Pay It Forward’s Access88: College Access Outreach in Ohio’s 88 Counties

Purpose
Access88 is a service outreach program by the Office of Student Life focused on access to higher education in Ohio’s 88 counties. Students and families in Ohio may not be aware of the support and resources available to them to obtain education beyond a high school diploma. Access88 was created in 2011 to serve the Ohio community, spread a college access message to young Ohio students, and educate OSU students about service, access, and leadership.

Impact
Through this program, OSU students learn about college access and engage in service by sharing their own experiences with young students, providing them with tools to prepare for the future.

The program has experienced success with several early access initiatives with K-8 students: school visits in 16 Ohio counties, campus tours, pen pal program, and visits to Columbus library branches.

In June 2012, Access88 received the OSU CARES Grant from OSU Extension to support the development of partnerships in the Ohio community to further outreach and collaboration.