Stronger than ever

Promise Scholar Stories

Annual Report 2017-18

The Pittsburgh Promise
A single scholarship can produce a thousand stories.

Many studies show that college-educated communities experience reduced poverty, crime, unemployment, and hopelessness, while they also see an increase in opportunity and volunteerism.

Education is an access point that lifts individuals into sustainable and thriving economies and communities. Hope is what a scholarship provides: a vision for what can be despite what is.
Simone always intended to go to college, but with two older sisters in school at the same time, her family was unsure how they’d manage to pay for it. Fortunately for Simone, The Pittsburgh Promise was announced her senior year of high school.

In the fall of 2008, Simone went to Edinboro University, where she majored in finance. Her transition from high school to college was bumpy during her first semester. The cultural changes and academic rigor challenged her, and she had the grades to prove it. Simone committed herself to improving her grades. She asked for help and found services on campus like study groups and tutors. By her second semester, Simone’s grades had improved significantly. This experience inspired her to expand her involvement on campus which led to several leadership opportunities. Simone served as the Black Student Union president, president of the Student Government Association, treasurer for the dance team, and as a resident assistant.

When it came time to get a job, Simone worked hard to land an internship at PNC which resulted in two years working in corporate HR and finance following graduation. Simone also became a mom. With a baby at home, she started to wonder about finding a more independent and flexible career. Today, Simone runs her own financial services business, Quinerly Financial Group, where she provides financial and tax services to local small businesses, nonprofits, and individuals. In 2017, Simone opened her second office.

Simone has not only become a young, successful entrepreneur, she has also committed herself to sharing that success. She spends her free time hosting pop-up literacy clinics in Pittsburgh communities and within Pittsburgh Public Schools. In acknowledgement of Simone’s entrepreneurial excellence and community contributions, State Representative Jake Wheatley recently honored Simone with a proclamation at the Minority Women in Business Day in Harrisburg.

SIMONE QUINERLY RECEIVED ONE OF THE FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS

I would not be running my own successful business without The Pittsburgh Promise. To the supporters of The Promise: thank you for investing in me. Hopefully you can see the talent Promise Alumni bring to the community, and that we make you proud by doing right by you.

SIMONE QUINERLY
ROBERT TRAVIS RETURNS TO PITTSBURGH

Rob was born in Pittsburgh, “swaddled in black and gold,” as he puts it. Rob pursued a degree at St. Vincent College in Westmoreland County. He was the first person in his family to attend post-secondary school, and he recognized the unique challenges that he faced. “Being the first in my family to attend college certainly brought extra pressure. Before I even went in, I was already thinking to myself, ‘Man, I cannot fail and mess this opportunity up. I have to represent for this person and that person.’ The biggest motivation for me came when a professor told me that the average college student pays around $75 per class. He said every time you skip a class, it was the equivalent of taking $75 out of your pocket and aimlessly flushing it down the toilet. That stuck with me!”

Rob earned his bachelor’s degree in four years and decided to join a friend in Los Angeles in search of marketing opportunities. Before he left for California, his mom had a special graduation surprise for him. She blindfolded him and drove him to the Hill District; just up the street from The Promise office. There she unveiled it—a giant billboard with Rob’s photo congratulating him on his graduation. Rob laughs when telling the story, “I guess you could say she was proud of my accomplishment and my mom is known to be expressive.”

Rob stayed in California for six years. He was a young professional in a new city that was nothing like Pittsburgh; Rob felt like he couldn’t get rooted in L.A. due to its “transient city” feel. He was ready to return to where he called home, where his family lived, and where he wanted to raise a family of his own.

Upon arriving back in Pittsburgh, Rob started reaching out to old mentors and acquaintances. He also reached out to The Promise office for advice and direction. Rob found the rumors to be true—Pittsburghers look out for each other. With this support, Rob identified several professional opportunities and is now happy to be working at the marketing firm Merkle in Pittsburgh and swaddling his own son in black and gold.

As Rob reflects on the experiences he gained while separated from a place that holds so much love for him, he wants to remind all prospective students that “there is a lot to be said about going out in the world and experiencing it. But ‘no place like home’ has never been more relevant to me until now.”

As a student, The Promise was one of the first grants I received that helped me pay for my college tuition. As a working professional, that same Promise was the first resource I utilized in my search for career opportunities in Pittsburgh, which led to me finding a position that was right in line with my skill set.

ROBERT TRAVIS

PICTURED LEFT: Robert Travis enjoys the scenery from the Ninth Street Bridge.
SHANNON CHAVEZ SEIZES EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Shannon describes her mom as her best friend and greatest influencer. “On her own, with a little girl, she beat the odds and continued to move up the ladder in a male-dominated career with the City of Pittsburgh. She taught me to be nice to everyone, to be generous and to focus on the good in life; but she also taught me to be tough and a hard worker.”

Shannon planned to attend college but wasn’t sure how she and her mom would pay for it. The Promise scholarship expanded her school options. Shannon studied broadcast journalism at Duquesne University, her school of choice. While an undergrad, she worked in the Office of Admissions as a tour guide, in the Athletics Department putting together highlights, and at the university’s news station. She also joined the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

After graduation she worked as an on-screen broadcaster for a news station in West Virginia. Shannon learned from the experience but found her passions pulling her toward video production and photography. She was also missing home. In the spring of 2016, she moved home and picked up serving shifts at a local restaurant. She built a portfolio slowly by offering to shoot and edit wedding highlight films for a few friends who were planning fall weddings. Each of those weddings led to new, paying clients.

Little by little she upgraded equipment and invested money back into her growing business. Shannon loves the work and finds fulfillment in documenting the happy moments in people’s lives, “I’m still in awe of all the incredible ways my life has improved because I believed I could make a living doing what makes me the happiest.”

Shannon encourages Promise Scholars to seize every opportunity presented by The Pittsburgh Promise, “The Promise is more than just money—take advantage of job and volunteer opportunities, stay connected, go to events, see old friends, and network.”

Shannon and her fiancé are planning to purchase a home in Pittsburgh in the winter of 2019. You can see Shannon’s work in this annual report as well as at www.shannonchavez.com.

PICTURED LEFT: Shannon Chavez poses before taking the portraits for this annual report.
Jerome always loved cars and trucks. As high school graduation approached, he felt pulled towards a career as a mechanic but also felt pressured to consider a 4-year institution. “I played football and it was a dream of mine to play in college. I considered going to school for nursing, mainly because it was something that my mom encouraged me to do and she always has my back.”

