

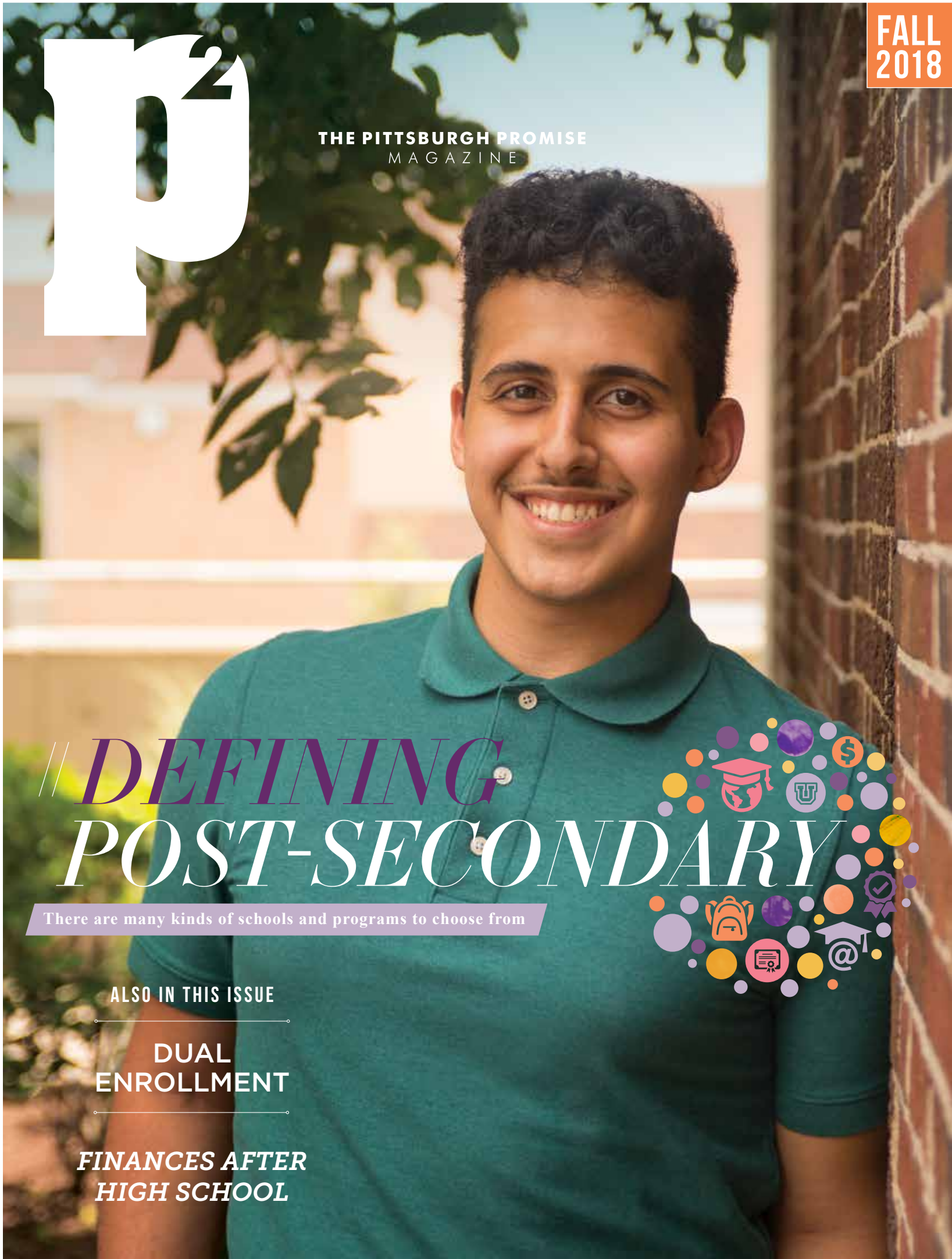
ATTENTION PPS SENIORS!

The FAFSA form is available starting **October 1, 2018**.
The deadline to apply is **May 1, 2019**.

To receive Promise funds, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year as well as the Pennsylvania State Grant Form (PHEAA). If you fail to do so by May 1st, you will miss out on FREE state grant money for the 2019-20 school year.

Learn more about the FAFSA and submit your form at www.fafsa.gov. As a first-time filer, after submitting your FAFSA you can access the PHEAA form from the FAFSA Confirmation Page or at www.pheaa.org when you create an Account Access.

Questions? Email:
questions@pittsburghpromise.org



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Executive Director
The Pittsburgh Promise

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P ² is completely funded through advertisements placed by Promise-eligible post-secondary institutions.

EDITORIAL

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CONNECT WITH THE PROMISE



1ST WORD

ARE THE ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE PREPARING YOU WELL FOR THE FUTURE AT YOUR DOORSTEP?

You just started a new grade in school. With each passing year, you are closer and closer to captaining your life, making your future, and choosing what kind of person you will be and how you will interact with the world around you.

Nurturing your heart, opening your mind, and empowering your hands are among the reasons why you are in school. Your parents, your teachers, and others entrusted with your care, education, and protection must at minimum help you do the following:

PREPARE you to live, love, and serve in community with others

HELP you to learn about the universe, and think critically and imaginatively

EQUIP you with the skills you need to work and earn a living

It'll be great if sometime during high school you catch a glimpse of your passions, a sense of your skills, and an inkling of how your passions and skills can be turned into a job. I am only hoping for a glimpse, a sense, and an inkling because asking for more is neither possible nor realistic. Besides, you will grow and change over time, and the world will also change.

I am still urging you to ask, and try to answer, these questions: "What do I care about, what am I good at, and how can I turn these into a paying job?"

Ask someone—a relative, teacher, coach, counselor, mentor—who knows you, cares about you, and can be a sounding board as you find your answers. Take a college course while you're in high school to explore areas that are of interest to you. Read this issue of *P²* and find examples of your peers who are discovering how to do that through classes, internships, and volunteer experiences.

Being able to one day make a living doing something you care about and you are skilled to do is what I wish for you. This works out for some people, and some of the time. However, it hardly ever works out for those who don't try and don't wrestle with these important questions. ■



Saleem Ghubril
Saleem Ghubril Executive Director | The Pittsburgh Promise



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BUILDING COMMUNITY

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

SUPPORT THEIR MISSION TO ALLEVIATE
HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCIES



BUILDING COMMUNITY

American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania

My childhood was full of many memories made possible through nonprofit organizations and volunteers.

From free activities that made my summers unforgettable, to the countless volunteer-driven summer camps that kept me out of trouble, I've often reaped the benefits of people who donated their time and resources to better my community. Becoming a volunteer myself allows me to add even more memorable experiences to my life through giving others that which was gifted to me as a child. The gratitude I've held from those youth programs fostered my passion for serving my community and working with kids and teens.

Teachers in my school helped me discover volunteer opportunities coordinated by National Honor Society, a service-oriented school club. Taking that first step and joining the club was a simple action that aided immensely towards offering myself to others and labeling myself a willing vessel available for service. Visiting nursing homes, helping with the blood drives, and working with a local food bank are all things that the club opened me up to.

