

## DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITY!

The Pittsburgh Promise is providing funding to pay for college level courses at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) for juniors and seniors at Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Students have the opportunity to potentially earn college credit before graduating from high school, giving them a "head start" on their post-secondary plans!

The Pittsburgh Promise will fund Dual Enrollment courses by providing early access to Promise scholarship funds that may await eligible students upon graduation. Funds used by the students while in high school will be deducted from their maximum Promise scholarship, if they are eligible upon graduation. Funding of courses by The Promise does not imply or guarantee college scholarship eligibility at graduation.

For more information, email  
[afiya@pittsburghpromise.org](mailto:afiya@pittsburghpromise.org)



P<sup>2</sup>

THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE  
MAGAZINE

SPRING  
2018

Get the  
MOST  
from  
CAMPUS

VISITS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PAYING FOR  
COLLEGE

CYBERSECURITY  
IN THE  
WORKFORCE



# Features

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**P**<sup>2</sup> is completely funded through advertisements placed by Promise-eligible post-secondary institutions.

EDITORIAL

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CONNECT WITH THE PROMISE



**1ST WORD**

AN OPTIMISTIC EYE TOWARD

## THE FUTURE

**A**s we begin the second decade of The Pittsburgh Promise, we do so with a delighted glance at our first ten years, and an optimistic eye toward the future.

We are proud of our more than 8,030 Promise Scholars who went to college or technical school with \$111 million in Promise scholarships. They dreamed big and worked hard. Nearly 2,500 of them are now college graduates, and another 2,500 are still enrolled in school. Many of our graduates are now working for over a hundred companies that support The Promise.

We are also optimistic about what's ahead. We recently announced some changes in our scholarship that make our future more sustainable, our scholarships more equitable, and our message clearer. It is as simple as this:

- If you stay in the City of Pittsburgh and in our public schools for at least the four years of high school
- If you keep your GPA above 2.5 and your attendance above 90%
- And, if you choose to attend any accredited post-secondary school in Pennsylvania
- Then you will get \$5,000 per year for college, trade, or technical school unless you don't need \$5,000
- Everyone who meets the criteria will get a minimum of \$1,000

We are excited about our new "Preferred College Partners" program. These are 22 colleges and universities across Pennsylvania that committed to providing at least \$2,000 per year for room and board, and to drive support services to all our Promise Scholars on their campuses. Please read more about them on page 21 and consider seriously the opportunities they provide.

We are also marking the beginning of our second decade with a new name and look for our magazine. The old *Idea Pod* is now the new *P<sup>2</sup>*. We really appreciate the input we received from several high school students about the design. And, as has always been the case, the magazine is fully paid for by the generous colleges that advertise in it. ■



**Saleem Ghubril**  
Executive Director | The Pittsburgh Promise



**1** **LIVE**  
In the City of Pittsburgh  
**90**  
Neighborhoods to choose from!

**2** **ATTEND**  
Pittsburgh Public Schools



**3** **EARN**  
A Promise scholarship

Attendance **90%** + **2.50 GPA** cumulative & unweighted

**=** Your Promise scholarship

the pittsburgh promise.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is an affiliate of The Pittsburgh Foundation. The Pittsburgh Promise is a partnership between Pittsburgh Public Schools, the City of Pittsburgh, UPMC, and other key funders.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

# CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY'S MISSION TO ENGAGE  
OUR COMMUNITY IN LITERACY AND LEARNING



## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Everyone knows that volunteering is important, but actions speak louder than words. I've volunteered at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Brookline for over six years. If anyone is keeping track, that's since the fifth grade!

Since I walked elementary school hallways, I've always had one goal in mind: to help others.

This can be attributed to my faith, my parents, and most importantly, my personal experiences and morals. I've never been afraid to ask for help, but to balance that, I've never been afraid to help others. That's why I encourage everyone to find their volunteering niche.

Not only can volunteering help others, but it can also help you discover yourself. I used to be timid, shy, and quiet. I couldn't even bring myself to ask at the library if they could use my help. Instead, I had my dad ask the librarian behind the desk that was taller than my head. After gaining volunteering experience, I'm a more well-rounded person. I can hold a conversation, I'm not afraid to approach unfamiliar people, and I'm definitely not shy anymore.

Through helping children find books, complete homework, and learn computer skills, volunteering at the library has led me onto a career path that I may not have considered otherwise: teaching. I've held a passion for teaching throughout high school, and I look forward to helping the children of Brookline with different tasks each week.

A barrier for many people in today's fast paced world is time, but my advice is not to let the amount of free time that you have available dictate whether you help others.

You don't have to go through a lengthy application process to help someone out. Small things matter too, like cleaning up around your community. Many organizations are flexible with volunteer schedules and availabilities. I try to volunteer every Monday for two hours, and sometimes that schedule doesn't work due to school activities, or having to work—and that is okay!

Libraries have a lot going on behind the scenes. Volunteer needs may change from time-to-time at different library locations, but there are always ways to get involved. If helping kids is not for you, there are many other opportunities. Teen volunteers help out with everything from planning library events, supporting a gender and sexuality alliance, shelving books, making displays, and more. High schoolers who aren't interested in formally volunteering are also welcome to hang out at any CLP Teenspace, a creative neighborhood space where teens can explore their interests. ■

GET  
INVOLVED

Interested in supporting  
literacy and learning  
at Carnegie Library of  
Pittsburgh?

VISIT THEIR WEBSITE

[www.carnegielibrary.org/volunteer](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/volunteer)

EMAIL THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
[volunteers@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:volunteers@carnegielibrary.org)

*Whether you're looking for ways to get involved in your community, or a place to gather with friends, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh welcomes all teens to stop by their neighborhood branch.*



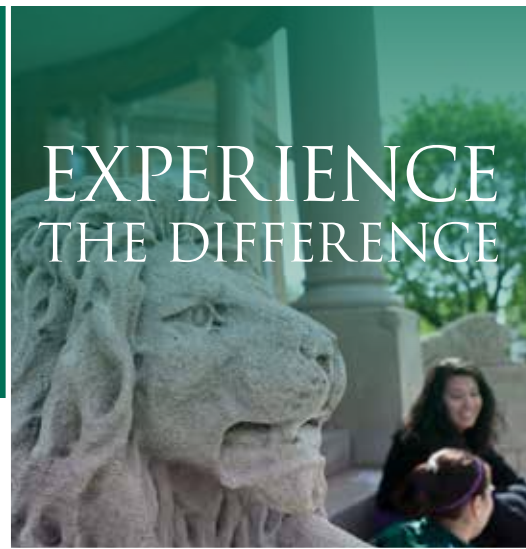
Ryan Andrews is a senior at Pittsburgh CAPA who studies writing. In addition to volunteering at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, he is also a Literary Arts Ambassador at Pittsburgh CAPA and a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador.