Jerome spent some time researching careers in nursing, but quickly realized it wasn’t for him. Jerome believed that his passion for cars could turn into a career, so he took steps to make it happen. He went to career fairs and reached out to a close friend who attended Rosedale Technical College. He gained insight into various career fields at the school, and after completing a tour of the campus, it felt like a perfect fit.

When he graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice, The Pittsburgh Promise covered his tuition at Rosedale Technical College. Jerome excelled in his courses; it was clear he made the right decision. After graduation, he immediately secured a job as a diesel mechanic at Frank Bryan, part of Bryan Materials Group.

Jerome encourages Pittsburgh students to “consider trade schools alongside 4-year schools and do what you think is right for you. Trade school was the right choice for me and I think it is a great option for a lot of people that is often overlooked. There are awesome programs out there and a ton of jobs in the trades, so it’s pretty easy to get a decent job right out of school.”

As for choosing to become a mechanic, Jerome wholeheartedly believes that he made the right decision. Thanks to the support of The Pittsburgh Promise, Jerome practices his skills and earns a living without worrying about repaying loans.

When asked about his dreams for the future, Jerome felt that he was living his dreams today, “I have an amazing job and a truck I love, I just bought a house, and in April of 2019, my wife and I are going to have a baby. I just want the future to be as full of good times and good health as the present.”
APPEAL TO CAREER

RICHARD CARDILLO TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO SHAPE HIS FUTURE

Rich was a bit lost in his early years of high school. He lacked direction and his grades suffered. Although he “got himself together” by graduation, he still did not have the required GPA and attendance rate to receive a Promise scholarship.

Rich enrolled at Robert Morris University on his own dime, and it gave him the direction he needed to succeed. With renewed focus and determination, he earned a 4.0 GPA his freshman year. He decided to appeal to The Promise, asking for a reconsideration of his eligibility through The Promise’s compassion appeal process. Rich’s appeal was approved, and he received a scholarship every semester following.

Rich said that his motivation to pursue higher education despite a rough start was a “combination of realizing that so many opportunities require a degree” and that he was ready to step up and “achieve a promising future.” As Rich approached graduation, he continued to take steps towards that future.

In 2013, he attended The Promise Career Launch, a networking event that connects Promise Scholars with local employers. Rich wasn’t hired that day, but he was intrigued by a connection he made with Thermo Fisher Scientific. He remained in touch, and it eventually resulted in an internship the following summer.

Once again, Rich took initiative. After discovering that the company had a leadership development program for recent graduates, he networked with the program’s hiring manager both during and after his internship, maintaining an email chain for over a year after the internship concluded. His persistence paid off. In July of 2015, Rich was accepted into the program. Rich still works for Thermo Fisher Scientific today. He finds motivation in leading people to achieve goals designed to elevate the business.

Rich has since come back to The Promise Career Launch as an employer and an alumnus panelist to help other Promise students and alumni connect to their dream jobs. He encourages his fellow students not to waver at the first “no.” They would be wise to follow his example. By taking initiative and advocating for himself, Rich shaped his own future.

$120 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

The Promise has affected my life both financially and professionally. I was not only able to offset some of the cost of my education to receive a Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, but I landed an internship opportunity that would have never been possible without attending The Promise’s Career Launch.

RICHARD CARDILLO

PICTURED LEFT: Richard Cardillo on the job at Thermo Fisher Scientific.
Read more stories about The Promise. Our Scholars are Stronger than Ever.

Special thanks to Promise Alumni, Daeja Baker and Jessica Sanfilippo, for contributing to these stories.

See the data outcomes from The Pittsburgh Promise.
THE NEXT DECADE
BUILDING ON TEN YEARS OF OUTCOMES

the pittsburgh promise
For ten years, we have made a difference in our community.

By making higher education a reality for Pittsburgh’s youth, we have impacted the life prospects of students, the expectations that adults have of them, and the preparedness and diversity of our region’s workforce.
Ten years ago, we launched The Pittsburgh Promise with high hopes along with some fear and trepidation. The Promise was based on an audacious vision for a future where all our urban youth are equipped to reach post-secondary success, our public schools serve all children excellently, our city is flourishing in all its neighborhoods, and our workforce is widely diverse and highly skilled to advance a region that is good and just for all. We believed that one $20,000 scholarship at a time, our post-secondary investments would serve as a crucial building block for thousands of youth across the city and would fill a pipeline of well-prepared and diverse young leaders ready to enter our region’s workforce.

Now, ten years later, The Pittsburgh Promise is in its strongest position since inception. We have educational and employment outcomes that are contributing to a regional workforce that is indeed skilled and diverse. We have raised over $200 million to support urban youth in their pursuit of a college degree or technical school certification. We are actively creating an employment pipeline to fuel the future needs of Pittsburgh’s business community. We announced data-driven corrections to our scholarship model, and we have mapped out a solid sustainability plan for The Promise.

More than 8,100 students have received Promise scholarships so far. The vast majority of our scholars come from very low- to moderate-income families. In fact, 74% receive need-based grants such as the federal Pell grant or Pennsylvania’s PHEAA grant, in addition to their Promise scholarship. Another 23% come from middle-income families who are not eligible for government grants but who are stretched beyond what is reasonable to pay for their children’s higher education. This socio-economic reality for 97% of our scholars means that pursuing a post-secondary degree might have been out of their reach without our support.

As of the publication of this report, our scholarships have exceeded $120 million and our students have attended more than 135 Pennsylvania institutions.

It is humbling to think about how this investment impacts individual lives and families, educational institutions and their communities, as well as employers and their companies.

In our second decade, we expect to serve another 10,000 students and invest another $140 million in their education and in our economy. In order to realize this, we must raise another $63 million. With a formidable track record behind us, committed friends beside us, and promising youth before us, we will press on toward the goal of a region that is good and just for all.

