

SPRING
2019

P²

THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE
MAGAZINE

YOUR
POST-SECONDARY
Survival
KIT

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Naviance

MEET OUR
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CONNECT WITH THE PROMISE



1ST WORD

MARY JANE WATSON SAID TO PETER PARKER,
“EVERYBODY NEEDS HELP SOMETIMES, PETER, EVEN SPIDERMAN.”

On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you answer the following questions?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
It's easy for me to ask for help					Asking for help is a sign of weakness				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I ask for help at the first sign of struggle					I ask for help when I'm at the end of my rope				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I have lots of people I can ask for help					I can count all my helpers on one finger				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I am ready to help anyone					Everybody's got to figure it out for themselves				

While some people have absolutely no difficulty asking for help, and others find it nearly impossible to ask for help, my guess is that most of us are somewhere in the middle. Making choices that impact your future is a pretty big deal. Like in a game of chutes and ladders, some decisions create an opportunity to climb higher and go farther; other decisions could result in a backward slide.

While in a game, the consequences don't matter, your life matters greatly.

If not for the counsel and care of a few mentors, my life would have seen a lot more chutes than ladders. Those mentors helped me develop a vision for my life, recover from mistakes, strengthen my character, deepen my faith, sharpen my values, and have clarity about what I wanted to do as a career. Even though I am now a grandfather, I still have mentors that I rely on for wisdom and guidance.

I think it is super important that you do too. I want you to identify family members, or religious leaders, or coaches, or teachers, or counselors, or neighbors, or others that you trust and ask them a few questions like the ones I list here:

- If you knew when you were my age what you know now, what would you have done differently?
- What choice that you made as a teenager had a positive impact on your life as an adult?
- Why did you choose the career path that you are now on?
- Who did you ask for guidance when you were a student?
- Who do you look up to now for guidance and wisdom?

Come up with other questions and keep doing this for the rest of your life.

Your future is worth it. ■

Saleem Ghubril Executive Director | The Pittsburgh Promise



1

LIVE

In the City of Pittsburgh

90

Neighborhoods to choose from!

2

ATTEND

Pittsburgh Public Schools



3

EARN

A Promise scholarship

Attendance 90% + 2.50 GPA cumulative & unweighted



Your Promise scholarship

the pittsburgh promise.

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

BUILDING COMMUNITY

TEENBLOC

SUPPORT THEIR MISSION
TO CREATE POSITIVE
CHANGE IN SCHOOLS.

TeenBloc is a program of A+ Schools, an independent advocacy organization whose primary functions are to inform, engage, and mobilize families, youth, and the community for educational excellence and equity in Pittsburgh's public schools.

Since its establishment in 2004, A+ Schools has become an important voice for greater equity and improved quality in public education in Pittsburgh.

A+ Schools has developed a set of programs and publications that encourage community stakeholders to take action to improve our schools, including the TeenBloc program that we both participate in. Since 2013, the program has engaged teens from a variety of high schools throughout the Pittsburgh area, including but not limited to the Pittsburgh Public Schools, in a variety of activities that focus on amplifying student voice and supporting youth development.

Each school year kicks off with a week-long TeenBloc Youth Organizing Academy, which equips us with a toolkit of organizing concepts and tactics, as well as connecting us with other student and community leaders. Throughout the school year, we meet monthly after school to attend various youth development workshops and activities, such as learning ways to be social advocates and how to create a resume and career plan. TeenBloc participants also engage in A+ Schools' other activities, like the MLK Dreaming Radically Youth Conference, University Teach-ins, or recording a podcast.

We think it's important to listen to what students have to say because we are the future, and families, schools, and communities are responsible for preparing us for what's to come.

Just like the students who came before us built a foundation for us, we need to do the same thing for the ones who will follow after us.

TeenBloc is also important to us because there are not many places where you can hear the opinions or perspectives of students. On top of this, depending on the neighborhood they live in or lifestyle they're growing up in, many students may not have access to resources or mentors to help them. When bad things are going on around us, students may be unfamiliar with the problems they're experiencing or not know what to do. TeenBloc aims to provide support for times like those.

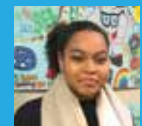
If you have a busy schedule, don't let that hold you back from joining TeenBloc. Students are welcome to attend as many monthly meetings as their schedule allows, but it's not required to attend them all. You can also decide to only join TeenBloc at the events like MLK Dreaming Radically Youth Conference. ■

To learn more about
TeenBloc and get
involved, contact
Amie Matson.

412-697-1298 ext. 113
amatson@aplusschools.org



Jhaunea Sherer is a junior at Nazareth Prep in Emsworth. She became connected with A+ Schools through her school's internship placement last year and has been active in TeenBloc ever since. Her plan after high school is to pursue a teaching career.



Michelle Bethel is a junior at Pittsburgh Allderdice. She became connected with TeenBloc over a year ago, and her memorable comment to her mom after her first TeenBloc meeting was, "Finally! You actually brought me to something good this time." Michelle plans to pursue a career as a school counselor.



*THIS PROMISE ALUMNUS
GIVES SO OTHERS MIGHT
ENJOY THE BENEFITS
HE'S EXPERIENCED,
ENABLING A GIVING
CIRCLE WITH NO END
IN SIGHT.*

**“
A Pittsburgh
Promise
scholarship
opened up
opportunities
for me that I
never thought
were possible.
”**

Wade Lipscomb graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice in 2010. He completed his bachelor's at Penn State University and is now employed by Range Resources.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a tremendous program that had a considerable impact on my life.

After graduating from Pittsburgh Allderdice, I earned my bachelor's degree in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from Penn State University. After three college internships, I was hired by Range Resources and worked hard to become a Reservoir Engineer II.

Today, as a Promise alum, I proudly stand by the wonderful staff of The Pittsburgh Promise and hope to see the program live on for generations. I believe in The Pittsburgh Promise. That's why now I'm a supporter myself. Beyond writing checks, I also attend events and engage other donors in conversations about the impact of the scholarship on the lives of students and alumni like me.

In addition to supporting The Promise, I also coach for a nonprofit youth boxing program. For me, working with young people provides the opportunity to instill the same values of hard work and persistence that I developed growing up in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood and helped me to get where I am today.

My parents actively modeled having a giving spirit while I was young. They extended hospitality, respect, and kindness to many vulnerable people who found their way into the family's life. My 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.

I think that the work I'm doing in our community today carries their legacy on and my efforts have been fortified by my new wife's active participation in philanthropic decisions.

Her willingness to help others is one of the many reasons why I chose to marry her. She is a nurse and always looking for ways to support any and every one.

I give to The Promise because I want the program to continue to provide the opportunity for success to Future Promise Scholars like you.

