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**One Million Degrees Receives \$400,000 Grant from JPMorgan Chase
to Expand Programming**

Funding will create new opportunities for healthcare students at Malcolm X College

CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016—[One Million Degrees](#), celebrating its 10th year empowering Chicago area community college students to succeed in school, work, and life, received a \$400,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. today to launch programming at Malcolm X College, one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago. The two-year grant will underwrite OMD's full costs at Malcolm X to provide onsite support staff, stipends, tutors, coaches, and professional and personal development to support students preparing for careers in high-demand industries, including healthcare, across Chicago.

“With more of Chicago’s students graduating today than ever before, One Million Degrees plays a pivotal role in ensuring that our students are prepared for the next step of their education when they head to college,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “Preparing our students for 21st century success could not be possible without access to resources and the adults and mentors who support them in their education. I want to thank One Million Degrees for their longstanding support of our city’s students, and JPMorgan Chase for their vote of confidence in our next generation of leaders and the future of Chicago.”

The grant underscores JPMorgan Chase’s commitment to helping people gain the work skills they need to transform lives and strengthen the Chicagoland economy – with a special focus on the healthcare industry, the largest private sector employer in the area. “We are excited to be able to leverage the high-quality education at Malcolm X College along with One Million Degrees’ comprehensive program to support hundreds of individuals who will work in hospitals, clinics and healthcare facilities throughout the region,” said Whitney Smith, Executive Director – Midwest, Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase.

“We are grateful for the support shown by JPMorgan Chase for One Million Degrees and for the students who will go on from Malcolm X College to become vital contributors in the healthcare field,” said Paige Ponder, CEO of One Million Degrees. “Companies such as JPMorgan Chase recognize the importance of providing a holistic support system to build the next-generation workforce.”

The grant comes as OMD is expanding its programming across the Chicago area to serve 700 students in the 2016-2017 academic year at the seven City Colleges of Chicago, plus College of Lake County, Harper College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College – an increase from 440 students last year.

The JPMorgan Chase grant was announced by Smith at OMD’s annual Corporate Leaders breakfast, where Mayor Emanuel praised the important role that OMD plays for community college students, and recognized the contribution of the business community. “Chicago’s corporate community has understood OMD’s return on investment, and has stepped up to grow the organization,” Mayor Emanuel said. More than 65% of OMD Scholars, who receive an array of essential support services, graduate from community college, and their average annual income of \$50,000 is 22% higher than the national average for associate degree holders.

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About One Million Degrees: One Million Degrees is the only organization in Illinois and one of few in the country dedicated to providing comprehensive supports to low-income, highly motivated community college students to help them succeed in school, in work, and in life. From tutors and coaches to financial assistance and professional development, OMD offers the support that empowers scholars to transform their lives and those around them for generations.

OMD Scholars graduate at twice the state average with the skills and experiences necessary to launch economically mobile careers. OMD partners with 11 Chicago-area community colleges, including the seven City Colleges of Chicago, College of Lake County, Harper College, Prairie State College, and South Suburban College. OMD will serve 700 scholars across the region in the 2016-2017 academic year, an increase from 440 scholars in the 2015-2016 year. To learn more about One Million Degrees, please visit www.onemilliondegrees.org.