We are thankful to have you among the friends who journey with us.
In this section, we report on the change in the performance of high school students since the announcement of The Pittsburgh Promise. To raise hope, expectations, and aspirations, The Promise provides $20,000 scholarships ($5,000 per year for four years) to graduates of Pittsburgh’s urban public, high schools to attend university, college, or technical school anywhere in Pennsylvania.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE, STUDENTS MUST:

1. **LIVE**
   In the City of Pittsburgh
   Students must be residents of the City of Pittsburgh (or Wilkinsburg), continuously, since at least the beginning of 9th grade

2. **ATTEND**
   Pittsburgh Public Schools
   Students must be enrolled in Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), or one of its charters, continuously, since at least the beginning of 9th grade

3. **GRADUATE**
   Students must graduate with a minimum cumulative, unweighted grade point average of 2.50 (2.00 to attend the community college with a second chance “Promise Extension” scholarship) and an attendance record of 90% or above

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Since the inception of The Promise, the percentage of high school seniors who met the minimum GPA and attendance eligibility criteria to receive a scholarship from The Pittsburgh Promise has grown by 16 percentage points:

**46%** IN 2008

**62%** IN 2016

ELIGIBILITY VARIES BY HIGH SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2014 Percentage Points</th>
<th>2016 Percentage Points</th>
<th>Difference Percentage Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Charter</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh CAPA</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Allderdice</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Sci-Tech</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Carrick</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Obama</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Brashear</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Pathways Charter</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Milliones</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Westinghouse</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Perry</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2011, Pennsylvania, along with the rest of the country, adopted a new way of calculating high school graduation rates. It is known as the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR). The new measure is more accurate because it tracks individual students over time.
**COLLEGE-GOING RATES FOR PROMISE-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

Since 2005, there has been a twelve-percentage point increase in college enrollment within two years after high school graduation for students who meet GPA and attendance criteria.

**COLLEGE-GOING RATES FOR ALL PPS STUDENTS COMPARED TO THE NATION**

When we compare Pittsburgh to the United States Census, we learn that the seamless college enrollment gap between Pittsburgh and the nation decreased by 15 percentage points since 2005.

- **88%** in 2005
- **68%** in 2015

Total U.S. Census
- **69%** in 2005
- **69%** in 2015

All PPS Graduates
- **44%** in 2005
- **59%** in 2015


---

**HIGH ASPIRATIONS AND EQUITABLE ACCESS**

**ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTICES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PROMISE FUNDS**

**Promise Ambassadors** are seniors from each Pittsburgh public high school who serve as outreach workers among their peers. They promote post-secondary enrollment and advocate for the use of Promise scholarships. Ambassadors serve as “go-to” peer experts on The Promise scholarship and help to lead their classmates through the scholarship application process. Promise staff train the Ambassadors during the summer before their senior year in mentoring, communication, and public speaking skills, as well as financial aid and college-planning knowledge. Ambassadors provide an important avenue for disseminating information to students, serve as a valuable focus group, and help us to cultivate relationships among student bodies.

**Senior Signing Day** is an annual event that celebrates and recognizes the post-secondary plans of all students who graduate. It is our commitment that all students graduate with a vision and a plan for what comes next, whether it is a four-year or two-year college, a technical school, military service, or joining the workforce. Our most recent Signing Day was particularly special as over 1,000 seniors announced their plans to attend 150 post-secondary institutions. They were also surprised by an inspirational speech from Pittsburgh Steelers’ Ryan Shazier, as well as the announcement of a $2.5 million commitment to The Promise from PNC Foundation. At the 2017 Signing Day, KeyBank announced its first major charitable investment in Pittsburgh through a $1 million grant to The Promise.

**Compassion Appeals** allow The Promise to extend eligibility to students who are negatively impacted by life events such as foster care placements or homelessness. This intervention occurs through sharing and analyzing data with Pittsburgh Public Schools, charter schools, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to ensure that students who are impacted by circumstances beyond their control are also able to receive Promise scholarships. Furthermore, students, care-givers, and advocates are also invited to submit appeals when significant life events compromise a student’s Promise-eligibility.

**Promise Extension** is a “second chance” scholarship provided to students who meet all eligibility requirements but have a cumulative, unweighted GPA of 2.0-2.49. The Extension funds students for enrollment in the Community College of Allegheny County. Once enrolled, students are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and complete a full year at the community college. If successful, these students may then enroll in any eligible post-secondary program in Pennsylvania and continue to receive their Promise scholarship.

**Without Exception** is The Promise’s commitment to ensure that the scholarship is accessible to all students of all abilities. This includes students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 plans for students with disabilities. The Promise collaborates with families, advocates, counselors, service providers, and educational institutions to remove barriers and provide adapted accommodations where needed.
WE FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST-SECONDARY ACCESS

While a 4-year degree is not always necessary, a post-secondary credential is more critical today than ever to lifting individuals out of poverty and into sustainable and thriving economies and communities.

$120.1 MILLION

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THROUGH THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR WE GRANTED $120.1 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 8,161 STUDENTS.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND FUNDING OF ALL PITTSBURGH PROMISE SCHOLARS

74% of Promise Scholars represent low-income families. In addition to their Promise Scholarship, they have received $87.3 million in need-based grants such as the federal Pell grant or Pennsylvania’s PHEAA grant.

23% of Promise Scholars represent middle-income families. They are not eligible for government grants but are stretched to pay for higher education.

3% of Promise Scholars represent middle-income families. They may not have pursued a post-secondary degree without our support or incurring exorbitant debt.

SCHOOLS THAT ENROLLED AT LEAST ONE PERCENT OF ALL PROMISE SCHOLARS

While our Scholars attended 135 different institutions, 23 schools enrolled more than 84% of our students. More than $100 million in Promise scholarships has been invested in these 23 schools alone.

WE FUND (CONTINUED)

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE RATES: ON TRACK WITH NATIONAL DATA

To compare the post-secondary persistence of graduates of Pittsburgh Public Schools to the rest of the student population in the country, we rely on the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).

The table to the left compares the persistence rates of PPS graduates to the rest of the country. “Persistence” is defined as the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year. It is important to note that the PPS data represent students from a single demographic (urban public school graduates) and the national data represent students from all demographics (urban, suburban, rural, public and private school graduates).

IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT GRADUATES OF PITTSBURGHS URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE PERSISTING IN COLLEGE AT RATES THAT NEARLY MATCH NATIONAL TRENDS.

The table to the left compares the persistence rates of PPS graduates to the rest of the country. “Persistence” is defined as the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year. It is important to note that the PPS data represent students from a single demographic (urban public school graduates) and the national data represent students from all demographics (urban, suburban, rural, public and private school graduates).

SNAPSHOT OF STUDENTS WHO FIRST ENROLLED IN THE FALL OF 2011

The chart below and images to the right provide a snapshot of one cohort. It tracks students who began their post-secondary education in the fall of 2011 (the last class for whom exists six years of data) and reports on whether they:

• Graduated.
• Are still enrolled, or
• Are no longer enrolled and have not completed their post-secondary education.

COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES: LAGGING NATIONAL AND STATE DATA

In addition to keeping a watchful eye on the persistence of our students in college, we keep an even closer eye on their earning a post-secondary credential.