Looking for another service project for National Honor Society to take on last year, we reached out to the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania and they invited us to get involved in the Pillowcase Project, a Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services program that teaches students in grades three through five coping skills to help them deal with emergency situations and provides them with a personalized pillowcase with suggested items to include in case of an emergency.

Learning that this prestigious organization wanted my help to accomplish their mission opened my eyes to what high school students are capable of and showed me just how impactful my time can be.

To become a Disaster Cycle Services Volunteer for the American Red Cross, I was required to finish two training modules. I entered training not really knowing what to expect, but I left the experience with a transformed perspective on what I was doing and why it was important. Immediately after training we dove headfirst into the Pillowcase Project, teaching elementary students from various Pittsburgh Public Schools. Visiting the classrooms of teachers from my home schools really brought it full circle for me. I always loved kids, but gaining hands-on experience working with large numbers of children in a classroom setting solidified my desire to eventually have a career in a field that works with youth.

Volunteering for the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania is a rewarding investment of a high school student's time and energy. It exposed qualities that I didn't realize I possessed and helped me use them to benefit others. I gained work experience and skills like public speaking, made professional connections, and further developed my interests and passions. Whether it's the Red Cross or elsewhere, you can only benefit from volunteering in your community and getting involved. ■

**GET
INVOLVED**

The American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers to help them deliver their mission. Opportunities exist for people of all ages.

FIND A POSITION THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU BY VISITING THEIR WEBSITE:

[redcross.org/volunteer](https://www.redcross.org/volunteer)

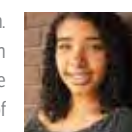
STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:

@RedCrossGPA

The American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves nearly 1.5 million people, providing compassionate care to those in need in Allegheny, Greene, and Washington counties.



Charity Anthony is a senior at Pittsburgh SciTech. In addition to volunteering with the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania, she is also Class Council President, a member of the National Honor Society, and a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador.



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Colleges That Change Lives

**#6
MOST
INNOVATIVE**

National Liberal Arts College
U.S. News & World Report



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

the campus culture that celebrates unusual combinations allegheny.edu/visit



FINDING MAGIC

LIBRARIANS HELP PATRONS FIND THEMSELVES
AND THEIR PASSIONS IN A BOOK.

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

In September of 2006, I hopped on a plane to study theatre at Kingston University in London, England.

Always an explorer, I have sought out new worlds by traveling, or discovered them through the art of reading, and created my own as a writer. What I didn't realize after moving back to the United States was that my love for pursuing information would land me a position working with children at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. For two and a half years, I have helped toddlers who can barely talk, vibrant and striving patrons in their nineties, and all ages in between to seek out a world of fact or fantasy through books.

As a Children's Specialist, I conduct storytimes for babies and toddlers, visit local schools to bring stories and programs to them, and assist in managing our collection of over 65,000 books.

Patrons who visit the library on a quest to find their next great read, or the perfect answer to a world history question come to me for the solution. While it may seem that librarianship is doing a Google search to find the title of a book, the career of being a librarian digs much deeper than any informational search.

Children who walk, run, or hop through the library find much more than pages filled with words smacked between two hard covers, they find magic—and as cheesy as it may sound, transporting them to that world is my job. I want adults, children, and everyone in between to discover the magic on these shelves, be it Harry Potter or Elephant and Piggie.

On any given day you can find me creating brand new programs like Sankofa Storytime, which helps African American children see themselves represented in the pages of books, or leading top to bottom tours of CLP-Main including history and architecture, and showing a parent how to read to their child so they enter Kindergarten ready to succeed. What I love almost as much as singing to a rambunctious gaggle of toddlers is helping manage our collection of literature. Processing new books, weeding old books that have staled on our shelves, and seeing what can be added to our collection without a doubt brings me some type of weird booklover joy.



There is a severe lack of children's literature that represents our diverse world, and also a lack of librarians of color.

I am an advocate of inclusion on library shelves and among library staff. Attending mentoring conferences, taking diversity initiatives, and being that person who not only pushes for representation, but creates it, is an aspect of my job that I have gripped hold of tight.

I have a confession, I also live a secret life. During the day I prepare children for literacy success, at night I am a writer who brings the books on library shelves to life. In 2013, I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing. My position at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has honed my direction as a writer. I've merged my love of working with children with my love of writing for children. Picture books, middle grade, and young adult manuscripts fill my desk at home and the day my books make it to library shelves isn't too far away.

I am the bridge that helps a patron find themselves and their passions in a book. ■

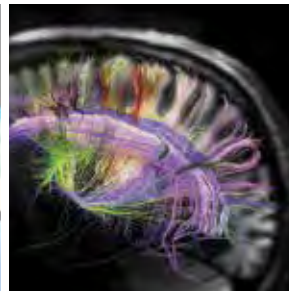
LEARN MORE

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh empowers people to transform their lives through life-long learning, digital literacy, and connections to others. Visit their website to learn more about their mission to engage our community in literacy and learning.

www.carnegielibrary.com

Brittany J. Thurman is a Children's Specialist at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Main Branch in Oakland. Brittany received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Kingston University, London, England, and a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University.

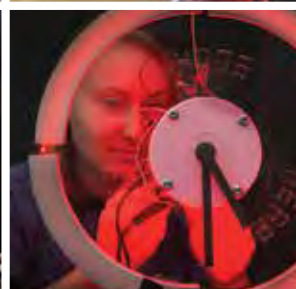
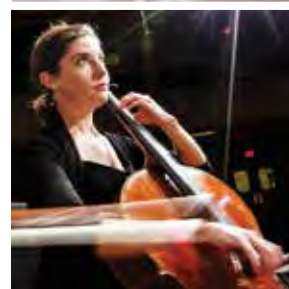




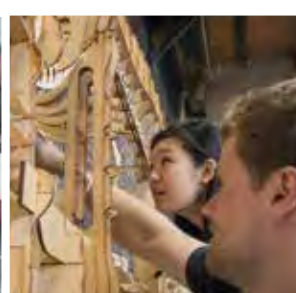
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COLLEGES
IN PENNSYLVANIA
CollegeAffordabilityGuide.com
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SAFEST
COLLEGE TOWNS
IN THE *entire* NATION
SAFEWISE.COM
2017, 2018

ranked in
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REGIONAL
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IN THE NORTHEAST
BY US NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2017, 2018

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Growing up with eight siblings helped me realize early on that it's vital to follow your dreams no matter how big they are.

As the youngest, looking up to them as they accomplished their goals inspired me to do the same. Civil-environmental engineering sounded like an intimidating post-secondary major until I considered that it is no different from any other field of study—they all require studying, dedication, enthusiasm, and most importantly faith. It also is a career field in which I can grow and even venture into many other fields, such as botany or marine biology.

When I started freshman year at Lincoln University, I was skeptical about the new environment despite being ready to start my journey to independence and adulthood.