Keep working hard and dreaming big! ■



Interested in giving back?
Visit www.pittsburghpromise.org/give.

One of *Washington Monthly's*
**Top 25 in
the Nation**

*Based on what the College and our students
are doing for the public good*

“Allegheny is doing the work that
more schools should be doing:
challenging students and holding
them accountable to their potential.”

HILARY OSWALD, EDITOR
Colleges That Change Lives

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

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

Design virtual worlds

“Immersive media creates a lot of opportunities for thinking both about how do
we create ways to invite people into experiences that are really inaccessible and
also how do we invent completely new kinds of experiences.”

— Doug North Cook
Assistant professor of immersive media

To see the whole story, visit youtube.com/chathamu

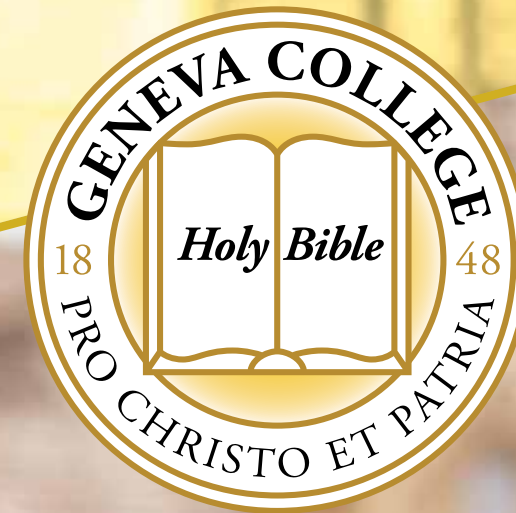
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Communications

Arts & Sciences

Learn more at
chatham.edu/explore



Brett Searcy - Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate of Barack Obama
Academy of International Studies 6-12,
Electrical Engineering major at
Geneva College, class of 2020;
Read more at Geneva.edu/brett

*“Studying engineering requires discipline and faith.
Geneva College provides me with the environment to
stay grounded and grow spiritually.”*

Brett uses Geneva's Pittsburgh Promise match to double the money she can use for her education.
With caring professors and friendly classmates, she gets plenty of support and sees God continue His work in her life.

over
115
majors and
programs

Geneva.edu/promise

NEW! Geneva Room and Board Grant of up to **\$40,000** over four years!
Geneva College is a member of the Pittsburgh Promise Preferred College Partners Program.



In 2016, the Association of American Medical Colleges reported that only 41.5% of medical school applicants were admitted to a single program.

Although it's competitive to be accepted into medical programs, there are things that you can do as early as 6th grade to boost your chance of an eventual medical school acceptance.

Middle School

In middle school, a future physician spends their time preparing for the rigors of an advanced high school curriculum. Enroll in the highest level of math. Many successful medical school applicants completed at least one year of Calculus in high school, which means that you should try to complete Algebra I in 8th grade if possible.

Learning how to perform well on standardized tests will also benefit you. If you are underperforming on the PSSA, for instance, it may be because you struggle with test taking. There are free resources that you can use to improve your test taking skills. I particularly like Khan Academy's tips and tricks (www.khanacademy.org).

Grades 9 & 10

Maximize your academic effort and push yourself in challenging classes when you get to high school. If you can get at least a B/84% in an Honors/AP/IB class, it is worth it to stay in that level.

This is a good time to explore if medicine is a good fit for you while also logging community service hours. For example, volunteering with the Special Olympics might expose you to genetic and developmental diseases that you could envision yourself treating or researching. Joining a hospital-based volunteer program will allow you to witness clinical care up close.

Grade 11

Continuing your study of a foreign language throughout high school may give you an advantage when you apply to medical school. This is because the number of Americans for whom English is not their primary language is growing, and medical school admissions offices often look to develop a physician population that serves community needs.

Use the summer after 11th grade to grow your exposure to healthcare or the sciences. Some notable free programs include the UPMC Hillman Academy (hillmanacademy.upmc.com), the Governor's School for the Sciences (sciences.pa-gov-schools.org), and I Look Like a Cardiologist (more details in the sidebar). Be wary of expensive programs, as you can find equally prestigious free and paid opportunities.

Grade 12

When researching colleges, email the pre-health advising office. Ask about the volume of medical school applicants and acceptance rates.

Also find opportunities to talk to adults about their careers. Ask what they like about their chosen field, what their day looks like, and what training they needed. Although you may be planning a pre-medical track, it's always possible that a conversation with your dentist could reveal a hidden interest in dentistry. ■



The first "I Look Like a Cardiologist" conference was held on January 26th for western Pennsylvania girls interested in medicine and cardiology, more specifically. Cardiologists are doctors who specialize in studying or treating heart diseases and heart abnormalities. Professional mentors guided the students through simulations, discussions, and panel sessions. The program will be run again in the summer and this time, all students from backgrounds underrepresented in cardiology, including women, people of color, first-generation college students, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the program, email Diana Rodgers: diana@fiteducationconsulting.com



Diana Rodgers, M.A. M.Ed., is the founder of Fit Education Consulting, an independent educational consulting practice focused on preK-graduate school admission. She is a doctoral candidate in education at the University of Pittsburgh where she is writing her dissertation on diversity and medical school admission. With Dr. Kathryn Berlacher, MD, Diana founded the "I Look Like a Cardiologist" program.

IF YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR,
THE JOURNEY TO MEDICAL SCHOOL **STARTS NOW.**

“

I chose to transfer to KU from one of the top private universities in the country and I'm so glad! There are so many ways to get involved on campus, trips to NYC and Philly and opportunities to make a difference. I see plenty of diversity and there are people in every direction willing to help. I'm a city girl and KU is pretty rural, but it definitely feels like home.

— MARSHAE BATCHELOR, SOCIAL WORK/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“

I'm a first generation student who really didn't know what to expect out of college, but KU was so welcoming, it made my transition easy. You definitely get more attention than you would at a large university. Administrators helped me find jobs on campus and made me feel really comfortable. I even got to study abroad in Spain.

— FELIX ALBERTO, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/COMMUNICATIONS

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BE GOLDEN.

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- Williamson College of the Trades prepares qualified young men to be respected leaders and productive members of society.
- Williamson provides Trade, Leadership, and Character Development education centered on its core values of Faith, Integrity, Diligence, Excellence, and Service, resulting in an Associate in Specialized Technology Degree.
- Williamson relies on its endowment income, government grants, and the generosity of donors to provide each student a 3-year full scholarship covering 100% of the cost of tuition, room, and board.

www.williamson.edu



**JEROME ATTENDED ROSEDALE TECH
AND NOW HE'S LIVING THE DREAM**

Carving HIS OWN PATH

**My mom has always battled health problems,
so she's never been able to work.
Receiving a Promise scholarship
to attend Rosedale Tech was
huge for me. Without it,
I probably wouldn't
be where I am
today.**

Jerome Tria graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice in 2012. He has two associate degrees from Rosedale Technical College, where he completed both the automotive technology program and the diesel technology program, and he now works as a mechanic at Frank Bryan.