# SlipperyRock<sup>SM</sup> University

The Pittsburgh Promise

Preferred College Partners

EXPERIENCE  
THE DIFFERENCE



HEALTH  
INFORMATICS

ENGINEERING

PUBLIC HEALTH

MBA

HUMANITIES

EXERCISE SCIENCE

MUSIC THERAPY



STEM

PHYSICAL  
THERAPY

OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY

COMPUTING

TEACHER  
EDUCATION

ADAPTED  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

ATHLETIC  
TRAINING



PHYSICIAN  
ASSISTANT

HEALTH  
INFORMATION  
MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS AND  
COMMUNICATION

HOMELAND  
SECURITY

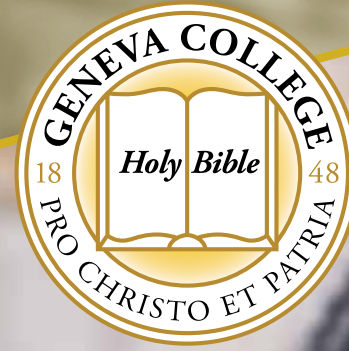
SAFETY  
MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL SCIENCES

PERFORMING ARTS

[www.SRU.edu](http://www.SRU.edu)

A member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education



Simone Freeman-Irwin, Pittsburgh, PA  
Graduate of Barack Obama Academy  
of International Studies 6-12, 2014;  
Sociology & Biblical Studies major at  
Geneva College, class of 2018;  
Read more at [Geneva.edu/simone](http://Geneva.edu/simone)

*"I chose Geneva College because I knew that a  
Christian education was central to my future."*

Simone uses Geneva's Pittsburgh Promise match to double the money she can use for her education.  
She has grown intellectually and spiritually at Geneva and found her voice.

*"I've been stretched to acquire leadership skills at Geneva, and now I understand how to use  
my voice to speak up and the impact I can have as a servant-leader of others."*

over  
**80**  
majors and  
programs

**Geneva.edu/promise**

**NEW!** Geneva Room and Board Grant of up to \$40,000 over four years!  
Geneva College is a member of the Pittsburgh Promise Preferred College Partners Program.  
Juniors & Sophomores: Start earning micro-scholarships from Geneva in high school  
[Raise.me/join/geneva](https://www.raise.me/join/geneva)

BUILDING A

# PROMISE(D) Legacy



HOW TWO PROMISE GRADUATES  
ARE HELPING GUARANTEE THE FUTURES  
OF A NEW GENERATION OF SCHOLARS

The Pittsburgh Promise is celebrating a huge milestone this year – a decade (yes, ten whole years!) of providing academic scholarships and support to Pittsburgh Public Schools graduates.

Pretty soon, you'll be one of more than 8,000 Promise Scholars pursuing a post-secondary education. And when you graduate post-secondary, an even more impressive and ever-growing network awaits you—some 2,400+ finding success in their careers in Pittsburgh and across the country. All thanks in major part to the helpful contributions of The Promise.

We were fortunate to be a part of the inaugural class of scholarship recipients in 2008. The Promise's commitment to our academic success made all the difference for us. It was the voice behind us saying, "You can do it. We believe in you!" For that, we are grateful and a simple "thank you" wasn't enough. We knew that there was more we could do to give back and play our part in sustaining the work of The Promise for the next decade while encouraging our peers to do the same.

So, in the summer of 2016, we approached The Promise with an idea to create an alumni-led group of dedicated graduates. Enlisting the help of Julie Shepard, Senior Manager of Annual Giving at The Pittsburgh Promise, we then selected eight fellow graduates (dubbed "founders") to support us in our cause. Together, we worked throughout the next year to successfully establish an official alumni association, Promise Legacy.

Promise Legacy exists to support the mission and demonstrate the value of The Pittsburgh Promise as well as provide opportunities for Promise Alumni to connect to each other, to current students like yourself, and to the region. With just a \$50 annual donation—all of which goes directly into the scholarship fund—any individual who has utilized the scholarship at an accredited college, university, or trade and technical school can join. In return, members gain access to a host of benefits including professional and career resources and invitations to exclusive social and community events.

**We launched Promise Legacy this year and we couldn't be more excited about expanding our impact.**

We'll be busy recruiting charter members, planning spring and fall socials, a summer and holiday community service project, a professional networking event, and organizing plenty of opportunities to connect to and support The Pittsburgh Promise. Even more exciting is believing that once the time comes you will join us too. ■



Promise Legacy co-founders and charter members gathered for their first event in August 2017. The group is open to all Promise Alumni who make an annual \$50 donation.

**OUR MESSAGE TO YOU IS THIS: DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE OLD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. GRAB A FRIEND. MAYBE EVEN A PENNY OR TWO. START SMALL. START NOW.**



Vanessa Thompson is a graduate of Pittsburgh Westinghouse and Chatham University. She is the Grants and Community Outreach Manager for Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania and serves as Vice President of Promise Legacy.



Joshua Devine is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice and Pennsylvania State University. He works at Fourth Economy Consulting as a Community and Economic Development Strategist and serves as President of Promise Legacy.

LEARN MORE

Questions about Promise Legacy?  
Email Julie Shepard at [Julie@pittsburghpromise.org](mailto:Julie@pittsburghpromise.org).

EXPLORING A CAREER IN

PRODUCT

MANAGEMENT



*Product Management is an incredibly diverse field that offers life-changing opportunities for both you and the industry that you pursue.*

Imagine traveling across the country to interview students about what they think will help them to learn best.

Envision having the freedom to think creatively without restrictions. Consider the endless possibilities that you and a team of teachers, engineers, and cognitive scientists could develop to help students learn more, faster. These are all part of the daily routine of a Product Manager. A daily routine that, in my case while working at Carnegie Learning, impacts more than 500,000 students every year!

**A Product Manager's role is to make sure that customers love and can use new products and features.**

This also includes making tough decisions, testing software, and working with groups of people from many different departments. Do you use the Stories feature on Instagram, or add filters to your pictures? A Product Manager helped to imagine and build those features for you.

My journey to becoming a Product Manager was strongly influenced by being the first in my family to receive a college degree. I followed a long and empowering path that started with a very basic hope that one day I would be able to help other students who grew up in similar situations as I did. I wanted to encourage creativity and passion, and to let others know that sheer grit and determination can carry them to success. At the time, I thought that I

would achieve those goals through teaching dance, but my goals evolved into teaching through technology as I grew older and was exposed to different opportunities at Point Park University (PPU). Once I graduated from PPU, I was determined to build a career in education.

