwell, former Future Connections student

Linking Education and Discovery (LEAD)

We have been educational partners with UCI for decades, and we value our relationship with the education programs, which scaffold and connect unique educational experiences for our scholars. UCI works to make sure that Wade Park’s educators are not only aware of the programs that University Circle institutions offer, but also likely to pursue the incredible out-of-class learning opportunities that connect our our scholars to the wider world.

Dr. Lee Buddy, Jr.
Principal, Wade Park Elementary School
The Early Learning Initiative (ELI)

I have been fortunate to be a part of the University Circle Early Learning Initiative Program as an educator for the last 4 years. I am also a parent of two young boys who attended the program.

The program with UCI has given my students a chance to explore sciences and arts on a higher level of learning through physical experiences. The majority of my students are from low economic households and do not have the opportunity to visit these museums. These experiences are important to building background knowledge with vocabulary which in turn is a great foundation for literacy skill development. The cultural experiences excite the students to learn about new information.

The University Circle Inc. program has been a great opportunity for my students that has allowed the learning experience to be enhanced through visiting museums, journaling, building vocabulary, and play based activities.

Alison Cuevas,
preschool teacher

University Circle Interactive Cleveland (UCIC)

Mrs. C., a regular attendee, returned from [an event] which was preceded by a video-conference session with a smile on her face. She informed me that she had been a season ticket-holder for many years but had never enjoyed a concert as much as she had that day. When asked what made the difference, she responded “understanding.” She went on to explain that the video-conference prior to the concert gave her a depth of understanding of the composer and the concerto, helping her to understand why and what was occurring throughout the performance.

Jill Frankel,
Solon Senior Center Executive Director

Circle Scholars

Oh, for the love of art!
Strange creatures they say
We are dreaming of reaching a distant star
Lost in a world of imaginary things
Our minds take flight on different wings
As I saw colorful pieces
I saw the world in a new way
Today, I must look ahead and dream...

poem by Marshawn, 7th grader
Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
Globally, education is a great equalizer.” These are the powerful words expressed by Bob Hyneman, a long time supporter of University Circle Inc. Passionate about the work UCI does with students in Cleveland and the surrounding areas, Hyneman and his wife Deanne Miklovic provide philanthropic support to the UCI Community Education programs because they help shape children’s lives.

Deanne is a principal at Maple Heights High School which is involved with UCI’s Future Connections program. Being connected to the program has allowed her to experience the positive impact it has on participating students. In addition to Future Connections, the couple supports the Early Learning Initiative (ELI), because of its importance in “helping children learn and grow during their formative years.”

Emphasizing their reasoning for giving generously to UCI and the education programs, Hyneman said, “We understand that someone with an education will have opportunities that they wouldn’t otherwise. [The programs] will really give them a leg up.”

Supporters of UCI and the Circle through the UCI Annual Fund over the years, Hyneman and Miklovic decided they wanted to support education programs directly, as well, after learning more about what UCI is doing to reach out to the surrounding communities to engage and inspire young Clevelanders. Their interest grew after reading about the current efforts and initiatives of the Community Education programs outlined on UCI’s website.

Simply put, Hyneman shared, “We want to be able to help the students.” With every gift they have made to UCI, they have changed lives for the better and strengthened students’ ties to University Circle and the Cleveland community.

UCI has also been the beneficiary of matching gifts from AIG, the company for which Bob works. On behalf of everyone at UCI, thank you Bob and Deanne for your support!
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SAVE THE DATE

UCI Spring Meeting
Cleveland History Center
Wednesday, May 22
3:00 – 5:00 pm, reception to follow

This newsletter is dedicated in memory of Scott Inkley, who served as the CEO of University Hospitals, the Chairman of the UCI Board of Trustees, and for over sixty years as a board member of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Ann Pinkerton Ranney, who served on the Executive Committee of the board at UCI, on the University Hospitals CMC Board, and as President of The Rainbow Babies and Children’s Foundation. As a consultant to The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust, Ann worked closely with UCI to bring back Euclid Avenue with its partners along the corridor in University Circle. Both Ann and Scott were true champions of the Circle and we will remember them with fondness for their admirable commitment and dedication to University Circle Inc.