As high school graduation approached at Pittsburgh Allderdice, I felt pressured to consider a four-year institution.

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. But after I spent some time researching careers in nursing, I quickly realized it wasn't for me.

I always loved cars and trucks and I wondered if this passion could turn into a career. I started going to career fairs and I had a close friend who attended Rosedale Technical College, so I reached out to him for input. After I learned about the various career fields at the school, I decided to go take a tour of the campus. It felt like a perfect fit.

After I graduated from high school and enrolled at Rosedale Tech, I dove right into the automotive technology program and it became clear that I made the right decision.

I excelled in the coursework and enjoyed learning so much that following completion of the automotive program, I enrolled in the diesel technology program.

After graduating with two associate degrees, I immediately secured a job as a diesel technician at Frank Bryan, part of Bryan Materials Group. They are a family-run business and the laidback atmosphere matches my personality. My team services about 50 vehicles, which include cement trucks, triaxles, and occasionally some company pick-up trucks, so I have the opportunity to do the hands-on technical work that I love.

Thanks to Rosedale Tech and The Promise scholarship, today I'm practicing my skills and earning a living without worrying about repaying loans. I have an amazing job and a truck I love, I just bought a house, and my wife and I are going to have a baby this spring.

Based on my experience, I encourage Pittsburgh students to consider trade schools alongside four-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 possible to get a decent job right out of school. ■

YOUR POST-SECONDARY Survival KIT

ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR EDUCATION JOURNEY BUT FEELING OVERWHELMED, TOO? **DON'T PANIC.** THERE ARE STUDENT SERVICES IN PLACE TO HELP YOU FIGURE EVERYTHING OUT.

Finally! You're getting closer and closer to graduating from high school. And it's only taken what feels like *forever*. But soon, you'll be starting the next chapter of your education. You've been waiting *so long* for this. Working hard for it. Ready to move on and become more independent. Make your own choices and do your own thing.

And then... you get there. Pretty soon, you're trying to find your way around a strange place or a huge campus filled with one massive, unfamiliar building after another. There's a ton of work you need to do, this paper to write and that test to take. You look around and everyone seems to know where they're going, what they're doing, who to talk to and where they need to go. And suddenly you feel like you have no idea *what* you're doing here, *where* you're going, and who in the world can you talk to who would even understand what you're feeling right now, anyway?

The good news is that you don't have to worry. It's totally cool. Because yeah, you'll probably be working harder than you ever have before, but you are *not* on your own. There are support systems in place at almost every school called Student Services that are free and run by people who care about your well-being, who want to offer you a safe and nonjudgmental space to help you figure out whatever comes your way. Everything from making sure you're taking the right classes for your major and how to overcome test anxiety, to dealing with homesickness, stepping in to help settle roommate disputes and even inviting you to blow off some steam with other students by attending really fun social events like movie and game nights, segway tours of the city you're in, and trips to the ballfield.

The point is that if you put in the effort, you're *not* going to fail. You've got this. Your school wants you to succeed. And they know that the transition out of high school and on to higher education is exciting but can be tough. Really tough. Not everyone immediately adjusts to this next chapter in their life, and they get that. So, to stress out about it is also totally normal.



"There are so many benefits of using a college's services, like networking with faculty and other professionals that have years of experience that can guide you to what you need,"

Rebecca Boles graduated from Pittsburgh Brashear and is now studying biology at La Roche College.

"The transition from high school to post-secondary gives students a lot more balls to juggle. Students have to navigate a new academic environment and a new social scene and living situation. It's a lot to manage and overwhelms almost everyone at some point, particularly during the first year. That's why we require our Preferred College Partners to provide our students with more than just an additional room and board award. Our experience and recent research show that students need more than money to attain a post-secondary degree—they need access to robust and meaningful academic and social support services."

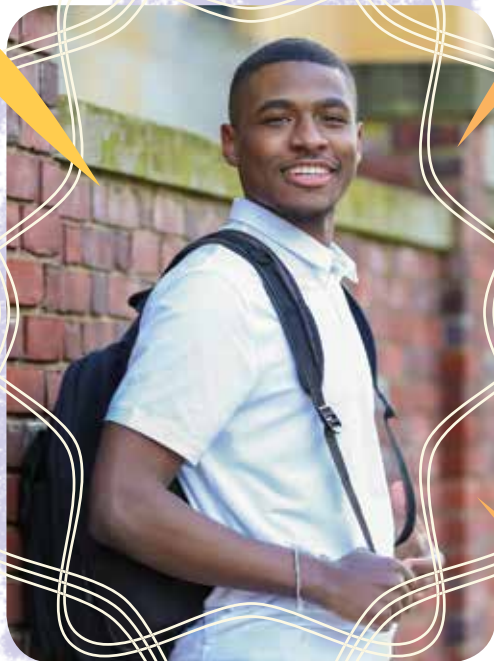
Shelley Scherer, Associate Executive Director of The Pittsburgh Promise

**LEARN
MORE**

Learn more about Preferred College Partners on page 18.

The way to make it less overwhelming is to take advantage of as many Student Services as you need to. Sign up for that networking movie night with student alumni, find a place that feels safe and comfortable for you and spend time there, and most importantly, talk to people about how you're feeling. Chances are pretty good that they're probably feeling the same way you are. Or, have been there, done that, and can offer you some perspective on things.

"There are so many benefits of using a college's services, like planning out your upcoming semester, networking with faculty and other professionals that have years of experience that can guide you to what you need," says Promise Executive Scholar, and La Roche College sophomore Rebecca Boles, who's majoring in biology. "They are not just working to help me, but they work to make all students grow in and out of the college. And when we finally graduate, we know who takes credit in helping us. In the end, you don't want to waste all those semesters not asking and talking with people to better yourself and your college experience."



"Sit in front of the class. I feel like when you sit in front of the classroom, you're the first person the teacher looks at. So, when you raise your hand, they see you first. Just experience it."

Kenneth Edmonds graduated from Pittsburgh Perry and is now studying graphic design at CCAC.

And don't forget that it's just as important to take care of yourself as it is to go to class, get your work done, and study. You definitely need to carve out some time to relax and do stuff that you love to do, even if it's as simple as watching your favorite television show or hanging out with friends; things that always make you feel good.