My journey led me to Carnegie Learning, where I was hired eight years ago as a Training Coordinator, speaking with teachers daily to ensure that they were set up for a successful school year with our math curriculum and software.

**Product Managers may come from a variety of educational backgrounds, depending on the industry and the type of products they aspire to build.**




Most companies require a bachelor's degree and would-be Product Managers can benefit from undergraduate classes in business, advertising, marketing, communications, economics, and/or statistics. As this profession continues to grow, more and more universities are also beginning to offer master's degrees in product management.

Connecting with people, both on a team and with customers, is a key responsibility of a Product Manager. Individuals in this role have empathy, are innovative, fearless, and passionate, and are not afraid to take risks. Product Management is an incredibly diverse field that offers life-changing opportunities for both you and the industry that you pursue. ■

LEARN MORE

Carnegie Learning is a transformational math education company. To support both group and individual learning, Carnegie Learning provides consumable textbooks and intelligent software for grades 6-12, plus professional learning services for teachers across the K-12 spectrum.

[www.carnegielearning.com](http://www.carnegielearning.com)

-  @CarnegieLearning
-  @carnegielearn
-  @CarnegieLearning
-  Carnegie Learning

Sara Kozelnik is a Product Manager at Carnegie Learning. She graduated from Point Park University with a bachelor's in performing arts and a master's in organizational leadership.



# BECOME A RIVER HAWK!

Use your *Promise Scholarship* at *Susquehanna University!*



» **STUDY AT A TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITY**  
*Offering 100+ majors, minors and programs*

» *Our Sigmund Weis School of Business is AACSB-ACCREDITED, a marker of excellence*

» **100% OF STUDENTS STUDY AWAY**  
*through the GO (Global Opportunities) Program, in the U.S. or abroad*

» **90% OF STUDENTS COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP** or other professional experience.  
*Do a summer internship in Pittsburgh and live at home or cast your net wider!*

» **#1 COLLEGE IN PENNSYLVANIA AND #9 NATIONWIDE**  
*for getting a job (Zippia ranking)*

» *97% of graduates are employed or in grad school*  
**WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF GRADUATION**

» **CAMPUS HOUSING GUARANTEED,**  
*within walking distance of downtown.*

» **157 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**  
*From sports teams to special interest clubs, service organizations and Greek life, there is something for everyone!*

**Susquehanna**  
UNIVERSITY

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&  
**JEFFERSON**  
COLLEGE  
[www.washjeff.edu](http://www.washjeff.edu)

**EXPERIENCE  
CAMPUS  
VISIT DAYS**

**Friday-Saturday, April 6th-7th, 2018**  
*Senior Overnight III*

**Friday, June 15th, 2018**  
*Presidential Premiere I*

**Friday, July 20th, 2018**  
*Presidential Premiere II*



*I've always enjoyed learning how things work.*

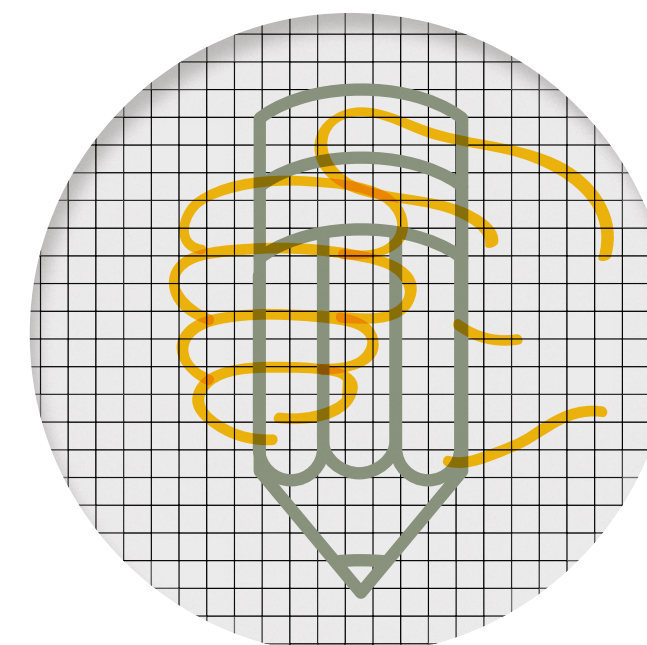
I consider myself mechanically-minded and I was good at math, but I also enjoyed art. I wasn't sure at first what to focus on in post-secondary, but after touring a few schools and learning more about different programs and fields, I discovered that becoming a mechanical draftsman would offer a career in which I could actually blend all of my interests and strengths. This profession requires mathematical knowledge, an understanding of how things work, and strong visualization skills.

Once I enrolled in Pittsburgh Technical College, I was excited to start a new chapter in life. But many aspects of the transition weren't quite what I expected. I guess to some extent I anticipated that post-secondary would be just like high school, only with larger course requirements. That simplistic expectation was far from the truth—continuing your education after high school isn't much like high school at all!

*I was surprised to learn that courses through my program were organized in a way that actually fit my schedule.*

So, I didn't have to worry about finding a job that would accommodate my school schedule, instead I could line up classes at times that fit the other parts of my life.

It's also important to recognize your own responsibility in completing your program. Yes, there are advisors to help you be aware of the course requirements, but there are also a lot of areas where it's up to you to make choices about what to study. The decisions you make will determine how you grow as a professional, so this is a key time to consider what topics are most important to you and your future plans. You will also have to manage your course load, whether it's deciding how many credits to take each semester, if you'll attend in the summer, or what classes to take when—no one gives you a plan to follow, it's all up to you.



ADJUSTING TO

**POST SECONDARY**

**IF YOU'RE EXPECTING HIGH SCHOOL  
PART II, YOU ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE!**





*The biggest barrier for me to overcome was allocating the right amount of time to particular tasks.*

I also had to work on my ability to order tasks from most to least important. Sometimes tests happen the same week a paper is due, and if you have a job or participate in extracurricular activities, those may dominate your calendar on occasion too. Somehow you must prioritize your time to meet deadlines and accomplish all that needs to be done.

Once you graduate, the hard work really does pay off! For me, it was a surreal feeling when I graduated to realize that a few key choices were what led me to getting a spot directly in the professional world as a Mechanical Draftsman for Bloom Engineering Company. Having spent a few years in the field, now I'm working toward a new goal by heading back to school, this time studying business administration.

If I could offer any advice to students heading off to post-secondary schools in the fall, it would be to take it seriously! It may not be easy at first, but giving education 100% of your effort is a vital mindset in order to be successful. Stay focused on your studies, even if it means missing a party or two to study for an exam or finish up an important project. It may seem like a sacrifice at the time, but it will definitely make a difference in your end results! ■



“  
ONCE YOU GRADUATE,  
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PROFESSIONAL WORLD.  
”

**READ MORE** Read more Voices at:  
[pittsburghpromise.org/voices](http://pittsburghpromise.org/voices)

Zachary Zeigler graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick in 2011. He went on to become a Mechanical Draftsman at Bloom Engineering Company after completing his studies at Pittsburgh Technical College and he is now studying business administration at CCAC.