Having other siblings who attended college helped my transition go smoothly. But even with some ideas of what to expect at college, I still had a lot to learn in order to succeed. For instance, the workload at college surpasses high school by far, and although it's manageable, it takes a significant commitment to stay disciplined and study and stay on top of everything.

Colleges offer many resources and support services that can help you manage the work, but it is your job to make sure you get the help you need.

Fortunately for me, Lincoln University has an abundance of resources for women of color interested in my specific field of study and my schedule allows me to get my work done along with other tasks without feeling as if the workload is too much.



“

EVEN WITH SOME
IDEAS OF WHAT TO
EXPECT AT COLLEGE,
I STILL HAD A LOT TO
LEARN IN ORDER TO
SUCCEED.

”

Tyia is seen here gathering water samples from Proctor Creek in Atlanta, Georgia, to take back to the lab for testing. The results will help to demonstrate the effects of bleach disinfection on fecal coliform and E. coli.

★★★ FINDING ★★★ BALANCE

MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION
TO POST-SECONDARY



“

TREAT YOUR DREAMS AS IF THEY LITERALLY ARE YOUR LIFE—IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF AND TEND TO THEM, THEY WILL DIE.

”

Lincoln University also provided me with the tools necessary to travel to classes they did not offer.

I took advantage of courses in Atlanta and even traveled to other countries to learn and do research. In Thessaloniki, Greece, my work concentrated on probiotics in Greek yogurts and kefir. While visiting St. Augustine, Trinidad, and Tobago, I worked on a project to evaluate and optimize a banana fibre extraction device. These projects were amazing opportunities that opened my eyes to what I love the most about my career choice: travel!

Although I do enjoy the traveling aspect of my program and field, when traveling for a vast period I always begin to miss my family and not having them around to support me has an emotional effect. That's why my role as a Lincoln University research intern in solid waste management has been my favorite traveling experience so far. I am conducting my bachelor and graduate studies on pharmaceuticals in drinking water and while working on this project my family could come visit me in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Having their comfort and support motivated me and helped me stay focused while working in the unfamiliar environment for a long period.

As a student and young adult, it is important that you find an overall balance in your work, relationships, and educational and social life for a smoother post-secondary transition. Don't limit yourself—there are many opportunities available and there is no wrong time to learn anything!



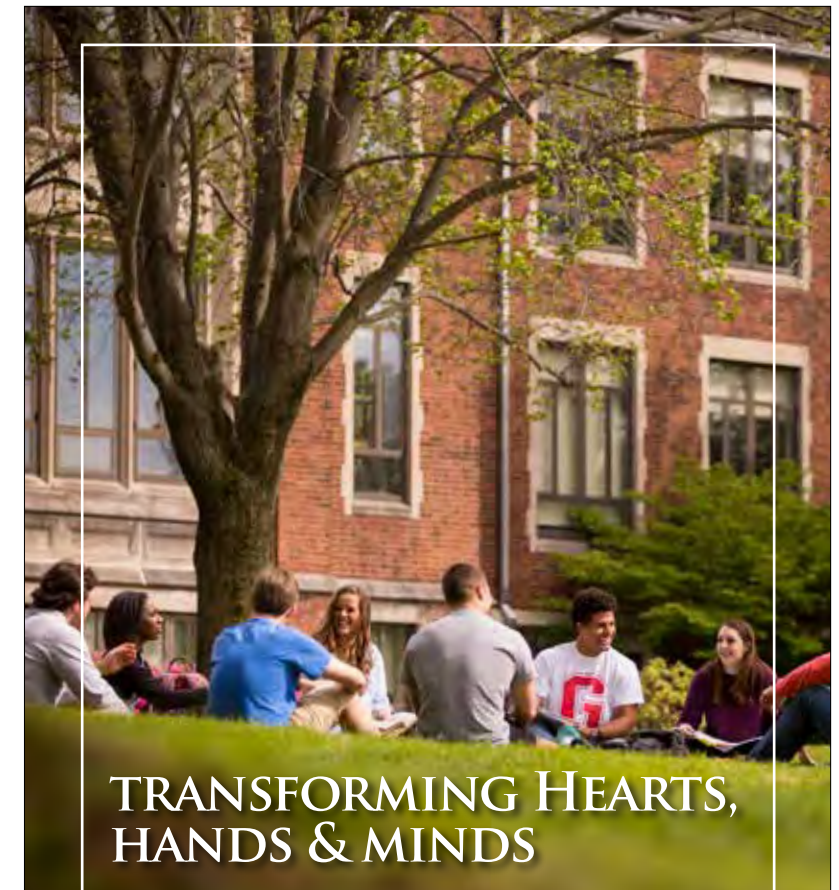
Tyia Pratt graduated from Pittsburgh University Prep in 2014. She is now studying civil-environmental engineering with a focus on pharmaceuticals at the first Pennsylvania HBCU (Historically Black College and University) to accept the Promise scholarship, Lincoln University. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she plans to continue her studies in graduate school.



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“Best 381 Colleges”
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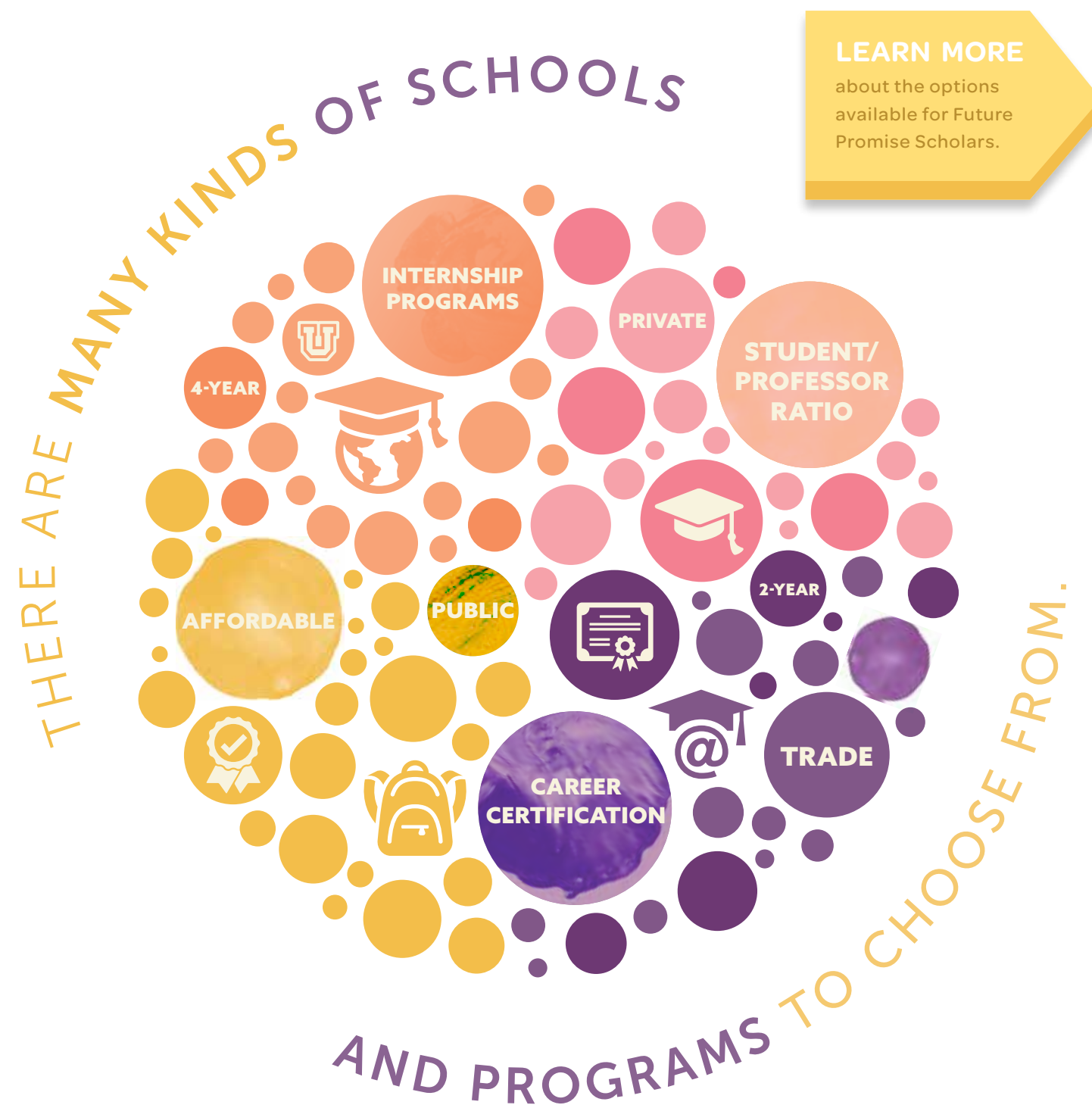
Students learn from faculty who are distinguished in their fields and have access to exclusive internships and amazing opportunities to study abroad and serve others. A highly-ranked Career Services Office helps students determine and pursue their professional calling, resulting in 96 percent of graduates at work or in graduate school within six months.