"My advice to students is to consider what they enjoyed being a part of in high school and testing that out on their college campus," says Duquesne University's Director of Freshman Development Adam Wasilko. "For example, many students come to Duquesne having had great experiences on an athletic team and join our intramural leagues or student government if they had a passion for that in high school. You will find like-minded students and form a community of people with the same goals as yourself. That tends to ease the anxiety and homesickness that sometimes happen while being away at college for the first time."

And sometimes, what can help ease a lot of tension is to take the time, energy, and effort to do things that seem obvious, but can make a world of difference in your overall experience.

"Go to class every day," says CCAC sophomore and graphic design major Kenneth Edmonds. "Sit in front of the class. I feel like when you sit in front of the classroom, you're the first person the teacher looks at. So, when you raise your hand, they see you first. Just experience it."

So, no matter where you land after high school, don't ever feel weird about reaching out and asking for help. Maybe you just need a little boost to get through those math classes. Maybe you need to spend your first year in close contact with guidance counselors. Just don't freak out. Take it step by step, do what you need to do, and don't forget that you're never, ever alone.



Kate Benz is a professional writer who contributes regularly to *Pittsburgh Quarterly* and *TABLE Magazine*.



SEE HOW WE RANK

Grove City College is a nationally ranked liberal arts and sciences college where students are equipped to pursue their unique callings through an academically excellent and Christ-centered learning and living experience. Our students learn about their place in the world, and how to use their talents to succeed not only in life, but to advance the common good.

An exceptional faculty, a beautiful campus, and a core curriculum that uses the wisdom of the ages inspires each generation to discover and create a better future.

Tuition and costs run about half the national average before scholarships and financial aid. Our graduates see a 96 percent placement rate and enjoy greater career satisfaction and higher than average starting salaries.



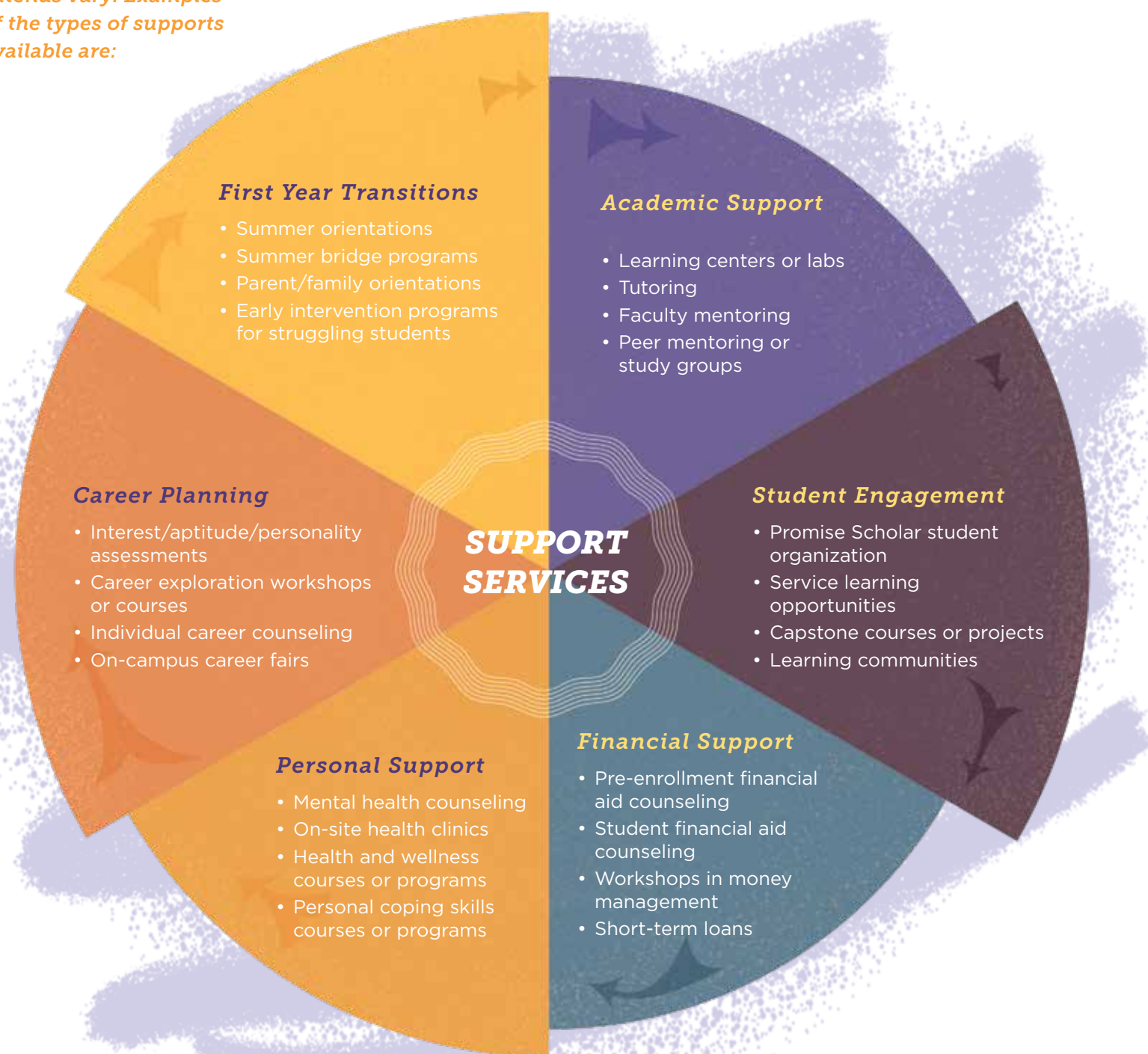
gcc.edu/howwerank

Preferred College Partners

The benefits each school extends vary. Examples of the types of supports available are:

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 provide grants for room and board to Promise-eligible students who are accepted to the institution. The schools will also provide targeted transition and academic support services to ensure student retention and success.



Questions? If you have questions about the Preferred College Partners program, email questions@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.

These participating **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
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
LA ROCHE COLLEGE

PENN STATE—SELECT CAMPUSES
PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE
POINT PARK UNIVERSITY
ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY
SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE
SETON HILL UNIVERSITY
SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY
THIEL COLLEGE
WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE
WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
WILLIAMSON COLLEGE OF THE TRADES

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

NEXT STEPS 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) by 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.

FROM PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO WEST POINT

MY POST-SECONDARY PATH WITH THE MILITARY

MILITARY SCHOOLS AND THE ARMED
SERVICES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO
MEET NEW PEOPLE, TRY NEW THINGS, AND
GO TO NEW PLACES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

When I think of my time at West Point and the Army, I reflect on all the things I've accomplished and look ahead to the opportunities that are still to come.

Some of my best memories in life are from the time I've spent at military school and in the armed services. While both West Point and the Army are tough, what you get out of each often goes underrated.