**DRIVEN TO  
DO GOOD  
AND DO WELL**

96% of Carlow graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.

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UNIVERSITY  
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Start your journey here. Become that someone at Saint Francis University.



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Named a Character-Building Institution by the Templeton Foundation

**ROI**  
#18 Best Colleges in Northeast ranking by U.S. News & World Reports

**Academics**  
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**Safety**  
A+ Rating from Niche.com

Accolades are great, but at the end of the day our biggest success is seeing you become a talented, caring, and competent professional who is ready to make a difference in this world.

Schedule your visit: [francis.edu/visit](http://francis.edu/visit)  
1-886-DIAL-SFU

**chatham  
UNIVERSITY**

- Sustainability & Food
- Health & Wellness
- Business & Communications
- Arts & Sciences

**A brighter, healthier tomorrow**

“I always wanted to be the person that people can go to. That’s just the biggest thing Chatham has given me. At the end of the day, I’m going to have that career that I always wanted.”

— Lindsay Starkey  
Bachelor of Science in Biology '14 and Master of Physician Assistant Studies '16

To see the whole story, visit [youtube.com/chathamu](http://youtube.com/chathamu)

[chatham.edu](http://chatham.edu)

// *Get the  
MOST  
from* //



CAMPUS VISITS HELP YOU MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT WHICH SCHOOL IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU.

For sophomores and juniors, the time has come to start thinking about where you'll be after graduation. With college fairs and brochures aplenty, the information overload has begun. Although choosing a school can be overwhelming at times, there are things you can do to make the process easier and more enjoyable. Campus visits are the best way to find out if a school is the right fit for you. Getting a glimpse of what it may be like to attend a school by actually being on the campus can make all the difference.

There are a **few questions** you may want to ask yourself first before choosing which schools to visit:

- **Does this school offer my major?**
- **Do I want to attend a large or small school?**
- **How far do I want to be from home?**
- **Would I rather be on a rural or urban campus?**
- **Does this school offer extracurricular activities that interest me?**

Schools can vary in many ways. Really look at each school and figure out which one speaks to your interests and preferences the most.

Spring of junior year is a great time to begin scheduling visits, if not sooner. Even if you are unsure of your major, it is a good idea to get started. Take advantage of the time you have off for spring break and other holidays to visit schools, especially those requiring lengthier travel. Although there is no magic number of schools you should see, it's a good idea to check out at least your top two choices.

Although many students will visit schools with their family, there are **other options available.**

- **Check with your guidance counselor to find out about tours being offered through your school.**
- **Inquire with community organizations and programs to learn about campus visit opportunities.**
- **Check school websites or call their admissions departments to schedule a visit or find out about open houses and other events.**
- **If you have an older friend or cousin on a campus, ask if you can visit them to get perspective from someone you know and trust.**

There is no better way to get a truer feel for the culture and community of a school than being on campus. The campus you choose will be your home for up to four years. Get out there, take a look around, see what the school has to offer YOU.



*The Pittsburgh Promise invites Promise Ambassadors to join us for campus visits throughout each school year, to help them field questions and share ideas with other Pittsburgh Public Schools students.*

Get the  
**MOST**  
from  
**CAMPUS VISITS**

**There are several ways to get a feel for a campus.**

**Weekdays, when classes are taking place is the ideal time to visit.** You will get an idea of an average day on campus. If you are able, take some time to walk around by yourself and visit the library or student union to see if you can imagine being there full-time.

**Talk to students to get their opinion on things.** Once you've been accepted, the school may invite you to spend the day and visit overnight. This is a great way to connect with students and faculty and even sit in on a class.

**Once you are there, inquire about what the school is known for or what they excel in.** Ask what makes them stand out from other, similar schools. Page 19 provides a list of questions for you to photocopy and use to keep track of each school. This will help you stay organized and make comparisons. Taking pictures can also help you recall your experience.

**Be sure to ask about extracurricular offerings during your visit.** If you are interested in a particular activity, such as drama, band, or sports, ask to speak with a director or coach. You can ask to meet with students who participate in these activities, as well, to get the student perspective. ■

*Even though the school may not be on your radar, go take the tour—you may be pleasantly surprised at what you find there and the experience will inform your visits to other schools.*



*Taking tours with family, friends, or classmates is a great idea because they may think of questions to ask during the campus visit that weren't on your mind. They can also share their impressions and feedback.*

Lyndsey Rozzi is the Outreach Program Manager of The Pittsburgh Promise. She coordinates college tours for Pittsburgh Promise Ambassadors and has years of experience working with high school students who are exploring post-secondary options.



**DON'T MISS** Be sure to check out our **Campus Visit Questionnaire** on page 19.

Get the Most from Campus Visits

Campus  
**VISIT**  
Questionnaire

Fill out this questionnaire as you talk to someone at the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**AVERAGE COST OF ATTENDANCE**

Tuition \$	Fees \$	Room \$	Board \$	Books \$
------------	---------	---------	----------	----------

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Average GPA	Average SAT Score	Average ACT Score	Subject Tests Required? Y/N
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**TRANSFER CREDITS**

AP Credits Y/N	IB Credits Y/N	Dual-Enrollment Credits Y/N	Max. Credits Accepted	What overall score would you give this school? /10
-------------------	-------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------	---

**FINANCIAL AID**

Does the school offer scholarships/grants to freshmen?  Yes  No

Examples \_\_\_\_\_

How do you apply if you are interested? \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMICS**

Average Class Size \_\_\_\_\_ Student to Teacher Ratio \_\_\_\_\_

Are professors and TAs accessible outside of class?  Yes  No

(Office Hours/Drop In Hours) \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Resources (e.g., writing center, tutoring, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPUS LIFE**

Are there employment opportunities for students on campus?  Yes  No

Examples \_\_\_\_\_

Are there special events or traditions on campus?  Yes  No

Examples \_\_\_\_\_

What sports (NCAA or intramural) are popular? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the school known for? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the dorm rooms like? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the food like? \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 things you like about the school \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 things you don't like about the school \_\_\_\_\_

Can you see yourself being happy and successful here?  Yes  No

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## Can't travel to a campus visit?

Many websites offer virtual tours with detailed guided views of campus facilities and resources.

