

2019
2020

P²

THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE
MAGAZINE

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES:

← A PRIMER FOR FUTURE PROMISE SCHOLARS →

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

*The
Rapping
Principal*

PITTSBURGH'S STUDENT
POLICE ACADEMY

Features

14 SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

21 PREFERRED COLLEGE PARTNERS

22 *The Rapping Principal*

26 PITTSBURGH'S STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY

30 Executive Scholars

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The Pittsburgh Promise

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 / First Word
- 2 / Building Community
- 4 / Giving Glimpse
- 8 / Career Spotlight
- 10 / Promise Voices
- 38 / Ask the President
- 43 / Last Look



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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.

1ST WORD

It's our hope that *P²* will be a resource that you use to help prepare for your post-secondary life. While that may seem far off for a 6th grader or even 9th grader—it is closer than you think. Middle school and high school are seasons of life in which you are continuously getting to know yourself, identifying the things that you enjoy and are good at, and, of course, maintaining your focus on the hopes and dreams you have for your life after high school.

Here are steps to help you prepare, wherever you are on your journey:

MIDDLE SCHOOL and FRESHMAN YEAR

- Earn good grades and keep your attendance up. Knowledge builds year to year. Your grade point average (GPA) matters and will affect your overall high school performance.
- Participate in clubs, groups, programs, and volunteer activities. Start to identify your interests!
- Take advantage of early college or college prep programs offered at your school.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Take the PSAT.
- Begin thinking about which academic field or programs you might like to pursue after high school. You can also research careers and conduct informational interviews with adults whose jobs you find interesting.
- Enroll in academic classes, early college classes, or an SAT prep course over the summer.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Prepare for and take the SAT and/or ACT.
- Explore post-secondary schools online, attend college nights and fairs, and tour campuses.
- Narrow down your choices to 5-10 schools.
- Start looking into scholarships and financial aid.
- Consider dual enrollment (college courses while still in high school, learn more on the back cover).

SENIOR YEAR

- Take your SAT and/or ACT for the final time.
- Visit the schools to which you are planning to apply.
- Submit the FAFSA and PHEAA forms. The applications became available on October 1st.
- Finalize school applications with a goal to have them completed by Thanksgiving break.
- Complete The Promise scholarship application by logging into *The Promise Student Portal*.
- Apply for scholarships. This will be an ongoing process throughout the year.
- Make a final decision, notify the school and send your deposit to secure it.
- Log back into *The Promise Student Portal* and check the *Enrolled* box next to the school of your choice in the *Student Interest* section.

Enjoy the ride. ■



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

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Volunteering is a fun and fulfilling way to make new friends, explore different careers, gain valuable skills and knowledge, and enhance your college application. Volunteering involves you in your community and earns community service hours for school.

“I love volunteering at the National Aviary,” says volunteer Bryn. “It allows me to share my passion for nature and promote conservation at the same time.” Bryn, 17, has earned over 200 service hours since she began volunteering in 2017.

Knowledge of birds is not necessary to get started. Madison, 19, began her experience when she was 14 years old, volunteering every summer and weekends during the school year until she began college in 2018. She’s now a zoo science major at West Liberty University and an Animal Collections intern at the National Aviary. “My experience at the Aviary not only helped me know what path to follow academically, it helped me to grow as a person.”

Teens age 15 and older can volunteer on weekends, school holidays, and over the summer in a variety of capacities.

Like technology? Operate the virtual reality, full body bird flight simulator called Birdly® and help guests have a safe and enjoyable experience learning what it feels like to fly like a bird. Want to work with children, or thinking of a career in education? Volunteer one Saturday or Sunday a month to help children create crafts or play games. Or, serve as an Education Assistant, traveling with educators as they teach classes with live birds at locations around the Pittsburgh area. ■

Tammy Arnold has worked for the National Aviary since 2011, first as the Education Manager and now as the Manager of Volunteer & Intern Programs. She has a BS in Health Education from Penn State University.



LEARN
MORE

**Find More Information
And Apply To Become
A Volunteer:**

www.aviary.org/volunteers

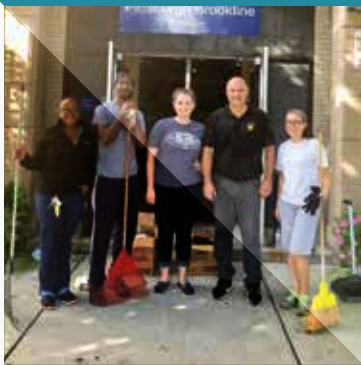
Questions?