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GROVE CITY
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// *DEFINING POST-SECONDARY*

[.pōst-'se-kən-,der-ē | adj.: of, relating to, or being education following secondary



It's not uncommon for folks to use "post-secondary" and "college" interchangeably, but post-secondary can take many more forms than four-year schools such as colleges. And many of these alternative programs offer skills and knowledge that are in high demand in the workforce. In the pages to come, we'll discuss some of the many types of educational opportunities available to Promise Scholars. Then you can hear from several current Promise Scholars about how they evaluated the options available to them to choose their current program.

Types of Post-Secondary Schools

Colleges

Colleges typically offer a wide range of courses in many liberal arts subjects, ranging from writing, history, languages, math, or science, but there may also be specialized colleges such as those discussed on page 19 (e.g. arts, agriculture, nursing). Colleges often have smaller class sizes, which can result in more personalized attention from faculty. Students who attend these schools may go on to a variety of careers or continue on to graduate school.

Universities

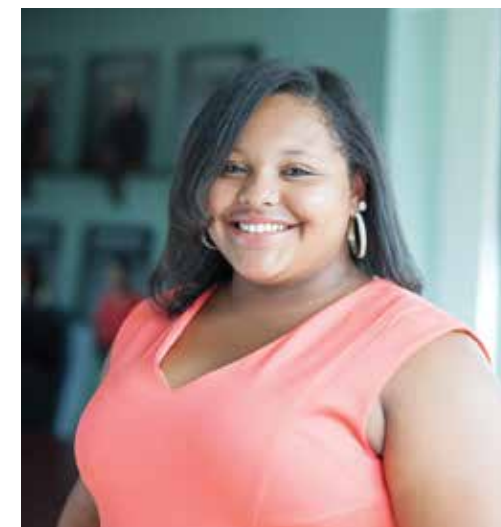
Universities are typically larger than colleges and offer more majors. These schools are also more likely to offer advanced degrees, which may be a consideration for prospective students pursuing careers in fields that require master's or doctoral degrees. Universities are usually larger than colleges and may correspondingly have larger class sizes. These schools often emphasize scholarly or scientific research and graduate students may teach classes rather than professors. Students who attend these schools transition to a variety of careers or continue on to graduate school.

Community College

Typically a more affordable option, community colleges offer two-year associate degrees as well as many certificates. Existing to serve the community they reside in, community colleges sometimes have less rigorous admission requirements. Often programs at community colleges prepare students for particular industries or careers. Students may also consider starting at a community college before transferring to a four-year school.

Career, Vocational, Trade, and Technical Schools

Career, Vocational, Trade, and Technical schools offer specialized training, often preparing students for specific industries or careers. These schools may be public or private, non-profit or for-profit. Programs may last weeks, months, or years, depending on the area of study. Students who attend these schools typically receive a license, certificate, or associate degree.



School Characteristics to Consider

Four-year vs. Two-year Schools

Students who attend four-year colleges such as universities or liberal arts schools will graduate with a bachelor's degree. Students who attend two-year schools such as community colleges and vocational or technical colleges will graduate with a certificate or an associate degree. The Promise scholarship can be used at both types of schools if they are accredited in the state of Pennsylvania.

Public vs. Private

Public schools receive funding from local and/or state governments, which usually results in lower tuition rates, particularly for in-state students. However, private colleges may have access to private funding that permits them to offer generous financial aid packages. Prospective students shouldn't base decisions solely off sticker price—a school that costs more at first glance could actually be more affordable depending on your individual circumstances. The Promise scholarship can be used at both public and private schools in Pennsylvania.

Non-profit vs. For-profit

Most US colleges and universities were non-profit institutions up through the 1970s. Since then, for-profit schools increased in number and size. Several economic studies have demonstrated a dubious return on investment for students who enroll in for-profit schools, and such students are more likely to default on their student loans, which has made for-profits a target of increased scrutiny from the government. However, there are some advocates who believe that for-profit schools expand student choice and have the potential to operate more efficiently. Students considering for-profit schools are well-advised to do extensive research on the school and speak with currently enrolled students or graduates before making a final decision. The Promise scholarship can be used at both non-profit and for-profit schools that meet the eligibility requirement to be accredited in the state of Pennsylvania.

Accommodation of IEPs and 504 Plans

A number of governmental initiatives and court rulings have greatly expanded the educational opportunities available to students with both physical and learning disabilities. High school students with an IEP or 504 Plan can expect help from their teachers and counselors to identify schools of interest and plan for post-secondary education. Many post-secondary schools strive to offer resources for students with any type of special need, ranging from additional exam time and alternative formats, study skills help, life skill development opportunities, and more. These efforts to increase access to higher education is evident in the enrollment rates of students with physical disabilities, who account for 11% of undergraduates enrolled nationwide according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The Promise scholarship will cover schools that offer programs for any disability if the school is accredited in Pennsylvania and accepts FAFSA and PHEAA funding toward enrollment in that program.