[www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

[www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com)

[www.youvisit.com/collegesearch](http://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch)

[www.youniversitytv.com/category/college](http://www.youniversitytv.com/category/college)



## Preferred College Partners

The **Preferred College Partners** program is intended to strengthen relationships between The Pittsburgh Promise and certain post-secondary institutions that provide additional financial aid and robust support services for Promise Scholars. **Preferred College Partners** will provide grants for room and board to Promise-eligible students who are accepted to the institution and live in on-campus housing, beginning with the Class of 2018. The schools will also provide targeted transition and academic support services to ensure student retention and success.

Our thanks to these **Preferred College Partners**, who share The Pittsburgh Promise's commitment to helping make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable.



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

CARLOW UNIVERSITY

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

CCAC

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

GENEVA COLLEGE

GROVE CITY COLLEGE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

LA ROCHE COLLEGE

PENN STATE—Select Campuses



PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

THIEL COLLEGE

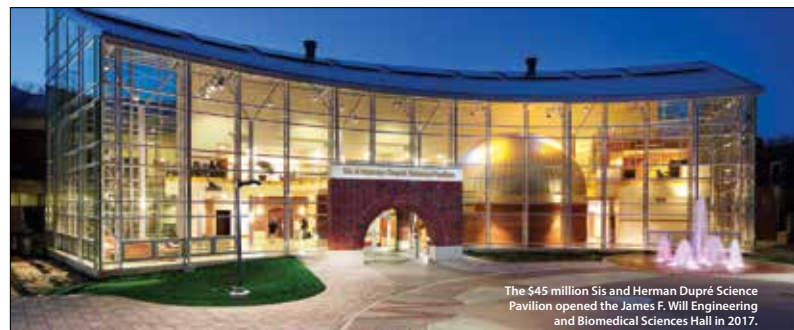
WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



## Thanks to our Preferred College Partners

for hosting Promise Ambassadors on campus visits throughout the 2017-18 school year!



The \$45 million Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion opened the James F. Will Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Hall in 2017.

## READY FOR YOUR FUTURE

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the pittsburgh promise

### NEXT STEPS FOR FUTURE PROMISE SCHOLARS:

- 1 Be certain to consider Preferred College Partners during your post-secondary school search.
- 2 Visit the schools and ask about financial aid and support services for Promise Scholars.
- 3 Apply to all schools of your choice.
- 4 Complete the FAFSA (FAFSA.gov) and PA State Grant Form (Pheaa.org) as early as possible (Oct. 1st) and no later than May 1st.
- 5 Once accepted to a Preferred College Partner school, reach out to the school's financial aid office to learn more about your individual financial aid package. Financial aid packages will vary by school and by student.



## MAKE SURE THAT UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT LOANS ARE ON YOUR COLLEGE-READINESS CHECKLIST.

**A**s you're thinking about which post-secondary school will be the best fit for you, make sure to consider the cost and how you will pay for it. The cost to attend post-secondary full-time ranges from about \$4,000 per year to over \$60,000 per year for the most expensive schools. Of course, depending on the school, your tuition payments may not cover rent, utilities, food, and other living expenses.

**You should compare the cost of schools not just by the tuition that they list on their websites, but also by considering the financial aid for which you may be eligible.**

Use the College Scorecard ([collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)), which tells you each school's average "net price"—the amount students and their families pay or borrow after grants and financial aid are factored in. Some schools that may appear to be too expensive may actually have lower than expected net prices. For example, Harvard College's 2017 tuition, room, board, and fees is \$63,025 per year, but its average annual cost is \$17,882. This is because Harvard provides generous financial aid to students whose families have low or moderate incomes.

**Most post-secondary students end up borrowing money in the form of student loans.**

But before you borrow—and in order to borrow as little as possible—you should make sure you exhaust all other potential methods of paying for post-secondary. For example, grants and scholarships provide money that you don't have to pay back. Apply for federal Pell Grants, state grants ([www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)), The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship, and other scholarships ([www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx)). Ask your family to contribute; they may be able to get the American opportunity tax credit to offset tuition payments, which could mean up to \$2,500 in tax credits or \$1,000 in tax refunds per year if they owe no federal income tax.

**Apply for Pell Grants and federal student loans using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**

The FAFSA will ask for basic information about you and your family in order to determine which loans you qualify for and whether you qualify for Work-Study jobs. The schools you apply to will also use the FAFSA to decide how much financial aid to offer you. Once you have your acceptances and financial aid offers, visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website to compare the offers ([www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college)).

**Minimizing the amount you have to borrow to pay for school should be a factor in your school choice.**

Millions of Americans have defaulted on their student loans, and millions of others have seen their loan balances grow after graduation because of illegal conduct by private student loan servicers. Since student loans generally cannot be discharged in bankruptcy, any student loans you borrow will follow you—and anyone who cosigns your loans—for life. If you have trouble repaying your loans, debt collectors can garnish your wages or take

your tax refunds. All that said, the majority of college students graduate with some federal student loans. The important thing to ensure is that you pick a college and a major that help you get a good job and repay your loans.

Learning all that you can about financial aid and loans will help you compare all your options to make an informed decision. Best of luck to all of you and your families as you prepare for your future! ■



### FINAL POINT

*Do not apply for private student loans unless you have maxed out your federal student loans. Private loans are generally more costly than federal loans and offer little flexibility if you have trouble making your payments.*

**Nicholas Smyth** is Senior Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Director for Consumer Financial Protection in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, where he leads the office's work prosecuting student lenders and other financial institutions that break the law. He is helping to start a mentorship program for Promise Scholars at CCAC. (This article does not represent the official opinion of the Attorney General or the Office of Attorney General.)



# CYBERSECURITY

## IN THE WORKFORCE

WHETHER YOU'RE TECH SAVVY OR IN NEED OF DIGITAL LITERACY, CYBERCAMP HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Cybersecurity affects every industry, every career, and every individual. Nearly every job today—and certainly every job tomorrow—requires some cybersecurity capabilities. Because every worker provides an intrusion point for hackers to exploit, every worker is part of the cybersecurity workforce. No matter what you decide to do for a living, chances are that some aspect of it requires you to connect to a network, from accepting digital payments to emailing.

Just because you're not a computer geek, it doesn't mean you won't have a job that will require or benefit from cybersecurity skills. Basic cyber hygiene is critical for nearly all jobs, and many more—whether in education, in law, in policy, in finance, or otherwise—are directly impacted by cybersecurity and a working knowledge of cybersecurity makes you a valuable employee or a more effective entrepreneur.

But just because you are a tech savvy digital native, it doesn't mean you have the right cybersecurity skill set for a job. Conservative estimates predict that the cybersecurity talent gap will reach 3 million globally by 2021. Already today, 300,000 cybersecurity jobs in the United States are unfilled.

The demand for cybersecurity skills is surging but the education pipeline hasn't caught up. Many computer science degrees are failing to teach the security skills needed by employers. But there's no reason to wait for college. Whether cybersecurity is a useful background skill for you or a career path, you could start learning more this summer.

