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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SUCCESS BRIDGE HONORED WITH  
COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD'S  
INAUGURAL HERITAGE INNOVATION AWARD**

(Columbus, OH) – Community Shelter Board honored a group of organizations for innovation with its inaugural Heritage Innovation Award. Columbus State Community College, Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Home for Families were recognized for Success Bridge – a pilot program that increased college completion for over 500 students by stabilizing their housing and providing rental assistance, student support services, career development, and employment counseling.

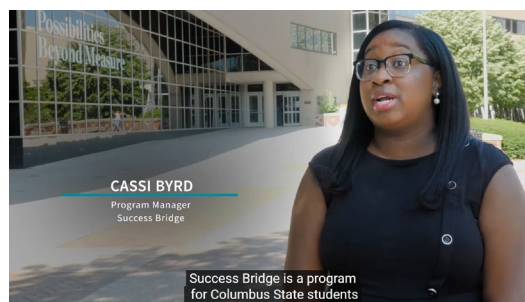
The award was presented earlier today during Community Shelter Board's Under One Roof event at the Jo Ann Davidson Theatre at the Vern Riffe Center, attended by 450 people.

Success Bridge was developed through a collaborative design approach, blending local expertise as well as models and promising practices from across the country. The program stabilized students experiencing housing insecurity – keeping them safe, stable, and focused on school.

Community Shelter Board honors courageous innovation with its Heritage Innovation Award. The award honors Michelle Heritage's legacy as President and CEO for more than twelve years, marked by relentless innovation to improve and expand programs and services for people facing homelessness. Heritage never stopped pushing for better results for people facing homelessness, always exploring and testing new, cutting-edge strategies. This award recognizes that despite barriers and economic limitations, fearless innovation with risk-taking is the best way to make meaningful change.

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VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/ggCTL5Jnz4M>



Michelle Heritage, Desiree Polk-Bland from Columbus State Community College, Scott Scharlach from Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Beth Fetzer-Rice from Home for Families, and Carlie Boos from the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio.

Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. CSB was founded in 1986 on the vision that no one should be homeless in our community, for even one night. As the system leader for the prevention of and response to homelessness in Central Ohio, CSB funds and coordinates care across 17 partner agencies providing outreach, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and housing programs to help low-income families and single adults facing homelessness in Franklin County regain housing stability. Over the past 10 years alone, CSB's system of care has housed more than 35,000 people.

Community Shelter Board is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the State of Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Nationwide Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, and many other public and private investors.

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