Specialized Schools

Many schools have offerings catered to specific populations or interests. For instance, there are single-sex schools that are open to only men or only women. Religiously affiliated schools are also specialized schools, though they may not be restricted to only those who practice the religion that the school is associated with. Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) focus on educating African American students and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) receive their designation when at least 25% of the full-time undergraduate students are Hispanic. Arts colleges, agricultural programs, and nursing schools are other examples of specialized schools. ■

Check out these websites to further explore your options:

www.collegeboard.org

www.bestcolleges.com

www.cappex.com

www.technicalschools.org

collegescorecard.ed.gov



// INTRODUCING...

6 Students / 6 choices

Fight for the education you want

Issam was inspired by his mother. After finishing her schooling in Gaza Strip, Palestine, she beat the odds by earning a full ride to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. Although he applied to several schools, Issam was most passionate about Pitt's engineering program. He wanted to study at Pitt, not only because they offered him a large tuition cut as a result of his mother's research work at the school, but also due to the strong research funding and career development opportunities the university exhibited. After comparing those areas along with the job placement outlook for Pitt engineering students, he was confident that it was the best school for him.

The engineering school nearly denied him, saying they needed to see an improvement in Issam's grades. Following his mother's example, Issam fought for the education that he wanted and after a lot of hard work he was able to boost his GPA and gain acceptance.

He's taken advantage of many university support services, including writing assistance, practice job interviews, and resume reviews. He also received mentoring, skill development, tutoring, and a summer research opportunity through an academic organization. His next step will be pursuing an internship.

1



// **ISSAM** ABUSHABAN

*Pittsburgh SciTech Class of 2017
Currently enrolled at University of Pittsburgh*

2

Prioritize what matters most to you

Angelica took care of her sister while they were growing up, which led to her professional goal of providing care for others in the medical field. Angelica's high school counselor helped her explore several schools with programs that she was interested in. Cost and distance from home were Angelica's biggest concerns; she chose Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) because it was the closest and cheapest option under consideration.

Although Angelica hasn't taken advantage of these support services, she appreciates that CCAC has a program that offers financial assistance to students for things like gas, clothes, textbooks, and supplies like pens and paper. They also have a food pantry that supplies free groceries to low-income students once a month. After finishing her medical certificate program, Angelica plans to further her education and specialize in a medical field.



// **ANGELICA** ADVENT

*Pittsburgh Allderdice Class of 2015
Currently enrolled at CCAC*

3

Don't let indecision hold you back

Alyssa was admittedly indecisive on what she wanted to go to school for, but she knew that she wanted to start college right away after high school. Her parents had friends who worked at CCAC and after speaking with them, she felt that CCAC would allow her to get the feel of college while completing core classes at an affordable price. The cheaper tuition at CCAC was especially beneficial for Alyssa because she wasn't eligible for any financial aid, besides The Promise scholarship.

Alyssa took advantage of CCAC support services, including a Math Café and student-run study sessions, which helped her improve her note-taking and study skills. Although Alyssa didn't have a career field in mind when she chose her school, her eventual decision to become a business major was informed by the school's placement rates for graduates with business degrees. After graduating from CCAC in the spring of 2019, Alyssa will transfer to the University of Pittsburgh to pursue a master's degree in business.



// **ALYSSA** SCOTT

*Pittsburgh Brashear Class of 2016
Currently enrolled at CCAC*

Build a strong foundation

Aaron discovered his passion for plants in high school. Beginning post-secondary by completing an Associate of Applied Science in Landscape/Horticulture Technology at Pennsylvania College of Technology enabled Aaron to work in the field while completing two more years towards his bachelor's degree in plant science at Penn State. It also gave him a strong foundation in the hands-on skills and techniques involved in the field, which he has found beneficial while taking a deeper dive into horticultural theory and practice at Penn State University.

Aaron benefited from Pennsylvania College of Technology's mandatory internship requirement and work study opportunities, both of which connected him with folks working in the field and became a stepping stone to the professional opportunities he's had since graduating with his associate degree. Penn State University also offered career help by way of resume assistance and professional business cards.

After completing his bachelor's, he hopes to work for a botanical garden.



// **AARON** SLEDGE

*Pittsburgh SciTech Class of 2016
Pennsylvania College of Technology Alumnus;
Currently enrolled at Penn State University*

4

Take the first to step to accomplish your dream

In Pennsylvania, there are currently four post-secondary university programs for students with intellectual disabilities that include a residential on-campus experience. This feature was essential for Colton, who has Down syndrome and wanted a typical college experience like his peers.

Internship opportunities in Colton's fields of interest were another priority, to help him narrow his career focus. After touring three PA schools and two out-of-state schools, Colton chose Slippery Rock University (SRU) because they best met his criteria for on-campus housing and internship experiences, plus he could use his Promise scholarship.

SRU offers many specialized supports for students in the Rock Life program and Colton will have the option of auditing classes or taking them for credit, as well as a career coach assigned to him. He expects to finish his post-secondary education in four years, which he sees as the first step in helping him accomplish his dreams to find a great job, get married, and have a place of his own.

5



// **COLTON VAZQUEZ**
Pittsburgh Allderice Class of 2018
Currently enrolled at Slippery Rock University

6

Consider all the factors before you decide

Rose is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences at Susquehanna University (SU), with plans to add an ecology major in the coming year. Rose had long been interested in studying the environment and knew that she wanted to row during college at a school that was less than four hours away from Pittsburgh.

She discovered SU first while investigating schools with rowing programs and confirmed her interest in the school following the recommendation of folks involved with a wildlife program Rose participated in. Research on the school informed her that 97% of SU graduates are either in the workforce or at a graduate school within six months of degree attainment. She visited the campus, and after learning more about the scholarships available through the school's participation in The Pittsburgh Promise's Preferred College Partners program, she made her final decision.

By alleviating much of her potential debt from a bachelor's degree, Rose anticipates having more options when choosing a graduate school program in the future. Until then, she's taking advantage of many support services the school offers, including tutoring and other academic help, mentorship programs, networking events, and resume assistance.



// **ROSE WETZEL**
Pittsburgh Allderice Class of 2017
Currently enrolled at Susquehanna University

Heather Hackett is the Communications and Project Manager of The Pittsburgh Promise. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor's in Communications and Creative Non-fiction and is currently pursuing a Master's of Public Policy and Management at University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.



College is a big step from high school, but all students can get to that next step regardless of their circumstance. Let your heart decide whether post-secondary education is right for you, money and academics aside. If you have a goal in mind, then you've got to fight for it. Keep your eye on the prize, and after some tough work, you'll get what you want.

ISSAM ABUSHABAN

Don't let others cause you to doubt yourself or get caught up in the "name game" of the "top" universities. There is an almost infinite number of programs available, from apprenticeships to two-year programs to four-year schools. You will be so much happier in both the short- and long-term if you stay true to yourself and the factors that make a school the best fit for you.

ROSE WETZEL

WORDS OF ADVICE

What every student should know before choosing their path

Look into every option and never give up on what you what to do. Listen to your gut and you'll figure it out. You are the only thing that can stop you.

ANGELICA ADVENT

Before going on college tours and interviews, make a solid list of what is most important to you.