National Student Clearinghouse data enable us to examine how Pittsburgh’s students perform at different types of institutions, and compare their performance to the student population in Pennsylvania and the rest of the country.

This comparison shows that more work is needed to ensure our students who enroll in post-secondary schools also attain a degree.

U.S. PUBLIC 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Graduated: Started institution 84.4% 71.2% 62.0% 28.3% 24.5% 10.0%
Transferred & Graduated: Other institution 18.0% 17.6% 16.8% 10.7% 12.2% 4.6%
Total Graduated 92.4% 78.8% 68.8% 39.0% 36.7% 14.6%

U.S. PRIVATE 4-YEAR NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

Graduated: Started institution 81.0% 68.0% 52.0% 28.3% 24.5% 10.0%
Transferred & Graduated: Other institution 18.0% 17.6% 16.8% 10.7% 12.2% 4.6%
Total Graduated 99.0% 85.6% 68.8% 39.0% 36.7% 14.6%

U.S. PRIVATE 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Graduated: Started institution 68.0% 60.0% 40.0% 28.3% 24.5% 10.0%
Transferred & Graduated: Other institution 18.0% 17.6% 16.8% 10.7% 12.2% 4.6%
Total Graduated 86.0% 77.6% 56.8% 38.0% 36.7% 14.6%

This is “ecosystem” work that requires strategic adjustments by The Pittsburgh Promise, as well as stronger academic and social/emotional supports by elementary and secondary schools in Pittsburgh and post-secondary schools throughout Pennsylvania.

DESIRES OUTCOMES OF PROMISE SCHOLARS: CONTINUED ENROLLMENT + GRADUATION

An analysis of all Promise Scholars, by gender and ethnicity, reveals a similar outcome, namely that 68% of our scholars have earned a degree, diploma, or certificate, or are still enrolled in school.

While we rejoice in the success of Promise Scholars who have already earned a post-secondary credential or are still actively pursuing it, we recognize that much more work needs to be done to elevate the performance and life-prospects of those who did not cross the finish line and are no longer on the race course.

The Pennsylvania state government and local community partners, including local colleges and universities, are taking steps to improve graduation rates. The NSC data snapshot, for example, indicates that 68% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions began their post-secondary education in the fall of 2011 and are still enrolled.

The NSC is a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization that analyzes data from more than 3,600 colleges and universities which enroll 90% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions.
As of August 2018, the current list of Preferred College Partners includes the following schools:

- 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
- LaRoche College
- Penn State University (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

Preferred College Partners are post-secondary institutions that make two specific commitments over and above what they already do to ensure the success of Promise Scholars. These are:

1. Provide a minimum $2,000 grant per year for room and board to Promise-eligible students
2. Push targeted transition and academic support services to Promise-eligible students

Students who are first in their families to pursue higher education, or who come from low-income contexts, often struggle in persisting after their first year of college. Data show that certain support systems and practices significantly increase their likelihood of success. The two stated requirements for receiving “preferred” status are primary predictors for increasing student success among vulnerable populations.

The Promise, in exchange, helps to promote and elevate the profiles of Preferred College Partners among Pittsburgh’s students. In so doing, we help to expand diversity among the post-secondary institutions and ensure additional affordability and academic success for our Scholars.

Since 2008, my team’s research on how students finance college has revealed that the main barrier to degree completion isn’t tuition; it’s having a place to sleep and enough food to eat. The best estimates suggest that food insecurity affects as many as 1 in 2 college students—much higher than the rate in the general population. Just as many struggle with housing insecurity, and a significant number (14 percent at community colleges) are homeless.

SARA GOLDRICK-RAB, PH.D.
PROFESSOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY AND SOCIOLOGY AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
(TalkPoverty.org November 7, 2017)
WE FUEL
A PREPARED AND DIVERSE REGIONAL WORKFORCE

In the next decade, Pittsburgh is bracing for the possibility of a major shortfall in available workers that could top 80,000 people. Corporate leaders also bemoan the lack of diversity in our region’s workforce. The Pittsburgh Promise addresses both challenges.

By making post-secondary education more accessible to and affordable for thousands of urban youth, The Promise provides our community with diverse and well-prepared talent. By creating intentional connections between scholars and employers, The Promise intends to strengthen our region’s workforce.

CAREER LAUNCH

is a partnership with more than 40 companies that support our work. Since 2012, this annual event has introduced more than 1,000 talented Promise Scholars and Alumni to professional contacts, potential internships, and available full-time positions.

Corporate and organizational partners prepare Promise Scholars for the rigors of interviews, the art of resume writing, and the demonstration of the soft skills required to get hired and succeed professionally. Students and graduates meet individually with recruiters who provide a wealth of advice as well as internship and job opportunities.

1,000
Number of Promise Scholars and Alumni who have been introduced to professional contacts through Career Launch since 2012.

PROMISE LEGACY

is the Alumni group of The Pittsburgh Promise. Founded by a group of engaged scholarship recipients, Promise Legacy exists to demonstrate the valuable impact of The Promise and provide support for its mission.

Legacy members make an annual contribution to The Promise and participate in exclusive social and professional events. They utilize their special network to connect with each other, current Promise Scholars, and employers in the region. They are an ever-growing network of Promise Alumni who have found success living and working in Greater Pittsburgh.

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF PROMISE LEGACY ARE:

Afifa Bey
Diversity Programs Specialist
American Society of Hematology
Schenley High School Class of 2008
Penn State University Class of 2012

Julia Cahill
Artist
CAPA High School Class of 2008
Carnegie Mellon University
Class of 2012

Janay Hall Coleman
Scholarship Program Manager,
The Pittsburgh Promise
Perry High School Class of 2008
Chatham University Class of 2012

Joshua Devine
Economic Opportunity Strategist
Fourth Economy
Allderdice High School Class of 2008
Penn State University Class of 2012

Jasmine Morris
Operations Manager,
Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc.
Schenley High School Class of 2008
Chatham University Class of 2012

Daniel Peters
Human Resources Administrator,
Resco Products, Inc.
Braddock High School Class of 2010
Robert Morris University Class of 2016

Vanessa Thompson
Project Lead,
Strategic Initiatives & Outreach
Trying Together
Westinghouse High School Class of 2008
Chatham University Class of 2012

Shawna Falcione
Programs Associate,
Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc.
Carrieck High School Class of 2009
Penn State University Class of 2013

Promise Legacy provides social and professional benefits to members, but it also provides an opportunity to give back and raise awareness about The Promise and its scholarship program which has been invaluable to our success and that of our peers.