The people you live with and struggle alongside are from locales all across the country and world and will broaden your perspective. I have met some amazing people and learned from incredible mentors about their life experiences, which are extremely unique to their life in the army and living around the world.

Thanks to West Point and the Army, I have already had many once in a lifetime experiences in a number of far-flung states and countries.

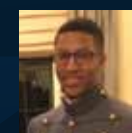
From leading a mission with 40 soldiers who were all older than me to having a private tour of the President of Poland's office by the President himself, the chance to do something exciting and rewarding is there.

For those interested in serving others, the armed services are one of many paths available that can offer you that opportunity. If it is a path you are considering, I recommend playing sports, both to stay in good shape and to learn about teamwork. Make sure you are comfortable working with others in a stressful environment. Growing yourself in these ways will not only help you get into college or the armed forces, but they also help develop excellence.

My military experience is allowing me to build upon the strong foundation provided by my education at Pittsburgh Public Schools. While it can be difficult to manage so many things at once in the armed services, I developed the ability to find the balance I needed to be a leader and perform well. Regardless of your interests, both organizations will push you to be a better you. ■

★
MY EXPERIENCES
WITH WEST POINT
AND THE ARMY HAVE
SOLIDIFIED MY FAITH
IN THIS NATION AND
MY DEDICATION IN
MAKING SURE IT IS
THE BEST IT CAN BE.
★

Joel Macklin is from Stanton Heights. He graduated in 2015 from Pittsburgh Obama.



★ DID YOU KNOW? ★

The Pittsburgh Promise allows students who enter the military after high school to defer their scholarship until after they are discharged. Students should contact The Promise office once they are discharged to pursue their scholarships funds.

questions@pittsburghpromise.org

Naviance

Helps Students Track Post-Secondary Success

Through Naviance, students in grades 6-12 can take advantage of four key benefits:

CREATION OF A PERSONALIZED PLAN: Every student is unique, and every student has different options for college and career. Naviance helps students devise a plan that suits their individual needs.

CAREER EXPLORATION: When students start exploring career possibilities early, they become more interested in succeeding in school. They also become more aware of a world of job opportunities waiting for them.

ACADEMIC PLANNING: Through Naviance, students, families, and counselors can work together to choose appropriate academic coursework that aligns with career goals.

SELF-DISCOVERY: Students become more confident in their abilities as they recognize their strengths and match their interests with potential careers. If their interests change, Naviance is there to redirect their efforts and help them find a new path to success.

NAVIANCE ALLOWS ALL STUDENTS
ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND
OPTIONS IN COLLEGE AND CAREERS.

Monika Pugh

Director of Student Support Services (Guidance)

Pittsburgh Public Schools envisions that all students will graduate high school college, career, and life-ready, prepared to complete a two- or four-year college degree or workforce certification. With the official adoption of Naviance in 2017, the District is moving in the right direction to support that vision.

Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness tool that helps schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life.

This easy-to-use tool helps students track important information, including their potential eligibility for The Pittsburgh Promise.

"We want to introduce these options at an early age. Pittsburgh Public Schools is ahead of the game by introducing it this early," said Monika Pugh, Director of Student Support Services (Guidance).

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS
OF THIS NEW, CONVENIENT TOOL.

Managed by counselors and social workers, Naviance looks different at every school. Some schools are rolling out the program in Social Studies, English or Intervention classes. Overall, every student in grades 6-12 uses Naviance to prepare for life after high school.

Domenique Ross is a senior at Pittsburgh CAPA studying dance, and she has many colleges and universities to choose from upon graduation, including Howard University, University of the Arts, Hampton University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She says Naviance made the application and decision process easier.

"Instead of sending my transcripts through the mail, my guidance counselor just did it through Naviance. Colleges were able to receive my information faster," said Ross.

Students can access Naviance Student through a mobile app that is available on their smart phones or tablets, allowing students to take Naviance with them, no matter where they are.

At the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, parents will have access to each student's profile. This access will help parents weigh in and/or guide their student regarding post-secondary education. In Spring 2019, Naviance will expand to students in grades 3-5. ■

LEARN
MORE

For more information about Naviance,
visit the District website:
www.pghschools.org/naviance

Since 2003, Mercedes J. Williams has worked in many different capacities at over 20 Pittsburgh Public Schools. Currently, she works for the district's Office of Public Information as Project Assistant where she manages social media, event planning, news stories, and serves as a liaison between the media and school district. Mercedes is a proud Pittsburgh Public Schools alumna, employee, and parent.



The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE
OUR 2018 CLASS OF
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS.

THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM BUILDS A PIPELINE BETWEEN HIGH-PERFORMING STUDENTS AND OUR MAJOR CORPORATE DONORS.

The program provides students with the chance to connect with the prestigious company with which they are matched and pursue professional development opportunities and relationships during their college years. High school seniors with a strong academic performance, a commitment to community service, and leadership skills are encouraged to apply. The Executive Scholars Program is one of the ways that The Promise can help students transition not only from high school to college, but also from college to a career. We are very proud of our 2018 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

UPMC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Sydney Washington Sydney was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador and salutatorian of her class at Pittsburgh Westinghouse. She is passionate about dance and was a member of the Lady Diamonds Dance Team. She is now attending Duquesne University and majoring in liberal arts. She wants to someday become a high school guidance counselor.



Tazio Polanco A passion for all things technological led Tazio to create a video game design club at Pittsburgh CAPA. Now he is studying computer science at the University of Pittsburgh. Community service taught him valuable skills like working well with others and he hopes to someday become a programmer at a large company like Google or Microsoft.



Bryce Chisom After graduating from Pittsburgh Obama, Bryce enrolled at Robert Morris University to study nursing. Bryce was Vice-President of her class and a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador. In addition to her Promise award, she received scholarships from the Northside Leadership Conference, NAACP Kappa Alpha Phi, and Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh.



Haley Herisko Haley is studying pre-applied health science at Seton Hill University with hopes of becoming a physician assistant or working in the healthcare field. She was passionate about cheerleading at Pittsburgh Brashear, where she also played soccer. Haley was a member of National Honor Society and she received the Mary Schmidt Scholarship.



Chelsea Lewis Chelsea was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador at Pittsburgh CAPA, where she received several awards for writing and the Shyne Award for Academics. In addition to her Promise award, she received a NEED Scholarship. Chelsea is now studying business and entrepreneurship at Temple University. In the future, she wants to run her own business.

Highmark Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Emma Ewing At Temple University, Emma is pursuing her passion for both the performing arts and science by studying dance alongside the pre-med track. She graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA with a Gene Kelly Award, among other awards for dancing. Emma worked as a YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Counselor and volunteered at Sacred Heart Parish.