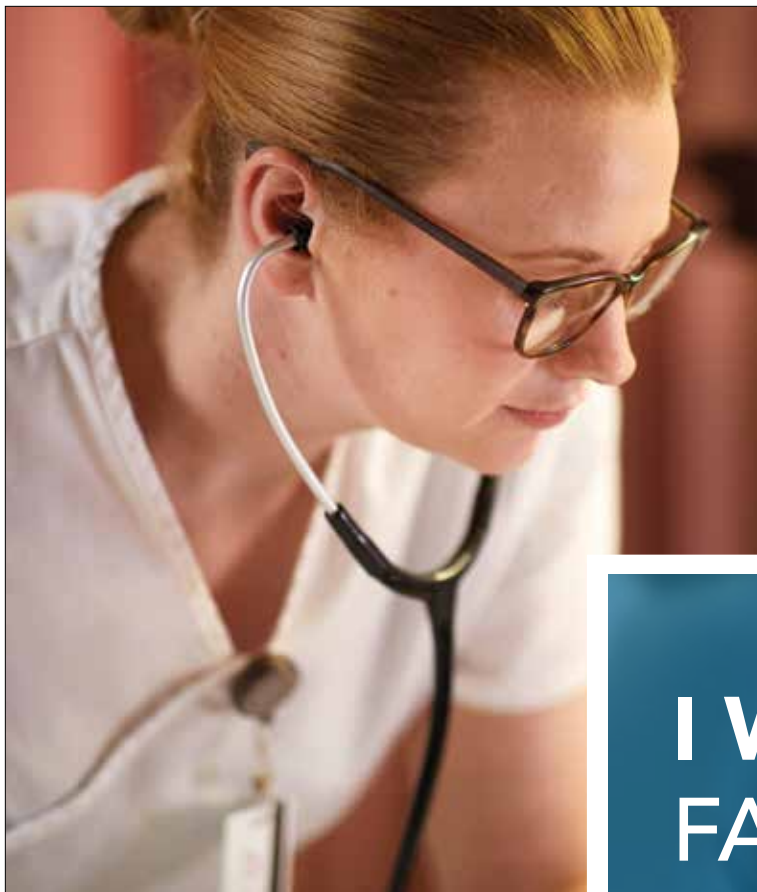
COLTON VAZQUEZ

Think about what you could see yourself doing for a good bit of your life. From there, look at your dream job to see what education it requires, and then find a school that can get you on the right pathway. Also, the path you choose does not have to be a direct shot—feel free to explore! Summer internships are an awesome way to see what is really happening in the field.

AARON SLEDGE

Take advantage of any scholarship opportunities that you may have. It's easy to get lazy your senior year because you're tired of writing essays or busy with various school activities. But you don't want to lose the opportunity of earning free money.

ALYSSA SCOTT



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WITH FEAR**

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*Showcases graduates from 2017 classes. Data includes those who were available for work and were offered and/or received career search assistance from 1/1/2017-4/30/2018. Includes full-time, part-time, or freelance positions. Visit PTCollege.edu/employment stats to learn more. Pittsburgh Technical College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Financial aid available to those who qualify.

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PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JUNIORS AND SENIORS ARE INVITED
TO GET A "HEAD START" ON THEIR
POST-SECONDARY PLANS!

DUAL ENROLLMENT



DANA MORRIS

The Dual Enrollment program was immensely helpful and I enjoyed seeing what an actual college class was like. The program helped prepare me for what to expect of college, such as the amount of work required and being more independent. My advice for students who are interested:

Take the opportunity while it's there, because it's worth it!



The Pittsburgh Promise is providing the funding to pay for college-level courses at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) for juniors and seniors at Pittsburgh Public Schools, giving participating students the opportunity to earn college credits before graduating from high school.

The Pittsburgh Promise funds 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 during high school does not imply or guarantee scholarship eligibility at graduation.

EXAMPLE OF ELIGIBLE FUNDS

If a student is eligible for a Promise award of up to:

\$20,000
UPON GRADUATION

The annual award amount is therefore up to **\$5,000 per year for four years of post-secondary education after other grants and aid are applied.**

If that student used \$1,000 for courses while in high school

Their new Promise award is therefore revised to

\$19,000
UPON GRADUATION

The new annual award is up to **\$4,750 per year for four years of post-secondary education.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DUAL ENROLLMENT

What are the requirements to take advantage of the Dual Enrollment program?

The only program requirement is that students are current Pittsburgh Public Schools juniors or seniors that live in the city and have been in the district since at least the 9th grade.

Does The Pittsburgh Promise cover the cost of transportation?

No. It is the responsibility of the student and their family to get to and from the CCAC campus.

Does The Pittsburgh Promise fund online courses?

No. We want students to experience a college campus and be immersed in a college class.

Does The Pittsburgh Promise pay for books?

Yes!

How will students know if course credits will transfer to another university or institution after they graduate?

The courses offered are chosen specifically because they are more flexible to transfer, and very likely to transfer within that academic major. CCAC has articulation agreements with 29 colleges and universities that facilitate easy credit transfers in 125 programs. Students should contact CCAC to discuss how credits may transfer to another institution. Promise funding does not imply or guarantee credit transferability.

LEARN
MORE

If you have additional questions about how your future scholarship funds may be impacted by taking advantage of Dual Enrollment, please email DualEnrollment@pittsburghpromise.org.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

WEIGH THE BENEFITS

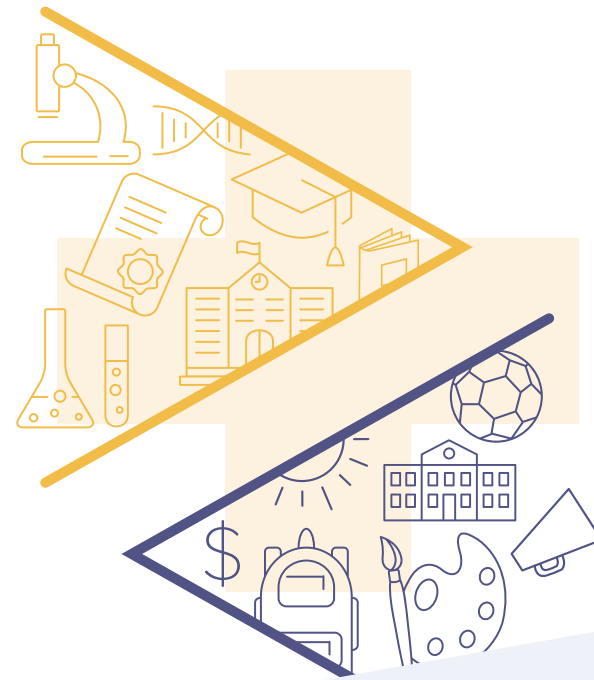
THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS TO DUAL ENROLLMENT.

A chief benefit is the **cost savings**—for many students, taking courses at community college while in high school at an affordable rate will likely reduce the credits they must fulfill once they reach their school of choice after high school and the corresponding time for completion as well as overall cost of their post-secondary education.

