

CPCC SINGLE STOP

educational legal partnership



CENTRAL PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



charlotte center
for **legal advocacy**

justice lives here.





PARTNERSHIP SEEKS FUNDING SOURCE: CPCC SINGLE STOP AND CHARLOTTE CENTER FOR LEGAL ADVOCACY

A growing body of national data indicates that a significant number of students are unable to meet their basic needs while attending college. Even students who work and receive financial aid frequently struggle to maintain housing, nutrition, transportation, healthcare, and childcare. This is particularly true of students in community colleges, and it is true of students at CPCC.

In February 2016, CPCC opened the Single Stop program in an effort to assist our students who face personal and financial barriers to their academic success. Single Stop helps students identify and access public benefits and local resources, and it provides wrap around services including financial counseling, free tax preparation, and legal assistance. Initial data indicates that students in need who use Single Stop services are as likely to persist semester-to-semester as other CPCC students. It also indicates that Single Stop students earn a similar GPA in their studies as other students. These students, who face significant hardships in their lives, are making significant progress in their college education!

Legal concerns are among the barriers to student success in the classroom. Many students do not have the financial resources, social capital, or self-efficacy skills needed to remedy relatively minor legal issues. Students who are otherwise qualified to receive public benefits often lose eligibility to the safety-net that these benefits provide due to application errors, missing documents, or other simple administrative errors. Other students need access to legal support related to healthcare access, veteran's benefits, tax disputes, and consumer protection matters. Also, some students with criminal backgrounds may be eligible for an expunction to remove charges or convictions from their record.





These unresolved legal concerns can have a detrimental impact on a student's success both in the classroom and in the workplace.

During the past two years, CPCC Single Stop has partnered with Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (CCLA), formerly Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont, to provide legal advice and representation to CPCC students.

Through this partnership, a CCLA legal staff member is available to provide legal advice and brief service to students through appointments scheduled in the Single Stop office. The CCLA team has conducted several student workshops focusing on Affordable Care Act enrollments and expunctions of criminal records. CCLA has also offered training opportunities for CPCC staff, and have participated in a Single Stop conference to broaden their understanding of the ways we support students in need. The information on the following page summarizes the outcomes of the partnership between CPCC Single Stop and Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy.

CPCC and CCLA are currently seeking funding to continue this partnership into the 2018-2019 academic year. As the Single Stop program becomes more widely known on campus, and expands to provide services to all 7 CPCC campuses, funding will be needed to meet the needs for legal assistance for our students. The CPCC/CCLA partnership was initially funded by a Single Stop grant supported by the Belk Endowment. Grant funds will be depleted in June 2018.

For more information about this partnership, please contact:

Mark Helms, CPCC Dean of Student Life
704.330.6127, mark.helms@cpcc.edu

Cassidy Estes-Rogers, CCLA Staff Attorney
704.971.4787, cassidyr@charlottelegaladvocacy.org



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EDUCATIONAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

Program data from July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018.



Since its inception in 2016, the partnership has been able to obtain or preserve an estimated **\$103,462** in public benefits for students and their families. The legal services provided total an estimated **\$72,855** in market-rate legal fees.



LEGEND

- A: Public Benefits/Health Insurance
- B: Immigration
- C: Expungements
- D: Family
- E: Consumer Protection
- F: Veterans
- G: Landlord/Tenant
- H: Tax
- I: Wills/POA
- J: Torts/Business
- K: Criminal