JOSHUA DEVINE AND VANESSA THOMPSON
CO-CHAIRS, PROMISE LEGACY
WE FUEL (CONTINUED)

PROMISE ALUMNI IN PITTSBURGH’S WORKFORCE: SERVING MORE THAN 200 COMPANIES

THESE COMPANIES HAVE HIRED PROMISE ALUMNI AND ARE REAPING A RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

Abberpolyne and Fitch
ACA Engineering
Accurate
ACLU of PA
Aditya Birla
Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement
Aerostar
Air Charter Service
Alaska
Allegany Conference on Community Development
Allegany County
Allegany County Controller’s Office
Allegany County Department of Human Services
Allegany County District Attorney’s Office
Allegany General Hospital
Albuquerque Communications
Alma’s Restaurant
American Eagle Outfitters
Apple
Arcata
Baltimore Health Department
Bank of New York Mellon
Bantry Center for Nonprofit Management
Bayer Material Sciences
BDQ Travel
Beaver Hill Staffing Group
Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc.
Biplas, Bisham, Porch, LLP
Bloomingdale Garfield Farms
BMW Mellon
Bob Casey for Senate
Boston Market Corporation
Brand New Language Academy, Ulsan, South Korea
California University of Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University
Carroll Center
Charles County Club
Children’s Home of Pittsburgh
City Charter High School
City of Pittsburgh
City of Pittsburgh, Department of Law
City of Pittsburgh, Office of the Mayor
City Theatre
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Comcast Business
Community College of Alleghany County
Carnegie University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Coxnet
Cowan Costie
CVS Specialty
Delta Airlines
ExxonMobil
ExxonMobil
Family Behavioral Services
Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts
FPO Company
Frank Bryan Inc.
Fund for the Advancement of Minority Through Education
General Motors
Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania
Grassman Yarns & Fard, LLP
HDR Inc.
Hern Environmental
High End Embarks
Higher Achievement
Highmark, Inc.
Hill at Virginia Tech
JM Health Solutions
Hotshot Tree Experts
Horoscope House Inc.
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
InterPlay Childcare Center
Job Monster Energy
Junior Achievement
Just Duty Tours/Molly's Trolley Tours
Koala
Krispy Kreme
Kwik-Lab, Inc.
Knight Paint Systems, LLC
Lafayette Parish of Louisiana
Lankenau Hospital
Lawrenceville United Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.
Legal Services
Lennon/Parson Language Services
Lightwave Project (WMC)
Little Lab
Magee Women’s Hospital of UPMC Management Sciences Associates
Mediheal
Media One Group Radio
Microsoft
Ministry of Education (Spain)
Motown Lehman
NYCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Monsanto Healthcare
MS Consultants
National Parks Service
Neighborhood Youth
Ouachita Program
NRM Group
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Nispedgean
Ohio Valley Hospital
Omni Hotels and Resorts
PA Cyber Charter School
Paragon Foods
PCEM
Penguin Shop
Penn State College of medicine
Pittsburgh Promise
Pittsburgh Public School District
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh Public School District
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
PNC
PPO Industries
Purdue University
RAM Acoustical
Range Resources
Red Earth
Rex FE Products, Inc.
Rheikl Pharmacy
Robert Morris University
Rodale Shamin
Robrich Cadillac Inc.
Royal Danboustan International
SAG-AFTRA
So-Tek Consultants, Inc
Seth
Slippery Rock University
Spartan Pharmacy
St. Vincent’s School
Steelcase Education Project
Stitch Fix
Student Conservation Association
STV
Suizhouhuan International Group, LLP
Tailored Marketing Inc.
Tarte Cosmetics, Inc
Temple Steel Company
Tentative Bar and Tap
The National Council for Behavioral Health
The Pittsburgh Group
The Pittsburgh Promise
Thermo Fisher
UK Corporation
Total Spectrum
TrafficC1 Institute
Truman
Trib Total Media
Trito Industries-McDonley & Torley
United States Postal Service
Ushmm Corporation
United States Senate
University of Florida
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health
URMC
URMC Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care
URMC Health Plan
URMC Mercy Hospital
URMC Shady Lane Hospital
UPS
Vanguard Group, GA
Vanguard Collaborative System
Visual Connections, Washington DC
Walmart Institute
Wayfair
WGN (West Virginia)
Wendy L. Williams and Associates
WESCO Distribution
West Virginia Power
West Hartford Case Management and Support
Wexmor & Associates
Woodland Hills School District
WIPP CE Richmond TV
WJU Healthcare
WVCA of Greater Pittsburgh

The Promise Graduate we hired has been a strong positive force contributing to the success of our team and the greater shared services organization. Specifically, we appreciate the positivity, engagement and willingness to learn, which seems to be part and parcel of The Pittsburgh Promise Scholars.

MOLLY DAUSCH
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL SHARED SERVICES – PROCUREMENT TO PAY, ARIZONA

The Pittsburgh Promise alumni we hired had a positive attitude and really appreciated the opportunity we provided. Without The Pittsburgh Promise, they may not have had the opportunity to attend college and develop their career path. We provided job training, and assisted with their professional development.

CHARLES HAMMEL
PRESIDENT, PIT OHIO

Dollar Bank has deep roots in Pittsburgh. We have been providing banking services to residents and businesses for over 163 years. Pittsburgh Promise alumni are a critical part of our team, offering a resource of diverse and talented young people contributing to our success and to the quality of life in our region.

JIM MCQUADE
PRESIDENT & CEO, DOLLAR BANK

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. exists to strengthen our region’s leadership pipeline. Hiring Pittsburgh Promise alumni is just one of many ways we live our mission. Promise alums bring to our organization a passion for Pittsburgh, experiences that endow them with maturity beyond their years, and the wit and grit to meet the demands of steep learning curves.

ARADHAH DIJAHM
PRESIDENT & CEO, LEADERSHIP PITTSBURGH, INC.
In 2007, before we had taken one step or provided one scholarship, UPMC believed in the value proposition of The Pittsburgh Promise. They announced a commitment to give $100 million payable over ten years to ensure that the promise that lives in each of Pittsburgh’s children could see the full light of opportunity.

In 2017, with UPMC CEO Mr. Jeffrey Romoff, we celebrated the completion of their pledge as they provided the one hundred millionth dollar to The Pittsburgh Promise.

In 2017, with UPMC CEO Mr. Jeffrey Romoff, we celebrated the completion of their pledge as they provided the one hundred millionth dollar to The Pittsburgh Promise.

EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

We created the Executive Scholars program to build a connection between high-performing students and our corporate and individual donors who support The Promise at a minimum level of one million dollars.

This is one of the ways The Promise helps students transition not only from high school to college, but also from college to a career.

It is an understatement to say that without UPMC’s early and exceptional support, there would not have been a Pittsburgh Promise. Our audacious idea became a realized dream because our friends said “yes” to our children’s promise.

We also have several named scholarships to recognize donors who have made $100,000 investments in The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship fund and who wish to personalize their gifts to specific students.

The Promise is honored to recognize these donors with named scholarships:

- American Textile Company (Ruttenberg Family Fund)
- Art Rooney Scholarship Fund
- Mascaro Construction Company
- Zeve Family Foundation

UPMC COMMITMENT

In 2007, before we had taken one step or provided one scholarship, UPMC believed in the value proposition of The Pittsburgh Promise. They announced a commitment to give $100 million payable over ten years to ensure that the promise that lives in each of Pittsburgh’s children could see the full light of opportunity.

In 2017, with UPMC CEO Mr. Jeffrey Romoff, we celebrated the completion of their pledge as they provided the one hundred millionth dollar to The Pittsburgh Promise.

More than 5,500 donors have already given $202 million to expand the possibilities and widen the opportunities available to urban youth in Pittsburgh. These include:

- 5,300 individuals
- 150 foundations
- 200 corporations

EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR COMPANIES

- American Eagle Outfitters
- BNY Mellon
- Giant Eagle
- KeyBank
- Mylan
- McGuinn Family Foundation
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- UPMC
- PMC
- Highmark
- PNC
It is imperative to the future of our region that we work collaboratively to educate students and retain them to support the continued expansion of our diverse economy, which is generating career opportunities for students with post-high school training or a college degree.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a great example of how we can work together as a community to capitalize on these opportunities, and Highmark Health is proud to be a supporter of this groundbreaking program as we are very focused on educating the next generation healthcare workforce.

---

**UPMC SCHOLARS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE**

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

- **Cheyenne Matthews**  
  Cheyenne is studying psychology at Carnegie 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 neuroscience 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 a cyber forensic analyst for a large company in the future.

---

**UPMC 100 MILLION**

There is nothing more important than the education of our children. Thus it was not a challenge for UPMC to consider investing $100 million in The Pittsburgh Promise. It was not something that we considered to be foreign to our mission. Indeed, It was something we considered to be essential to our mission.

JEFFREY ROMOOFF  
President and Chief Executive Officer, UPMC

---

**HIGHMARK SCHOLARS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE**

- **Sarah Oszman**  
  Sarah graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick, where she was captain of the basketball and softball teams. She is a 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 CCP. 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.

---

**HIGHMARK 5 MILLION**

It is imperative to the future of our region that we work collaboratively to educate students and retain them to support the continued expansion of our diverse economy, which is generating career opportunities for students with post-high school training or a college degree.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a great example of how we can work together as a community to capitalize on these opportunities, and Highmark Health is proud to be a supporter of this groundbreaking program as we are very focused on educating the next generation healthcare workforce.

DAVID HOLMBERG  
President and Chief Executive Officer, Highmark Health
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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 Allderdice 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 great 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.

PNC 3.8 MILLION

One of the greatest challenges our region will face in the years ahead will be the growing gap between the number of good jobs available here and the availability of workers with the education and skills to fill them. The Pittsburgh Promise is playing a critical role in the effort to find solutions that close that gap as it builds bridges between employers, educators, and students. The Promise helps businesses appreciate the challenges of educators, helps educators understand the demands of the marketplace, and opens a pathway to success for students who imagine a bright future in Pittsburgh.

WILLIAM DEMCHAK
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
THE PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

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 maintaining 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.

BNY MELLON 2.4 MILLION

At BNY Mellon, being invested in the world means using our expertise, skills, and resources to help bring positive change in society and for the environment. Our investment in The Pittsburgh Promise is making a positive change in our community.

The Promise also provides our company and our region a distinct, competitive advantage by fueling the talented and diverse workforce we need to create a future that benefits everyone.

WILLIAM DEMCHAK
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
THE PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

WILLIAM DEMCHAK
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
THE PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS SCHOLARS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE

Brooke Bova  Brooke is an 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 an 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 at Pittsburgh of UPMC and started a mental health awareness campaign at Pittsburgh Schen. She learned the value of giving back while volunteering at a nursing home.

Josephine Friedman  Attending Chatham University to study media arts, Josephine enjoy 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 masters. Community service taught him the value of helping others. Dremond graduated from Pittsburgh City High.

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS

1.1 MILLION

American Eagle Outfitters empowers young people to reach their full potential and express their most authentic version of themselves.

We are proud to support The Pittsburgh Promise, which has been effective in promoting academic success and encouraging students in the Pittsburgh community to dream big and work hard toward their highest aspirations.

JAY SCHOTTENSTEIN  CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

GIANTEAGLE 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 his 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.

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS SCHOLARS

1.1 MILLION

Giant Eagle invests in The Pittsburgh Promise because we know that it’s an investment in the vitality of our region. By providing college scholarships to Pittsburgh’s students, The Promise is strengthening our incoming workforce and our communities.

LAURA KARET  CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GIANT EAGLE
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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 plans to use her passion for the outdoors to raise awareness on environmental issues in hopes of making an 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.

Maisy Arlet  Maisie is a business management major at Cornell 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.

Jahonna Lipscomb  A political science major at Penn State 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 Allderdice graduate, Bria is proud to be the first in her family to attend college. She plans to eventually go on to medical school.

Maisie Arlet  Maisie is a business management major at Carlow University. She plans to 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.

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.

We believe The Pittsburgh Promise is the most important thing going on in our community because it has the broadest impact: It encourages families to live in the city; incent kids to stay in school and enables them to get a post-secondary education; and helps prepare skilled workers for our employers.

MARTY MCGUINN  THE MCGUINN FAMILY FOUNDATION
Albert Einstein said, ‘It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.’ Once that passion has been discovered, there should be no barriers, real or imagined, that hold us back. The Pittsburgh Promise is freeing the hearts and minds of our best and brightest students to dream big and be unencumbered in their pursuits. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers, in particular, are in growing demand as Pittsburgh becomes one of the country’s premier high-tech centers. The Pittsburgh Promise is helping to prepare the next generation of our workforce for these rewarding and highly-skilled opportunities. This is not just an investment in our youth; it is an investment in our region’s future.”

