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## **Columbus Foundation Grant Allows United Schools Network to Share its Success**

*Latest Donation Brings total from Foundation to \$1.5 Million*

Columbus, OHIO - A grant of \$309,567 from The Columbus Foundation will allow United Schools Network (USN) to launch a new social enterprise, School Performance Institute, which will share its proven instructional techniques and school design with other schools and teachers across the country. School Performance Institute will launch later this year, teaching other school systems and districts the methods and school culture that have earned USN acclaim for closing the performance gap between low-income students and those not living in poverty. The generous gift grant from the Foundation's *Richard H. and Ann Shafer and Margaret J. Bauermeister funds* will also continue to grow USN's Alumni Services program in its second year and will allow its leadership to renew its strategic plan.

Since 2010, The Columbus Foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants to USN, transforming its schools by helping to advance its mission and expand its reach. In 2013, USN was selected by The Columbus Foundation as a Continuous Improvement grantee, enabling USN to focus on increasing capacity to meet community needs, improving program quality, inspiring innovative service delivery and strengthening institutional infrastructure.

Through this partnership, Columbus Foundation grants have increased USN's capacity to serve more students (growing to three schools with the capacity to support four); have allowed United Preparatory Academy - State Street to purchase a new building; and have increased the number of high-quality services offered to USN's scholars, including Alumni Services which serves over 140 high school and college aged alumni.

"We are incredibly grateful for the endorsement and support of Doug Kridler, Dr. Lisa Courtice, the Governing Committee and the wonderful staff of The Columbus Foundation," said USN Founder and CEO Andrew Boy. "The success we have had educating children in Columbus is only because the Columbus Foundation has been with us from the beginning. This gift helps us continue to spread the hope for quality urban education."

"USN is an outstanding community partner that is creating opportunities for young people to reach academic excellence and look toward positive futures," said Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation. "The Foundation and its donors are inspired by USN and Andy Boy's work to strengthen our community through quality urban education."

### **About United Schools Network**

United Schools Network (USN) is a nonprofit charter management organization, which began as a single middle school, Columbus Collegiate Academy, in 2008. Currently, USN serves over 600 kindergarten to second grade- and sixth to eighth grade-students in three schools and is dedicated to preparing elementary and middle school students to achieve academic excellence and to become citizens of integrity. Admission is open to all students; academic proficiency is not considered during the admissions process. Seventy-five percent of USN students are of color and over 90 percent are economically disadvantaged. Additional information about USN can be found at [www.unitedschoolsnetwork.org](http://www.unitedschoolsnetwork.org).

### **About The Columbus Foundation**

The Columbus Foundation is the trusted philanthropic advisor to more than 2,400 individuals, families, businesses, and communities that have created unique funds to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. More than 70 years strong, The Foundation is the seventh largest community foundation in the United States. The Foundation's online giving marketplace, PowerPhilanthropy®, makes it possible for everyone to access valuable information about nonprofit organizations in central Ohio.