Noor Nader Studying microbiology and pre-medicine at the University of Pittsburgh will allow Noor to achieve her goal of becoming a neurologist. She is passionate about science and interested in how scientific ideas impact humanity. Community service taught Noor about teamwork and helped in the development of leadership skills. She graduated from Pittsburgh Brashear.



Austin Taylor Austin is studying biology at the University of Pittsburgh. He aspires to become a cardiologist. In addition to being a Promise Ambassador at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Austin was also a member of National Honor Society and the track team. He won both the Gerwig Unselfish Service Award and the Carl H. Christ, Jr. Senior Engineering Award.



Alexandra Borelli Alexandra wants to help those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. She is in the physician assistant program at Gannon University and hopes to someday help find a cure for the disease. She was President of the National Honor Society, Class Council Vice-President, and valedictorian of her class at Pittsburgh SciTech.



Zha'Rae Lowery Zha'Rae graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice. She's in the medical program at CCAC and she aspires to help people by becoming a doctor. She is the first person in her family to attend college and she's proud that she is pursuing her education while also raising a child.

BNY Mellon Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Justice Jones Justice graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick. He was on the wrestling, football, volleyball, cross country, and track teams and received the CoGo's High School Sports Unsung Hero Award. Justice is now studying software engineering at Gannon University.



Sabria Davis Sabria graduated from Pittsburgh Obama and is now attending Temple University. She is studying bio-engineering and hopes to someday design affordable prostheses. In addition to participating in National Honor Society, she was also a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador and active in her school's music programs.



Ryan Andrews Recognized as "Literary Artist of the Year" at Pittsburgh CAPA, Ryan is now enrolled at Slippery Rock University where he was invited to join the Honors Program. He is studying mathematics and education with hopes to become an educator. Ryan has volunteered for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh since middle school and was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador.



Chandler Searcy A Pittsburgh Obama graduate, Chandler is now studying at Robert Morris University. She has already organized advocacy campaigns and hopes to use her marketing degree to design marketing campaigns that will make the world a better place to live. Chandler's achievements during high school earned her several grants and scholarships in addition to her Promise award.



Anna Gorske Music is Anna's passion and she has played violin for almost 13 years. In addition to citywide performing groups, she was also concertmaster of the Pittsburgh CAPA Student Orchestra. Her plans for the future are to continue honing her craft while pursuing a biology degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and eventually a career in the medical field.



Austin Oliver A passion for technology led Austin to Penn State-Behrend, where he is studying software engineering. He was a member of National Honor Society and the Senior Class Committee at Pittsburgh Carrick. Austin is OSHA Certified, Network MTA Certified, and Security MTA Certified. He interned at BNY Mellon and coaches children's dek hockey in his spare time.

PNC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Mia Belgie Mia is studying English at Temple University with hopes of becoming a public defender in the juvenile court system. She is active in her local community through The Pittsburgh Project and Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. She is passionate about photography, reading, and writing. Mia is a Pittsburgh CAPA graduate.



Scott Strassberger While attending Pittsburgh Allderdice, Scott was involved in many activities and clubs, including National Honor Society, Math League, and the Physics Bowl Team. At Bucknell University, he is studying mathematical economics with plans to become a statistician and help make the world a better place.



Zari Grandy Overton Aspiring to own several companies of her own someday, Zari is currently studying electrical and computer engineering at Temple University. This Pittsburgh Obama graduate is proud of helping the school's basketball team win three city championships. She was also in National Honor Society and enjoys helping others through community service.



Ian Thomas At Pittsburgh Obama, Ian was captain of the soccer team and valedictorian of his class. He loves to travel and values cross-cultural experiences. He is majoring in business at Carnegie Mellon University. It is his dream to use the power of business and entrepreneurship to strengthen communities and empower individuals.



Jenna Skufca While attending high school at Pittsburgh CAPA, Jenna also held a job at McDonald's. She worked hard on her grades and made the High Honor Roll, which helped her earn an academic scholarship to study at Robert Morris University. Her passion for helping others is what led her to major in nursing.

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PROMISE SCHOLARS TO DATE
HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS

"THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR PROGRAM
HELPED ME LEARN HOW TO CONDUCT
MYSELF IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER.
I'VE DEVELOPED NEW AND EFFECTIVE
WAYS TO MAINTAIN A PROFESSIONAL
MINDSET AND APPEARANCE THAT WILL
BE BENEFICIAL IN MY FUTURE CAREER."
ANAI'YA JONES, 2018 KEYBANK SCHOLAR

American Eagle Outfitters Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Noor El-Dehabi A Pittsburgh CAPA graduate, Noor is now an urban studies major at the University of Pittsburgh. She won several writing awards during high school and wrote for the school newspaper. Noor is passionate about creative writing and community-based art, so she was especially proud of her work as part of the Mattress Factory Art Cooperative's outreach programs.



Samikchya Rai Samikchya graduated from Pittsburgh Brashear, where she achieved High Honor Roll all four years. Samikchya has not yet declared a major at the University of Pittsburgh, but she is passionate about biology and the environment. Samikchya was in National Honor Society, volunteered at West Penn Hospital, and held an internship at Phipps Conservatory.



Teddy Caplan Majoring in fine arts, Teddy is attending the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. This Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate participated in the Student Conservation Association, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and was on the crew team during high school. Teddy volunteers with J-Serve and Sojourner House.



Sarah Jackson Sarah was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador at Pittsburgh Allderdice, where she participated in the Black Student Union and National Honor Society. In addition to her Promise award, she received a Ben Carson Scholarship. Sarah is studying marketing at Robert Morris University with hopes of becoming a real estate agent.



Miranda McArdle Miranda received a Trustee Scholarship to study at Point Park University. She is majoring in advertising and hopes to start her career quickly after graduating college. She attended Pittsburgh Carrick. As Vice-President of the Senior Class Committee, she was proud to fundraise and organize a memorable prom for her classmates.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Halley Cook Halley wants to become a physician to improve the quality of her patients' lives no matter where they live in the world. She is studying bioinformatics at University of Pittsburgh. Halley graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice. She completed a business internship with the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition and received the 2018 Pittsburgh Penguins Scholarship.



Amayia Lewis Amayia has a passion for helping and caring for animals. She is currently enrolled in the pre-veterinary program at Clarion University and hopes to one day own her own clinic. At Pittsburgh SciTech she was captain of the soccer team and a member of the Black Student Union. She also volunteered with Interact Club.



Uthman Fadu Uthman is studying bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh on a Stamps Scholarship. With passion for laboratory research and helping others, he aspires to become a heart surgeon. Uthman is most proud of his success at science competitions such as PRSEF and PJAS. He is a Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate.