LISA WITTE
PRESIDENT, RESEARCH & SAFETY MARKET
NORTH AMERICA AND EMERGING MARKETS,
THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC

Samantha Moon  
A graduate of Pittsburgh Science, 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.

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 South.

THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE

At Thermo Fisher, our core purpose has been to provide access to high quality medicine for more than 55 years. We are proud to support The Pittsburgh Promise as a strong partner in the passionate pursuit of access — in particular, through access to education for young people in our region.

We believe that the opportunity to build a strong foundation through scholarships to universities has the power not only to change a young person’s life but also to propel our region forward, and we are excited to be part of the growth.”

HEATHER BRESCH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC

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.

THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE

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 new 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-Behring.

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 South.

Mylan 1 MILLION

At Mylan, our core purpose has been to provide access to high quality medicine for more than 55 years. We are proud to support The Pittsburgh Promise as a strong partner in the passionate pursuit of access — in particular, through access to education for young people in our region.

We believe that the opportunity to build a strong foundation through scholarships to universities has the power not only to change a young person’s life but also to propel our region forward, and we are excited to be part of the growth.”

HEATHER BRESCH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MYLAN

Samantha Moon  
A graduate of Pittsburgh Science, 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.

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 South.
THANK YOU

THEM SAY IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD. THE FOLLOWING PAGES REVEAL THE HEIGHT AND DEPTH, BREATH AND WIDTH OF THE VILLAGE THAT LOCKED ITS ELBOWS AROUND OUR CITY’S CHILDREN AND DECLARED THAT THEIR FUTURES ARE INDEED INTERTWINED. WITH BREATHLESS WONDER, WE UTTER A HUMBLE “THANK YOU.”

$100 MILLION
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

$10 MILLION TO $99.9 MILLION
The Grable Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
The Pittsburgh Foundation

$5 MILLION TO $9.9 MILLION
Highmark
Richard King Mellon Foundation

$1 MILLION TO $4.9 MILLION
American Eagle Outfitters
BNY Mellon
The Benter Foundation (Bill & Vivian Benter)
The Buhl Foundation
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
Eden Hall Foundation
Giant Eagle
Hillman Foundation
KeyBank
Massey Charitable Trust
McGuinn Family Foundation
Mylan
PNC
Thermo Fisher Scientific

$500,000 TO $999,999
Bayer USA Foundation
The Fine Foundation
The University Club of Pittsburgh Charitable and Educational Trust

$100,000 TO $499,999
Anonymous
Allisons Foundation
Alon H. & Selma W. Beckman Charitable Trust
Art Dooaney Scholarship Fund
Ritchie Battle
Bessie F. Anathan Charitable Trust
The Birmingham Foundation
Helen and Stephen Casey
Charles E. Kaufman and Virginia Kaufman Fund
Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co.
Constellation Energy Group Foundation
Covestro
Joan and Jack Diederich
Direct Energy
FISA Foundation
Fund for Excellence
H.J. Heinz Company Foundation
Dana & Franco Harris (Super Bakery Inc.)
Huntington National Bank
Anne V. Lewis (Oxford Development Company)
Lumina Foundation for Education
Masco Construction
Michael Baker International
Morby Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.
PIT OHIO
Range Resources
Raymond C. and Martha S. Suckling Fund
Robert S. Waters Charitable Trust
The Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Ruttenberg Family Fund (American Textile Company)
Scott Fund
Ginny and Richard Simmons
Universal Electric Corporation
Walnut Capital Partners
William Christopher and Mary Laughlin Robinson Fund
Zeve Family Foundation

Photo: Joshua Franzos
We are exceptionally grateful to our supporters and fundraising volunteers for the remarkable investments they have made to support our mission. It is because of them that our students can dream big, work hard and give back.

DONORS

We are exceptionally grateful to our supporters and fundraising volunteers for the remarkable investments they have made to support our mission. It is because of them that our students can dream big, work hard and give back.
$1,000 to $4,999

Anonymous (8)

Anonymous (8)
The Keepers of The Pittsburgh Promise are engaged community leaders who enhance the work of The Promise through their personal commitment to Pittsburgh’s youth and the vitality of our city. Keepers of The Promise support and promote The Promise by raising visibility and awareness, assisting with fundraising efforts through community outreach, and building relationships with and between Promise Donors, Promise Scholars, and Promise Alumni.

FOUNDBING MEMBERS
Jeanne Berdik
Ann and Paul Bridges
Debbie Dick and Art Stryjek
Gretchen and Bill Gilarenk
Janet and Bill Hunt
Merid and Jim Royston
Pat and Alan Siger

CHARTER MEMBERS
Robin Joan Bernstein
Lynda and Joel Coslov
Cornelia Davis
Ellen and John Eichleay, Jr.
Sue and Mark Gleason
Sara and Alan Guttman
Erin and James Isler
Betsy and Steve Magley
Susan and Marty Mogules
Gold and Tom Murphy
Anatine and Grant Oliphant
Judy Rosow
Jill and Tom Raspel
Cris and Alex Scott
Gayle and Bill Simpson
Kathy and Lou Testoni
Susan and Bruce Weiner

KEEPERS
Dede and Ken Auer
Suzanne Alexander
Donna and Ben Allen
Michael Amrhein
Weesley and Chip Bost
Rhonda and Kevin Bolding
Karen and Richard Brennan
Roberto and David Brody
Richard Burkill
Esther Bush
Helen and Steve Casey
David Cohen
Lavile and Chuck Craron
Kristy and Alfred Cupelli
Angela and Michael Dekorov
Carol and Brian Duggan
Barbara and Don Eichenlaub
Dolly and Curt Ellenberg
Rachel Firestone and Jason Binder
Mindy Firman
Edith (Toto) Fisher
Mary and Mark Flaherty
Lauren and Roger Flammery
Stephanie and Tom Flennory
Dawn and Chris Flatscher
Kim and Curt Fleming
Frederick Frank
Amanda Badley
Lori and Richard Guttman
Maryanne and Ted Hermann
Candace Hesbon
Judi Hergen and Steve Povner
Mardi and Bill Isler
Diane Katz
Ellen and Jack Kreikor
Peggy and Max King
David Kudla and Mark Meaders
Cynthia and Steve Ladley
Dana Latimer
Mallie and Tom Long
Ramsay and Mike Lyons
Wendy and Peter Mars
Peggy and Steve Midnight
Wendy and Bryant Mitchell
Bonnie and Ed Morris
Ellen Ormrod
Barra and Todd Podos
Phil Parn
Nancy and Bill Rastell
Sanyo Akaduse Reagans
Rae and Joe Reschini
Jean and Franko Reisback Robinson
Julie Schraeder
Emily and Jonathan Shinko
Carl Siger and Scott Backus
Cynthia Skrzyzsk
Peggy and Steve Sivey
Alice Snyder
Jim Spenser and Michael Lin
Sukanya Srinivasan and Henry Willis
Kathy and Ian Stewart
Charles Stewart III
Carol and Paul Stockman
Lila Swan and David Hilman
Linda and Jay Thier
Gary Verkleeren
Signe and Winthrop Watson
Susie and John Wean
Sharon Werner and Eric Dihon
Sara White and Mark Aba
Lynnda and Ed Wein
Florence Zvee