Students who participate in Dual Enrollment programs are **more likely to go on to post-secondary schools** and more likely to **attain a degree**. It gives students a preview of what they can expect of coursework and performance expectations at a collegiate level, helping to prepare them for post-secondary when the time comes.

Dual Enrollment also allows **exploration of subjects** before reaching post-secondary, potentially helping students to make earlier decisions about their program of study once they reach post-secondary school.

Dual Enrollment credits may enhance a student's post-secondary **applications and admissions outcomes** as they apply to their post-secondary schools of choice.



IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

While there are many reasons to consider Dual Enrollment, it's important to remember that these are real college courses and they will remain permanently on your transcripts.

If you aren't sure that you are ready for more rigorous academic demands, it may be worth foregoing this opportunity until you feel confident that you can perform at the level required of college coursework.

It's also important to evaluate whether the demands of more rigorous coursework fits with your current schedule if you are heavily involved in extracurriculars, or working a part-time job, or have other significant schedule commitments like vacations to take into consideration.

Ultimately, students and families should discuss Dual Enrollment options and how they align with post-secondary plans with their high school guidance counselor before making any decisions about whether it is right for them. ■

HOW TO GET STARTED AT CCAC AS A PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS JUNIOR OR SENIOR

1. Complete and submit the Dual Enrollment release form to The Pittsburgh Promise office.
2. Go to discover.ccac.edu. Create an account and complete and submit the CCAC Dual Enrollment Application.
3. Submit CCAC supplemental documents online at discover.ccac.edu.
4. Meet with a CCAC advisor to register for one of the classes listed on the right.

Classes may be held
at any CCAC campus.



PROGRAMS OF STUDY

ARTS AND SCIENCES

BIO 133 Environmental Science	3 credits
HIS 102 Western Civilization Since 1500	3 credits
PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology	3 credits

BUSINESS

BUS 101 Introduction to Business	3 credits
BUS 103 Principles of Management	3 credits
CIT 100 Computer Fundamentals & Applications	3 credits
ECO 102 Principles of Macroeconomics	3 credits

HEALTH CARE

ALH 106 Basic Life Support	1 credit
ALH 140 Medical Terminology	3 credits
CIT 100 Computer Fundamentals & Applications	3 credits
CIT 615 Computer Applications in Health Care	1 credit
PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology	3 credits

MANUFACTURING (MECHATRONICS)

MEC 100 Mechatronics Safety & Quality	3 credits
MEC 102 Mechatronics Industrial Processes	3 credits
PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology OR PSY 116 Organizational Psychology	3 credits

TECHNOLOGY (IT ACADEMY COURSES)

CIT 115 Introduction to Information Technology	3 credits
CIT 125 Web Development	3 credits
MMC 111 Developing Images for the Web	3 credits
MMC 112 Audio & Video for the Web	3 credits

the pittsburgh promise

www.pittsburghpromise.org

Heather Hackett is the Communications and Project Manager of The Pittsburgh Promise. She received her bachelor's degree in Communications and Creative Non-fiction from the University of Pittsburgh, where she is currently pursuing a Master's of Public Policy and Management.



SlipperyRockSM University

The Pittsburgh Promise

Preferred College Partners

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— Lindsay Starkey

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WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

[learn more at waynesburg.edu](http://waynesburg.edu)

BJ Durham earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2016 and a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling in 2018.

FINANCES

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

There will come a time as a student when you must manage your finances just as carefully as you manage your grades. Regardless of what type of school you're heading to for post-secondary, finance is a very important topic that will inform your understanding of financial aid packages, personal budgets, and more.



FINANCIAL AID

If you plan to attend a post-secondary school, the most important thing you need to understand is financial aid! First and foremost, make sure your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is completed for the upcoming scholastic academic year. For the 2019-2020 academic year the application opens October 1, 2018, and closes June 30, 2019. The Promise requires scholarship recipients to complete the FAFSA by May 1, 2019. For priority consideration from your schools of interest, you'll want to submit your FAFSA even earlier by March 1, 2019. This will help your eligibility to receive scholarships, grants, and loans offered by the institution.

LOANS

Once scholarships and financial aid are received and work study is factored in, you may have to take out loans to pay for the remainder of your tuition. Be sure to explore all of the borrowing options available to you and prioritize loans that are federally regulated. Federally regulated loans have lower interest rates, which equates to a smaller amount of money to pay back.

Remember any money that is borrowed must be paid back—so only borrow what you need!



SCHOLARSHIPS

A great way to independently find scholarships is on the website of the university you plan to attend. I also recommend visiting fastweb.com, which has over 1.5 million scholarships to choose from in its database. You can filter scholarship opportunities on Fastweb as they pertain to your unique situation, major, or writing ability. Many other online resources are also available that can help you access scholarship funds.



TIP: If you end up with a loan that accrues compound interest, pay the interest on your loans while you're still in school if you can. Otherwise the interest that is added to the principal of the loan will make the total amount of the loan larger than what was originally borrowed.



WAYS TO REDUCE TUITION BILLS

Consider reducing your tuition bill by performing a federal work study or becoming a resident assistant. As a resident assistant, you will not only receive a stipend for working but also have your room and board totally paid for—now that is a sweet deal!

OTHER ADVICE

Always keep a level head when making purchases and be sure to save some money for a rainy day. Make sure all your bills are paid on time and minimize your credit card debt as much as possible—both of these tips will help you save money while establishing good credit. Lastly, create financial goals for yourself to help manage your money, like buying a car, getting an apartment, or going on a vacation.



Simone Quinerly graduated from Pittsburgh Schenley in 2008 and Edinboro University in 2012. She will be attending Chatham University in the fall to obtain her Master of Accounting degree, with plans to get her CPA designation in the near future. She is the CEO and Founder of Quinerly Financial Group, LLC, which provides financial management and solutions for small businesses, non-profits, and individuals. An active member of the Pittsburgh community, Simone hosts a "Financial Block Party" each fall that promotes financial literacy to students in grades K-12 through hands-on activities.



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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.

These **Preferred College Partners** will extend program benefits to Promise Scholars who enter as Freshmen in fall 2019:

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

CARLOW UNIVERSITY

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

CLARION UNIVERSITY

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

GENEVA COLLEGE

GROVE CITY COLLEGE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

JUNIATA COLLEGE

LA ROCHE COLLEGE

PENN STATE—Select Campuses

PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

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SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

THIEL COLLEGE

WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

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

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.

Ask The PRESIDENT

WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

Many students arrive at post-secondary school not knowing anyone. What advice do you have for folks new to a school and/or campus to help them settle in?



Dr. William Behre *Slippery Rock University*

Be open to new ideas and experiences. At Slippery Rock University (SRU), you'll find a campus rich in culture, diversity, community, and opportunities. Take advantage of the whole experience—in-and-out-of-class. It's all about finding what interests you and running with it. Remember, as you explore, your interests might change. Don't feel bound by the clubs you join in your first semester. SRU offers more than 160 student clubs and organizations. Take that first step and participate in a student organization, or two, right away. If your interest changes, explore others.