Beatrice Milnes During her time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Beatrice received many awards for scientific research. She is now studying microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh with plans to go on to pursue a Ph.D. and run her own laboratory. Beatrice was on the soccer team and a member of the STEMism Club and Mock Trial Team.



Kayla Ackerman Kayla is majoring in nursing at Carlow University. She graduated with High Honors from Pittsburgh Carrick and participated in Student Council and the Senior Class Committee. Kayla is passionate about ice hockey and was proud to become assistant captain of the two teams that she played with during high school.

Giant Eagle Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Jeffrey Martin Having received The Swanson School of Engineering Excellence Award, Jeff is attending the University of Pittsburgh where his focus is mechanical engineering. He hopes to extend his passion for his go-kart into a career in automotive engineering. Jeff was involved in numerous activities and clubs and served as Class President at Pittsburgh Allderdice.



McKenzie Williams McKenzie was salutatorian of her class at Pittsburgh Carrick. She is in now in the pre-pharmacy program at the University of Pittsburgh. McKenzie was president of the student leadership group The Future Is Mine, secretary of both National Honor Society and Student Council, and participated in the Homecoming committee, International Club, and Engineering Club.



Markeya Killer-Dorsey Being accepted at her dream school, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, made Markeya proud of her efforts to maintain good grades during high school. She played on the basketball team while attending Pittsburgh Allderdice. In addition to volunteer work, she also held retail jobs and worked summers at the Ammon Recreational Center.



Jordyn Kemp While attending Pittsburgh Obama, Jordyn participated in National Honor Society and the drama club. She was proud to receive the Carson Scholarship, which she is using along with her Promise award to pursue her nursing degree at Duquesne University. She works at Eat'n Park and in her spare time she plays on a community softball team.



Blaze Pelles At Pittsburgh Carrick, Blaze was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador. He was proud of his community service work with National Honor Society and also participated in the Engineering Club and Chess Club. He is studying pharmacy at Duquesne University and has interest in conducting his own research someday.

KeyBank Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Jeremy Berardo In addition to being salutatorian of his class at Pittsburgh Carrick, Jeremy was also president of National Honor Society. He was recognized by the American Legion for both his academic performance and his community service work. Now a student at the University of Pittsburgh, he aspires to become a doctor after finishing college.



Rauli Johnson Rauli received an academic scholarship from Duquesne University, where she is majoring in accounting. Rauli is interested in auditing or forensic accounting after college, and eventually wants to work independently. This Pittsburgh Carrick graduate values community service and hopes to make a difference in people's lives.



Ignacio Cuevas Manu A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Ignacio was a National Honor Society member and a member of the cross country and track & field teams. He now attends the University of Pittsburgh where he's studying statistics, economics, and mathematics. Proud of his martial arts experience and accomplishments, Ignacio works as an Assistant Black Belt Instructor.



Anai'ya Jones A Pittsburgh Urban Pathways graduate, Anai'ya earned the Top Student Award, the President's Award, and a Leadership Award. She is now studying criminal justice at California University of Pennsylvania, where she received a Board of Governors Scholarship. She strives to be a peacemaker who can find justice in unjust situations and hopes to someday work for a major law firm.



Joshua Zito Joshua is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. He enjoys making gadgets and engineering maker projects and won several engineering awards while attending Pittsburgh SciTech. He was an intern and teaching assistant with Gene Team and a SciTech Student Ambassador. He also played soccer.

"THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM, I HAVE CONNECTED WITH SENIOR LEVEL STAFF OF THE COMPANIES THAT NOT ONLY MAKE PITTSBURGH MY HOME, BUT ALSO PUT OUR CITY ON THE MAP AND MARK US AS A PLACE FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT."

RYAN ANDREWS, 2018 BNY MELLON SCHOLAR

"BEING AN EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO NETWORK AND CONNECT WITH BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE IN MY CITY. THE PROGRAM ALSO OFFERS ME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD OTHERWISE."

JOHANNA LIPSCOMB, 2017 MCGUINN FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLAR

The Pittsburgh Promise and La Roche College made an investment in me because they believed I am worth it. Because of The Promise, in addition to the welcoming, encouraging and positive atmosphere of La Roche College, I can proudly say that I am a college graduate.

- NICOLE LINKES '16

Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.



McGuinn Family Foundation Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Keyona Hutchison Keyona is studying early childhood education at Carlow University. She was proud to stay on the High Honor Roll throughout high school at Pittsburgh Allderdice. She is a sports enthusiast who enjoys playing softball and basketball. Keyona wants to become a teacher after college and help children succeed in school and life.



Kortnei Almon A Pittsburgh Carrick graduate, Kortnei was a member of National Honor Society and president of the Senior Class Committee. She is now majoring in general studies at CCAC. After completing her studies, she hopes to become an architect or civil engineer. She also wants to give back to her community and help others.



Andrew Knight In addition to several academic awards, Andrew was Senior Class President and valedictorian at Pittsburgh Perry. He played basketball and tennis and volunteered his time at the Jefferson Recreation Center. He is now studying English literature at the University of Pittsburgh, with plans to become an English teacher.



Maria Pilar Lojaco Maria was the recipient of Pittsburgh Online Academy's Superintendent Achievement Award. She is majoring in early childhood education at La Roche College and wants to make the world a better place for kids. In addition to caregiving for her cousin who has spina bifida, she volunteers at Fine Art Miracles and the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry.



Anya Epstein Passionate about music and art, Anya is studying theater and dance at Muhlenberg College. She was proud to earn scholarships to help pay for school, including the Constance T. Rockwell Scholarship from the Pittsburgh CLO Guild. While at Pittsburgh CAPA, she performed volunteer work on behalf of Squirrel Hill Food Pantry, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and Temple Sinai.

Mylan Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Grace Woolard Grace graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice. She is now majoring in pre-medicine at Edinboro University, where she received an Honors Program Award. In the future, she plans to specialize in women's health because it is her hope to positively impact the lives of women all over the United States.



Charysma Adams Studying civil engineering at Drexel University will help Charysma reach her goal to own a bridge-building business in Europe. In addition to her job at Panera Bread, she played for the volleyball and softball teams at Pittsburgh Allderdice and was in National Honor Society. She was proud to receive awards from the Society of Women Engineers twice during high school.



Bree McCullough Bree is studying physics at Bucknell University, where she received a Presidential Fellowship. She hopes to use her degree to help wildlife and improve the world. She was a member of the fencing team, active in the music program, and President of the Jewelry Club at Pittsburgh Allderdice. An entrepreneur, she operates her own face-painting business.



Austin Burnett Enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, Austin is studying physics and astronomy. A Pittsburgh Obama graduate, Austin was proud to earn an IB Diploma. While in high school, he participated in the We Promise program and the Black Student Union. He also volunteered with KaBOOM!