The Pittsburgh Promise hosts an annual 5K walk to raise awareness and essential scholarship funds. Since 2014, students, families, Pittsburgh Public Schools staff, and community supporters gather from all 90 neighborhoods of the City of Pittsburgh to walk for scholarships. Oxford Development Company issues a $10,000 challenge grant annually to participants who have risen to the challenge and unlocked the funds each year with their personal fundraising efforts. Just as student voices are rising across the nation, students took a lead in making the most recent walk a terrific success.

Promise Legacy, the Alumni group of The Pittsburgh Promise, and Promise Ambassadors from every Pittsburgh high school formed teams to raise funds. Community members from across the region joined the fun, and PPS leaders, staff, and teachers, led by Superintendent Dr. Anthony Hamlet, helped to make Walk for One Promise 2018 one of the best yet!

SINCE 2014, THE WALK HAS RAISED

$136,763

600 WALKERS AND
1700 DONORS HAVE PARTICIPATED
WADE LIPSCOMB GIVES BACK TO HELP OTHERS

Wade reflects the full circle of giving behind the mission of The Pittsburgh Promise. He received a Promise Scholarship after graduating from Pittsburgh Allderdice in 2010, then earned his bachelor’s degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from Penn State University. After three college internships, Wade was hired by Range Resources and has worked hard to become a Reservoir Engineer II. He’s now a regular donor to The Promise, and a participant in events and conversations with other donors.

Wade’s care for Pittsburgh’s young people extends to a depth that goes beyond writing a check. He has invested his time and talents as a coach for a nonprofit youth boxing program in the city. He works hard to instill the values of hard work and persistence that he received when growing up in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood.

In addition to their belief in hard work, both of Wade’s parents actively illustrated their giving spirit while he was young. They extended hospitality, respect, and kindness to many vulnerable people who found their way into the family’s life. His parents thought nothing of bridging gaps with a few dollars or a place to stay when someone simply needed a break or a second chance.

Wade continues their legacy with his giving and is fortifying that spirit with his new wife’s active participation in philanthropic decisions. As Wade says, “Her willingness to help is one of the many reasons why I chose to marry her. She is a nurse and always looking for ways to help and support any and everyone.”

Wade personifies the value of a Pittsburgh Promise scholarship. He gives so others might enjoy the benefits he’s experienced, enabling a giving circle with no end in sight.

PICTURED LEFT: Wade visits The Pittsburgh Promise offices located in the Hill District neighborhood of Pittsburgh.
In the previous pages, we reported on great outcomes and great challenges. We showed where the needle has moved meaningfully and where change has been slow in coming.

Some of the kids we serve are blessed with smooth paths. Others face giants that would make our bravest weak at the knees.

While we continue to widen the doors of opportunity for our city’s youth and shore up the structures that are meant to educate, support, and launch them into fruitful adulthoods, we need your help.

At minimum, we promised to provide scholarships through the high school class of 2028 and until their college completion in 2032. To do that we must raise an additional $63 million, for a total of $265 million.

We are so very thankful to our generous friends who have been so good to our children and have already provided $202 million for their Promise scholarships.

OUR JOURNEY

WE NEED OLD FRIENDS TO STAY WITH US A LITTLE LONGER AND NEW FRIENDS TO JOIN US ON THE NEXT LEG OF THE JOURNEY.

We make giving easy through several convenient options!

ONLINE
pittsburghpromise.org

MAIL
Mail your check to:
1901 Centre Avenue
Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

United Way
Use our agency code number 9576075 when donating

CFC
Use our agency code number 19130 when donating

STOCK OR PLANNED GIFTS
To make a stock gift or discuss a planned gift, please contact Marsha Kolbe at 412.745.2216
Boards of Directors & Staff

The Pittsburgh Promise is governed by remarkable board members, and staffed by diligent team members, who listen attentively to the voices of our students and families, donors and investors, partners and educators, data and evaluations, and hearts and minds. Then, they take actions that reflect care and precision as they steward the mission with which they have been entrusted.

Board of Directors

Franco Harris (Chair)
Member of the NFL Hall of Fame
Owner, Super Bakery, Inc.

Anne Lewis (Vice Chair)
Board Chair
Oxford Development Company

Kiya Tomlin (Treasurer)
Founder & Custom Designer
Uptown Sweats Kiya Tomlin

Debra Kline Demchak (Secretary)
Community Leader

Maxwell King (Ex-Officio)
President & CEO
The Pittsburgh Foundation

Mark Laskow (Investment Committee)
Managing Director
Greycourt & Co.

Saleem Ghubril (Executive Director)
The Pittsburgh Promise

Chester R. Babst III
Managing Shareholder
Babst Calland

Laurie Barkman
Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer
Burns White

William Benter
Founder and Chairman
Acusis

Candi Castleberry Singleton
Vice President
Intersectionality, Culture & Diversity
Trying Together

Joshua Devine
Economic Development Strategist
Fourth Economy

Finance

Sisterson & Co. LLP completed our independent financial statement audit as of and for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016. The selected financial highlights below were derived from audited financial statements.

For a full copy of our audited financial statements, please visit our website at www.pittsburghpromise.org or contact 412-281-7605 to request a copy.

Financial Highlights of the 2017 and 2016 Audited Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$78,340,718</td>
<td>$93,515,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$449,516</td>
<td>$727,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>46,210,995</td>
<td>56,430,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary restricted net assets</td>
<td>77,891,202</td>
<td>92,797,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$78,340,718</td>
<td>$93,515,096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Activities Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, gains, and other support</td>
<td>$7,431,717</td>
<td>$9,209,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships approved, net</td>
<td>19,555,676</td>
<td>18,284,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>2,772,514</td>
<td>2,096,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>($14,896,773)</td>
<td>($11,302,024)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>