**The University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security is hosting a free week-long Air Force Association CyberCamp for high school students from July 23-27, 2018.**

Designed for a range of technical skill levels, including low digital literacy, the camp is focused on cyber ethics and systems security, and finishes with a cyber-defense competition. There is also an advanced curriculum available. All are encouraged to join, whether you're a skilled coder or can barely turn on your phone! ■

LEARN  
MORE

CyberCamp information and application:  
<https://pi.tt/cybercamp>

Follow Pitt Cyber: @PittCyber



Ray Winstead is the coordinator of the CyberCamp and the Information Technology Director of Pitt Cyber. He attended McKeesport Area High School and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. He first became interested in all things cybersecurity when he attended technology training summer camp in high school.





## A Promise Fulfilled

Charmaine Clarke is glad to be home – thanks to the Pittsburgh Promise and Seton Hill University.

The Pittsburgh Promise provided the scholarship funds that allowed Charmaine, a CAPA graduate, to attend Seton Hill, where she earned a degree in Business Administration in 2014. She's taken that degree back to the Pittsburgh Public Schools as a Recruitment and Staffing Assistant – helping to hire the teachers who will influence future generations of students.

“The Pittsburgh Promise afforded me the opportunity to attend Seton Hill University, which became a second home to me,” said Clarke. “The relationships I made at Seton Hill helped shape me and get me to the place I am in life and in my career.”

A Pittsburgh Promise Preferred College Partner, Seton Hill offers students career preparation grounded in the Liberal Arts. For more information about Seton Hill University's academic programs, visit [www.setonhill.edu](http://www.setonhill.edu), call 724-838-4281 or email [admit@setonhill.edu](mailto:admit@setonhill.edu).



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# The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE  
OUR 2017 CLASS OF  
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS.

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The program provides students with the chance to connect with the prestigious company with which they are matched and pursue professional development opportunities and relationships during their college years. High school seniors with a strong academic performance, a commitment to community service, and leadership skills are encouraged to apply. The Executive Scholars Program is one of the ways that The Promise can help students transition not only from high school to college, but also from college to a career. We are very proud of our 2017 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

## UPMC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Tobias Junker** At Pittsburgh Obama, Tobias was salutatorian and played on the soccer team. He continues to play in college at Carnegie Mellon University. He's interested in the intersection of sports and mathematics. In his spare time, he coaches soccer for middle school students.



**Cheyenne Matthews** Cheyenne is studying psychology at Carlow University. She hopes to be a role model for her siblings by becoming a marriage and family counselor in the future. Cheyenne is a Pittsburgh Brashear graduate.



**Alyssa Dugan** Alyssa graduated from Pittsburgh Brashear, where she served as a Promise Ambassador, played soccer and tennis, and was on the cheerleading team. Alyssa now attends University of Pittsburgh to study health information management.



**Leah DeFlitch** Leah is interested in neuroplasticity and brain function. She is pursuing a degree in neuroscience at Temple University where she received a full scholarship and an annual research grant. She hopes to own her own lab one day. Leah graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA.



**Phillip Bacinski** At Pittsburgh Carrick, Phillip was active on the hockey team and participated in theatre. He is studying cyber forensics and information security at Robert Morris University, and would like to work as cyber forensic analyst for a large company in the future.

## Highmark Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Sarah Ossman** Sarah graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick, where she was captain of the basketball and softball teams. She is an information technology major at Pittsburgh Technical College. Sarah received various academic scholarships in addition to her Promise award.



**Vergel Prima** Vergel is studying homeland security at CCAC. Passionate about community service, Vergel believes a great deal can be achieved by working together. Vergel is a graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear.



**Rebecca Boles** Rebecca is a biology major at La Roche College. A Pittsburgh Brashear graduate, Rebecca loves science and innovative technology. She would like to become a pathologist and travel around the world helping others who don't have access to proper healthcare.



**Syerra Hopkins** Syerra is a criminal justice major at Cheyney University. She plans to become a lawyer one day. A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, Syerra is proud to be the first in her family to attend college.



**Brandon Dean** Brandon believes that education opens the pathway to a life of opportunities. He attends Robert Morris University to study business administration. A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, he enjoys playing sports and working on cars.



**BNY Mellon Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Taylin Tyler** Taylin is studying psychology at Seton Hill University. In high school, Taylin was very involved in Pittsburgh Obama's basketball team and won the Defensive Player of the Year award during her junior year. She plans to work with youth and become a sports trainer.



**Noah Fitzpatrick** Noah is dual majoring in arts and sciences and business at the University of Pittsburgh. He aspires to attend law school with a focus in corporate law. Noah was a Promise Ambassador at Pittsburgh Allderdice.



**Vikaas Arunkumar** Vikaas attends the University of Pittsburgh and is interested in global health and economics. He hopes to travel the world helping less fortunate populations. A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Vikaas loves music and he plays the guitar, piano, bass, and drums.



**Torey Josowitz** Torey is a business marketing major at Penn State University's Schreyer Honors College. Torey has a love of sports and was field hockey team captain at Pittsburgh Allderdice. She held a part-time job at her local community center in addition to her excellent academics.



**Tyler Sikov** Tyler's love for music, gaming, and coding inspired him to major in computer science at the University of Pittsburgh. Tyler spent time working in a biomedical research lab while in high school. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice.

**PNC Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Miracle Collington-Dennison** Miracle is a computer science major at Penn State University. She is passionate about education and community service. She hopes to one day own her own business. Miracle is a Pittsburgh Obama graduate.



**Carolyn Pallof** A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Carolyn loves using her creativity to write and design. She started her own online business and ran cross country. Carolyn attends the University of Pittsburgh where she is very active on campus and interested in business.



**Emily Kostelnik** Emily is majoring in marketing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, she was captain of the field hockey team and maintained a part-time job in addition to excelling in school.



**Leonard Reichert** Leonard is a Pittsburgh CAPA graduate. A multimedia major at Point Park University, Leonard has a love for music and art. He hopes to become a graphic designer in the future. Community service taught him the importance of considering others.



**Sara Agip** Originally from Peru, Sara came to the United States without knowing any English. She takes pride in how far she has come and hopes to one day own a business. Sara is a Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate who attends Penn State University as a business major.



OLIVIA SCHMIDT '18

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STUDYING ABROAD

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- NICOLE LINKES '16

PREVIEW DAY  
JULY 14 | [laroche.edu](http://laroche.edu)



**American Eagle Outfitters Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Brooke Bova** Brooke is on a pre-law track with a minor in chemistry at Washington & Jefferson College. She is passionate about politics and being active in her community. Brooke graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick, where she was on student council and played volleyball.