Also, don't forget to make the most of your academic experience. Talk to a faculty member in a subject that interests you about working with them on their research. It's a great way to meet people. Often these projects involve multiple students with similar interests. One of the great things about attending a primarily undergraduate institution like Slippery Rock is the access to faculty and their research. Take advantage of it.

Finally, learn your school's traditions. One of our traditions at SRU is to always say hello to people you pass on campus or sit next to in class. That one word can open up infinite possibilities.



Mr. Ken Gormley *Duquesne University*

As a new student, one of the best ways for you to meet people and settle into college life is to get involved. And don't wait for an invitation!

Take the lead. As the dad of three kids who recently graduated from college and a fourth who's just starting, I can tell you that there are many exciting ways to participate, and you should start soon. Orientation is one of the first opportunities to meet other new students, familiarize yourself with the campus and learn about resources that are available to support you. Take advantage of all of the orientation activities.

Extracurricular activities are another way to become part of the university community. At Duquesne, you can choose from more than 250 student organizations, intramural sports, and

special events like concerts, movies, lectures, and various cultural and recreational programs. Our beautiful location overlooking the city provides additional great opportunities.

Remember, every freshman is new to college and most have that same feeling of excitement, and some nervousness, about settling into college life. I see this each year when about 1,500 new freshmen arrive on Duquesne's campus.

College is an exciting time. Get involved and make those connections that will ease your transition to this new adventure. Many friendships begin during that first week of school and can last a lifetime. I wish you great success on your educational journey!



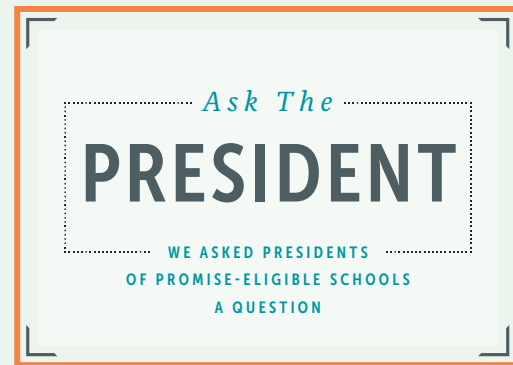
Ms. Geraldine M. Jones *California University of Pennsylvania*

Choose a campus activity and get involved! We know that students have a more satisfying college experience when they connect with others who share their interests.

Group service projects can be a wonderful way for incoming students to begin building connections. Volunteering unites students around a common purpose and creates an atmosphere where it's easy to meet new people. Because everyone is focused on making a difference, new students can be comfortable starting a conversation or asking for advice. The project itself is a natural icebreaker and an opportunity for newcomers to mingle with upperclassmen and student leaders.

Campus clubs and organizations also bring like-minded students together. At Cal U, more than 100 student-led clubs and organizations cater to interests ranging from bass fishing to robotics, intramural sports to medieval swordplay. Join a club, and you're sure to meet someone who shares your passion.

Special events also help students become part of the campus community. I encourage our first-year students to go to sports contests and concerts and plays—whatever is happening on campus. Shared activities enrich the college experience and help new students begin to feel at home.



Many students arrive at post-secondary school not knowing anyone. What advice do you have for folks new to a school and/or campus to help them settle in?



Dr. James A. Troha *Juniata College*

Colleges have numerous ways to help students get acclimated to a new community, usually coordinated through an office like Student Life or First Year Programs. Those offices sponsor opening events to help connect incoming students. For example, we have a program, InBound, aimed to help students learn about Juniata and meet people with similar interests in the few days before the official start of classes. The interests could be around the arts, gaming, leadership, the outdoors, fitness—it's a long list. If you live on campus, most residence halls have resident assistants (RAs)—junior or senior

students employed by the college who are responsible for activities and programs for students in their residence hall. They can connect you with clubs, activities, and people around campus who might have similar interests as yours, or who have interests you want to explore.

Finally, if you are not the most outgoing person, your college's library is not only a great place to study but also a good place to be around other people in a quieter way. As faces grow more familiar, you often find ways to connect simply by working in the same space.



Dr. Kathy Richardson *Westminster College*

During those first important weeks on campus, I encourage new students to do the following: Look up! Don't focus solely on your phone or other screens. Make eye contact with other new students, introduce yourself and ask them a few questions about themselves. Certainly, you may want to learn how to follow each other on social media but make the in-person connection matter. Get to know your campus in real time. Don't miss the lake on campus because you always have your eyes on your phone when you're out walking to class or the dining hall.

Link up! Attend and truly engage in your school's orientation and other new student activities. And then, when classes begin, join or form a study group. Meet for coffee once a week to review your class notes, discuss the readings, or ask each other questions. Visit each of your faculty members in their offices during the first two weeks of the term. Find out what other resources are available on campus, from an Academic Success Center to the Career Office, and go by and meet the peer mentors and others who work in those locations. Participate in the campus activity fair and attend at least one meeting of two different organizations. You may find it easier to connect with new friends in a smaller setting like that.

PROMISE YOURSELF

How Mentorship—and a College that Fosters Partnerships—Can Unlock Your Potential

In her high school, others looked to Genesis Diaz as a role model, because she served on student government, played volleyball, and was a stage manager, producing dances at which she also performed. But, when it came to a college, Genesis was the one looking for role models. Although her family was supportive of her successes, none had attended college themselves.

But, from the moment when she connected with Kat Swantak, an assistant dean of admission at Juniata College, Genesis knew she'd find the partners she needed to live her dream and pursue a career as a doctor.

"When I was interviewing at other colleges, they just kept asking me, 'What can you bring to Brown or Yale?' At Juniata, I was told, 'Here's what our college can do for you,'" Genesis recalls.

Juniata has lived up to that promise. Here, she enjoys the comradery of a roommate who is also a first-gen and the partnership she shares with her professors, who support Genesis in many ways including by attending the diversity and inclusion events that Genesis herself is programming. She was recently thrilled to see her chemistry and sociology professors at a Black Excellence Dinner she and her peers held in cooperation with the College's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

The mentorship Genesis has experienced at Juniata has helped her magnify her interests and talents. She has interned at New York Presbyterian Hospital, studied abroad in Guatemala, and has been a mentee and become a mentor in student organizations. Now, Genesis has a message for you:

"At Juniata you can find a friend, a mentor in nearly everyone. There were times when I needed to have someone in my corner, yet I did not have the courage to ask for help. Then, someone noticed. When you get to know your professors and the staff at Juniata, they also get to know you."



If you've promised yourself the kind of mentorships that will enable you to design a life of meaning and happiness, we want to meet you and tell you about the ways Juniata can partner with you. ■



THINK ABOUT WHO YOU ARE



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wb.psu.edu

Penn State World Campus
814-865-5403
worldcampus.psu.edu

Penn State Worthington
Scranton
570-963-2500
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Penn State York
717-771-4040
yk.psu.edu



**LAST
LOOK**

Regent Square Pittsburgh is home to upwards of 400 outdoor public murals, including Braddock Avenue's Birds Eye View, painted by artist Kristin Williams. Visit www.pghmurals.com for a map showing locations of more public art.