Irina Kramkova Irina is studying psychology and biology sciences at Carnegie Mellon University because she wants to become a doctor or physician assistant. Irina maintained High Honor Roll all four years at Pittsburgh Allderdice, where she played volleyball and participated in Student Council. She also volunteered at Children's Institute of Pittsburgh and Friendship Circle.

DID YOU KNOW

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Ask The PRESIDENT

WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

What support services do you see post-secondary schools offering today that you wish had been available when you were in college?



Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson *Kutztown University*

I was happy with the support services I received while in college but had little awareness of the help available before arriving to campus. I was a first-generation student, attended a community college, and worked at a factory to pay tuition, rent, and food. After earning my associate degree, I continued on to a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree with the help of the military and a stipend for having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. On my return, I became a professor, rising through the ranks to my current role as president of Kutztown University. I am grateful for the support I received once in college—academic advising to help me choose

the right classes, financial aid to receive grants and short-term loans, residential life which gave me a job, student activities that provided me with opportunities to develop leadership skills, and so many other areas. A college education made all the difference in my life—it awakened me, made me curious, helped build my character, and each day I am humbled to be in this role as president of a university and grateful for all the opportunities attending college provided me. Today, institutions begin assisting students with options to help them succeed in college while they are still in high school, and their journey is easier as a result.



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

When I was an undergraduate, learning support was available only for students who were struggling academically. Today, California University and many other schools take a proactive approach to academic success, offering skills development and tutoring programs to students at all academic levels. We recognize that even highly competent students sometimes encounter difficulties in a particular course or discover that high school study skills do not always meet the challenges of college-level learning.

Today at Cal U, the Office of Academic Success coordinates a first-year seminar course that helps every new student master essential skills, learn about university resources and transition smoothly to the college environment. Online

tools allow all students to check their progress toward graduation or "raise their hand" to request assistance with scheduling or coursework. A welcoming, one-stop location for academic support in writing, reading, STEM subjects and study skills makes it easy for students to get help before they fall behind.

As a first-generation college student, I would have appreciated a comprehensive student success office where all students were welcomed and supported. Knowing that help would be available should I need it would have given me greater confidence as I embarked on my college career.



Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson *Clarion University*

Take advantage of everything you can! This is not only a time to learn in the classroom, but also to grow and develop into the person you want to become. You will meet people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds and from all over the world. Embrace these opportunities; join clubs and organizations that interest you and participate in community service projects.

Know that you are not alone, and don't be afraid to ask for help. At Clarion, our Student Success Center houses Tutoring/Learning Skills, the Writing Center, Disability Support Services, and Minority Student Services. We cultivate your potential and give you one-on-one assistance

from professionals who'll help you set academic goals for success.

Take care of your body and mind. Be active in ways that work for you and your situation. Our Center for Wellness focuses on helping you achieve positive mental and physical health—both of which are passions of mine.

Don't wait until you're ready to graduate to start thinking about career preparation. Our CU Mentor program matches participating students with mentors in their chosen field, so you can learn practical knowledge to ensure a good start when you graduate.

Ask The PRESIDENT

WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

What support services do you see post-secondary schools offering today that you wish had been available when you were in college?



Dr. Kathy Richardson *Westminster College*

While a college student, I had access to excellent classroom teaching and faculty advisors who cared about my intellectual development. What my peers and I didn't have, though, was a professional career center that helped us as first- and second-year students to more clearly match our strengths and skills to appropriate academic disciplines.

Opportunities to develop job-search strategies and to practice interviewing would have reduced some of the stress and uncertainty associated with finding internships and jobs during our junior and senior years. Liberal arts colleges engender the "hard skills" of our academic disciplines and the "soft skills" of communicating to and collaborating with others, and it would have been helpful to know how to reflect those

skills in our resumes, portfolios and interviews. Stronger connections with potential employers and alumni networks would have made it easier for us to find mentors and to establish our own professional networks.

Such a center, like Westminster's Professional Development Center, would have allowed alumni to identify strong candidates from their alma mater and the rewarding opportunity to give back by helping students develop their skills. The enhanced career services found today on most college campuses provide students with opportunities to refine the professional competencies that lead to success in their first careers.



Dr. Calin L. Troup *Geneva College*

At the entry point, the quality of direction for major selection and vocational direction is stronger today. Colleges and universities equip students with aptitude and interest analyses that suggest majors to complement their passions and capabilities. We also do a better job with students as they engage college work and provide tools for classroom success. Smaller schools like Geneva combine high expectations with strong support from professors and staff to invite students into the demands of a college education.

As students complete their degrees, colleges now have more effective support services for

job and graduate school placement. Higher education has reinvented itself in preparing students to search for good jobs. A generation ago, we might receive personal advice on resumes, job interviews, business etiquette, etc., from a good professor. We had job fairs and visits from companies looking for entry-level positions and from graduate program recruiters. But today schools offer students programs that provide hands-on training for the job search process.

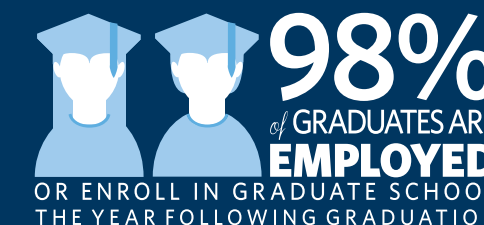
Students still need to engage these services and take initiative—an essential part of student success and good placement at completion of the college journey.



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Penn State Erie,
The Behrend College
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behrend.psu.edu

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The Eberly Campus
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fayette.psu.edu

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ga.psu.edu

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hbg.psu.edu

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scranton.psu.edu

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wb.psu.edu

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worldcampus.psu.edu

Penn State York
717-771-4040
yk.psu.edu

**LAST
LOOK**

East End The Pittsburgh Promise's annual fundraising walk, Walk for One Promise, passed three Pittsburgh Public Schools in 2018: Pittsburgh Fulton, Dilworth, and Lincoln. Our 260 fundraising champions raised over \$39,000 last year and we invite you to join us for this year's event, taking place on **Saturday, May 18th!**

Visit our website for details and registration:
www.pittsburghpromise.org/walk





1901 Centre Avenue
Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.pittsburghpromise.org

Attention Seniors:

The deadline to file the FAFSA and PHEAA for the 2019-20 school year is **May 1st!**

**LEARN
MORE**

Both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the PA State Grant Form (PHEAA) are required every year before Pittsburgh Promise funds can be paid. The PHEAA only needs to be completed once unless you transfer schools.

www.fafsa.gov

www.pheaa.org

www.pittsburghpromise.org

Questions? Email:

questions@pittsburghpromise.org

Photo by Renee Greenlee