**Brittany Joseph** Brittany is currently studying psychology and communication arts at Allegheny College. She has always had an appreciation for drama and theatre. Brittany won a Thespian Award while attending Pittsburgh Carrick.



**Rhianna Aubrey** Rhianna studies political science at Duquesne University. She did a senior project at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and started a mental health awareness campaign at Pittsburgh SciTech. She learned the value of giving back while volunteering at a nursing home.



**Josephine Friedman** Attending Chatham University to study media arts, Josephine enjoys the way art and technology intersect in film, animation, and digital illustration. She hopes to use her creativity and technology professionally. Josephine is a Pittsburgh Obama graduate.



**Dremond King** Dremond is a marketing major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and hopes to eventually receive his master's. Community service taught him the value of helping others. Dremond graduated from Pittsburgh City High.

**Thermo Fisher Scientific Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Samantha Moon** A graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech, Samantha is passionate about helping others and her community. In the future, Samantha hopes to teach and become a pediatrician. She is a pre-med major at Seton Hill University.



**Tatiana Klett** Tatiana graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice. She attends the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University to study engineering. Tatiana is passionate about social justice and plans to use engineering and a law degree to make an impact on the world.



**Courtney Thomas** Courtney graduated from Pittsburgh Obama with high honors, earning a full-ride to pursue her education at Lincoln University. She studies accounting and hopes to become an international accountant and eventually start her own firm.



**Itunu Lawal** Itunu is a pre-med major at the University of Pittsburgh—Johnstown, where she is President of the Black Action Society. Her love of sports developed her interest in biology and the human body. At Pittsburgh Brashear, Itunu was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador.



**Donovan Schueler** Donovan is a Pittsburgh City High graduate pursuing a degree in science and mathematics at CCAC. He learned the value of giving back on a service learning trip to Costa Rica. He enjoys working for the Pittsburgh Steelers and spending quality time with friends.

**Giant Eagle Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Erick Vail** Erick attends CCAC with plans to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh. He is a computer science major who is very passionate about the rapidly growing field of technology. Erick is a graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech.



**Brett Searcy** Brett is an electrical engineering major at Geneva College. In addition to her Promise award, Brett received numerous scholarships for her outstanding academics and leadership. A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, she looks forward to becoming an engineer.



**Marie Weimer** Marie is a Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate with plans to one day become a teacher. She takes pride in her excellent academic history. Marie is attending Carlow University to study early childhood education.



**Alexis Zito** Alexis is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She loves math and science and takes pride in her many awards and scholarships in STEM. A graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech, she hopes to be an inspiration for young girls interested in STEM.



**Justin Novakowski** Justin studies pharmacy at Duquesne University and plans to become a pharmacist and help his community. In his spare time, Justin enjoys playing the piano. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA.

**KeyBank Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Korionna DeVaughn** Pittsburgh Brashear graduate Korionna is majoring in accounting at Penn State University. She aspires to become an accountant. In addition to her Promise award, Korionna received a Ben Carson, NAACP, and PSU Blue and White Scholarship.



**Rose Wetzel** A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Rose hopes to use her passion for the outdoors to raise awareness on environmental issues in hopes of making impact on the world. Rose attends Susquehanna University where she studies earth and environmental science.



**Rico Mesich** Rico has a fascination with mathematics and quantitative analysis. He hopes to give back to his community by teaching. Rico is a Pittsburgh SciTech graduate who is now pursuing a mathematics degree at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Maisie Arlet** Maisie is a business management major at Carlow University. She plans to one day own her own business. Maisie was president of the National Honor Society at Pittsburgh Perry. She is passionate about giving back to her community and family.



**Ruthanne Pilarski** Ruthanne is passionate about education and working with children. She has received various gold and silver medals for art and creative writing. Ruthanne graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA and attends Temple University to study mathematics.

EXECUTIVE COMPANIES

Currently, ten organizations are members of The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars program.

UPMC | Highmark | BNY Mellon  
PNC | American Eagle Outfitters  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Giant Eagle | KeyBank  
McGuinn Family Foundation | Mylan

251

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MATTHEW WALKER, 2014 BNY MELLON SCHOLAR

**McGuinn Family Foundation Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Jahonna Lipscomb** A political science major at Point Park University, Jahonna is passionate about social justice and equality. While at Pittsburgh Brashear, she received a scholarship from the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh to study abroad in Morocco.



**Brianna Gerner** Brianna is a pre-med, global health major at Allegheny College. With a love of volunteering and working with children, she hopes to become a pediatrician and work in underdeveloped countries. Brianna graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA.



**Bria Brown** Bria is studying psychology and pre-med at Temple University. She enjoys art and painting in her spare time. A Pittsburgh Allderidge graduate, Bria is proud to be the first in her family to attend college. She plans to eventually go on to medical school.



**Maura Carr** Maura has a love for children and hopes to help shape the young minds of the future. She is an early childhood education major at University of Pittsburgh—Greensburg. Maura was valedictorian at Pittsburgh Carrick and played volleyball.



**Issam Abushaban** At Pittsburgh SciTech, Issam was editor and director of the *SciTech News*. He also worked in a research lab at the University of Pittsburgh where he now studies biomedical engineering. He's interested in neuroprosthetics and working on neurodegenerative diseases.

**Mylan Scholars** of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Tayjanay Reed** Tayjanay is a Pittsburgh Carrick graduate. In high school, she was on the cross-country team. Tayjanay is passionate about helping communities and now studies nursing at Carlow University.



**Jasmine Dorsey** Jasmine is a graduate of Pittsburgh Westinghouse, where she was in the CTE Health Careers program. She had a high school internship at West Penn Hospital and hopes to become a registered nurse. Jasmine attends the University of Pittsburgh—Bradford.



**Jacob Lundy** Jacob graduated from Pittsburgh City High. He loves science and medicine and enjoys helping people. He is studying biology at Carlow University, where he received the Presidential Scholarship, in addition to his Promise award.



**Victoria Mavrogeorgis** A graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, Victoria loves music and plays the violin. She is passionate about social justice and presently attends the University of Pittsburgh to study mechanical engineering. Victoria takes pride in being fluent in Greek.



**Eitan Rabinovich** Eitan has a strong interest in medicine and hopes to become a surgeon. In high school, he researched sickle cell anemia at the Vascular Medicine Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, which he now attends in the Honors College. Eitan is a graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech.



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Ask The  
**PRESIDENT**  
 WE ASKED PRESIDENTS  
 OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS  
 A QUESTION

What advice do you have for high school students who are visiting post-secondary schools in preparation for their school selection?



**Dr. Laurie A. Carter** *Shippensburg University*

You should look for a place to help you grow, not just academically, but also as a person. Academics are important, but college is just as much about personal growth. You should choose the place that will help you develop into a successful citizen of the world.

Look for faculty who are passionate about teaching and are experts in their fields. They should have professional connections to their field and be engaged in research and/or experiential opportunities for their students. Those are the faculty who will broaden your horizons and help you choose your career path.

As cliché as it sounds, you need to find your people. You want to look for a school with organizations that interest you where you can find like-minded peers that will become your network for the future. Look for opportunities for growth outside the classroom; extra-curricular activities, service opportunities, and career development programs.

Oh, and find the school where you know you can have some (but not too much) fun. You will be working hard so having opportunities to unwind will be important. College should be four of the best years of your life.



**Dr. Mary C. Finger** *Seton Hill University*

The college admissions process is an exciting and important time for students and their parents, filled with a great number of choices and decisions to make. Students should think about the type, size, and location of campuses where they believe they would be the most comfortable as they decide where to visit. Before a visit, students should research the campus and develop a list of questions on subjects that are important to them—including academic majors, career placement, support services, campus life and safety. Students—and their parents—should not be afraid to ask questions before, during, and after their campus

visit. At Seton Hill University, we encourage visiting students to meet one-on-one with faculty members, current students, and coaches, sit in on a class, or even stay overnight in a residence hall so that they can more fully experience life on our campus and what it will be like as a Seton Hill student. Our Griffin Guides (Seton Hill's campus tour guides) are current students who answer questions thoughtfully and from a student's perspective. Students who are well-informed have the tools they need to make the right college decision for them.



**Dr. Jonathan D. Green** *Susquehanna University*

Visiting colleges is one of the best ways of knowing whether a school is the right fit for you. Deciding when to visit can influence the type of experience you have.

Although weekends, summers, and other school breaks are convenient for families, you will not have the most authentic college experience possible. Seeing an empty classroom or lab is not as exciting as seeing teaching and learning in action. Walking around campus on a Saturday morning is not the same as touring on a weekday when classes are in session.

My advice is to visit schools when they are in session on a Monday through Friday. You will see and do as

much as you possibly can by planning your visit at least two weeks in advance. This will help ensure you can attend classes that interest you, meet with faculty teaching in your intended major(s), and hang out with current students who are living the very experiences you will be.

Once on campus, engage with as many people as possible. You'll be pleasantly surprised by how many students, staff, and faculty you weren't scheduled to meet will be eager to talk about what a great place their college is.



**Dr. John Knapp** *Washington & Jefferson College*

Today's high school graduates have many options, from the expansive offerings of large research universities to the highly-personalized experience provided by smaller liberal arts colleges. Add community colleges and specialized career-oriented institutions and it's easy to see why the college search can feel a little overwhelming to students and their families. To help sort things out, here are some things to keep in mind:

America's higher education system is the best in the world, in part because our wide array of schools lets you find the one that best suits your individual interests, personality, and budget. Remember that your ideal college might be different from the one that's best for your friends or siblings. The college search is all about finding the right fit.

Keep in mind that impressive websites, informational materials, and campus tours won't matter after you begin your studies. Your school's faculty and staff will, so reach out to the professors who will actually guide you to success. Their responses to your inquiry will tell you much about your future experience as a student.

Finally, take time to learn about the success of students at each school on your list. Do those in your area of interest find satisfying employment? Are they admitted to high-quality graduate schools? What percentage actually complete their degrees on time (i.e., a four-year degree in four years)? Whenever possible, talk with current students and recent graduates of the schools to see how they view their college choice. One of the most important decisions of your life is well worth the effort.

Ask The  
**PRESIDENT**  
 WE ASKED PRESIDENTS  
 OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS  
 A QUESTION

What advice do you have for high school students who are visiting post-secondary schools in preparation for their school selection?



**Mr. Paul J. McNulty** *Grove City College*

Selecting a college is an exciting time and nothing can compare to the experience of actually visiting campus. Students should look for a school where their lives will be transformed, not just where they will live and attend classes. That's why the visit is so important. Talking to students, sitting in on a class, meeting faculty, eating in a dining hall, attending an athletic event, and seeing student life up close will help you find the place where transformation can occur.

At Grove City College, one of our core values is Community, and we promote respect and kindness in our campus culture. We also value Excellence

in all that we do. If community and excellence are important to you, look for answers to some tough questions. Ask if students return to the college after their freshman year or go elsewhere? Determine what percentage of students graduate after four years and find employment within six months of graduation? Learn more about the extraordinary alumni who have built successful lives. Do they come back to visit and support their alma mater? College is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Find a place where you will thrive and be transformed into a person with the knowledge, values, and determination to serve others with distinction.



**Dr. James H. Mullen, Jr.** *Allegheny College*

Each college has a unique culture, and visiting a campus provides an excellent perspective on finding the school that is the best fit for you, your talents, and your aspirations. A visit can be a lot to absorb—but don't be intimidated by it. You will discover that colleges are truly excited about helping you get the most from the experience. Think in advance of questions that you would like to ask, and then ask them of both admissions staff members and current students. Attend a class and seek out faculty in academic disciplines that you are considering.

Talk with career services staff about internship placements, employer visits, and a college's alumni network. When visiting a residential campus, take advantage of an overnight program if it is offered. You can enjoy opportunities to interact with students, check out dining on campus, enjoy the fun of student organization events, and spend a night in a residence hall. And when your campus visit concludes, set aside some time to explore the region around a school and its attractions. After all, it could be your new home away from home for four years.



**Dr. Calvin L. Troup** *Geneva College*

When you visit a school, consider four basic questions:

*What about the educational mission of this school sets it apart?*

Good schools have a clear, distinct educational mission. Make sure that the mission of the school is a good fit for you (and vice-versa).

*Who will you learn from?*

Every school has degree programs and a curriculum. The credentials, character, and commitment of the people who will teach you is crucial for learning. Find out if you will be taught primarily by full-time professors with a Ph.D., part-time instructors, or graduate assistants.

*What is the actual cost of attendance, compared to the value?*

You will invest much time and money to earn a degree. Look for an affordable school with a heritage of providing lifetime learning dividends for graduates.

*What does the school expect of me?*

Your work as a student can enhance the culture and quality of the campus community. Therefore, the school should set high standards and provide support for meeting those standards.

At Geneva, we believe that our students can make the institution a better place. I encourage you never to settle for less, no matter where you go.



U.S. News & World Report

**#6**

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**LAST  
LOOK**

**View of the North Side** *The North Side is a collection of several neighborhoods, including Brighton Heights, Manchester, North Shore, Summer Hill, Troy Hill, and more. The area features seven hills and is home to many Pittsburgh attractions, such as stadiums and museums.*