Contact Tammy Arnold:
412-258-9455

Tammy.Arnold@Aviary.org



THESE PROMISE ALUMNI ARE
BUILDING A LEGACY



The student-led alumni group of The Pittsburgh Promise, Promise Legacy, is turning two this year and its members are more motivated than ever before!



In 2017 Promise Legacy was formed by eight Promise Alumni who shared the common desire of giving back. Today, Promise Legacy is led by an executive committee of 6 members. Members of the committee plan community service events, fundraising events, and assist with networking events.

Joining Promise Legacy is easy: Promise scholarship recipients are encouraged to make a yearly pledge of \$50. In return, they become a part of a driven group who strive to make an impact on the Pittsburgh community.

So far, we have held two community service events. The first was at Pittsburgh Brookline school in August 2018 and the latest was at the Hilltop Urban Farm this past June. We have also coordinated several Promise Legacy networking events, and last November we invited fellow alums to join us at “Livin’ the Legacy”, an all-Scholar reunion party to celebrate 10 years of The Pittsburgh Promise. Our second all-Scholar reunion is coming up in November.

Last fall, we also launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$20,000 for The Promise, which is the current amount of a full scholarship for one student.

Our motivation when crafting this goal was to do our part to ensure The Promise scholarship is sustainable over time. As recipients of this scholarship, we understand its impact firsthand and want to ensure that future students will have the opportunity to benefit from this scholarship as well.

We met our goal by gaining support from new and previous Promise donors and collaborating with local businesses to promote Promise Legacy and raise funds through fundraising events. Our events included a Promise Legacy spirit night at Choolaah Indian BBQ in May. In June, we hosted “Namaste with Promise Legacy” at Hot Dog Yoga, “Cocktails for a Cause” at Wigle Whiskey, and a tailgate at a Pittsburgh Pirates game. By holding events and reaching out to potential donors, we are raising awareness of The Promise’s influence in addition to raising funds!

Promise Legacy is living proof that the scholarship can make an incredible difference in the lives of Pittsburgh Public Schools students. We are thankful for the opportunity to promote the impact of The Promise through our campaign and are eager to make a difference in the Pittsburgh community and in the lives of PPS students, like you! ■



Meghan Boehm is Fundraising Co-Chair for Promise Legacy. After graduating from Pittsburgh Carrick in 2008, she went on to earn a BS in Psychology and an MPH in Health Policy & Management, both from The University of Pittsburgh.



Larry Hailsham is Fundraising Co-Chair. After graduating from Pittsburgh City Charter High School in 2011, he went on to earn a BA in Political Science from Allegheny College.



Want to learn more about Promise Legacy?
Visit www.pittsburghpromise.org/promise-legacy.



U.S. News & World Report

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Pittsburgh Technical College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



DO YOU WANT TO BE A PROBLEM SOLVER, AN INNOVATOR,
AN INTELLECTUAL, AND A TRUSTED ADVISOR?
CONSIDER BECOMING AN AUDITOR.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION, YOU MAY PICTURE SOMEONE WHO FILLS OUT TAX RETURNS OR SITS ALONE IN A CUBICLE CRUNCHING NUMBERS, BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO THE PROFESSION.

I am an assurance associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a type of accountant otherwise known as an auditor. Our job is critical to the stability of the financial markets as our purpose is to ensure that companies (our clients) are providing an accurate representation of their business to the public. You are probably wondering, "What does that really mean?"

A successful auditor needs to have a broad business perspective. I'm challenged every day to see the big picture. To our clients we are a trusted resource to help solve their business problems. We have the unique opportunity to see behind closed doors of how companies, both large and small, operate. We have to understand how their business works inside and out and how that relates to their competitors, their industry, and the market as a whole. We must understand the strategy behind their decision making and also come to the table with an independent perspective of opportunities, risks, and challenges. Typically, an auditor is assigned to multiple clients gaining vast insight from numerous companies.

As auditors, we do work with numbers, but we are conceptually understanding them, not simply calculating them. We must understand why and how the pieces fit together to determine the correct number. We must also determine if we feel the value presented is an accurate representation of the financial health of our clients and what is being presented is in accordance with applicable accounting rules and standards.

Technological advancements have helped auditors focus on tasks that require more judgement and critical thinking. PwC, where I work, has invested significant capital to "digitally upskill" their employees to be comfortable utilizing new technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics, blockchain, and other automation tools. The continued learning and success of their employees has been a point of focus for PwC through a new "digital acumen" program which signifies acquisition of new knowledge, experience, and skills needed to thrive in the ever-changing world of technology.

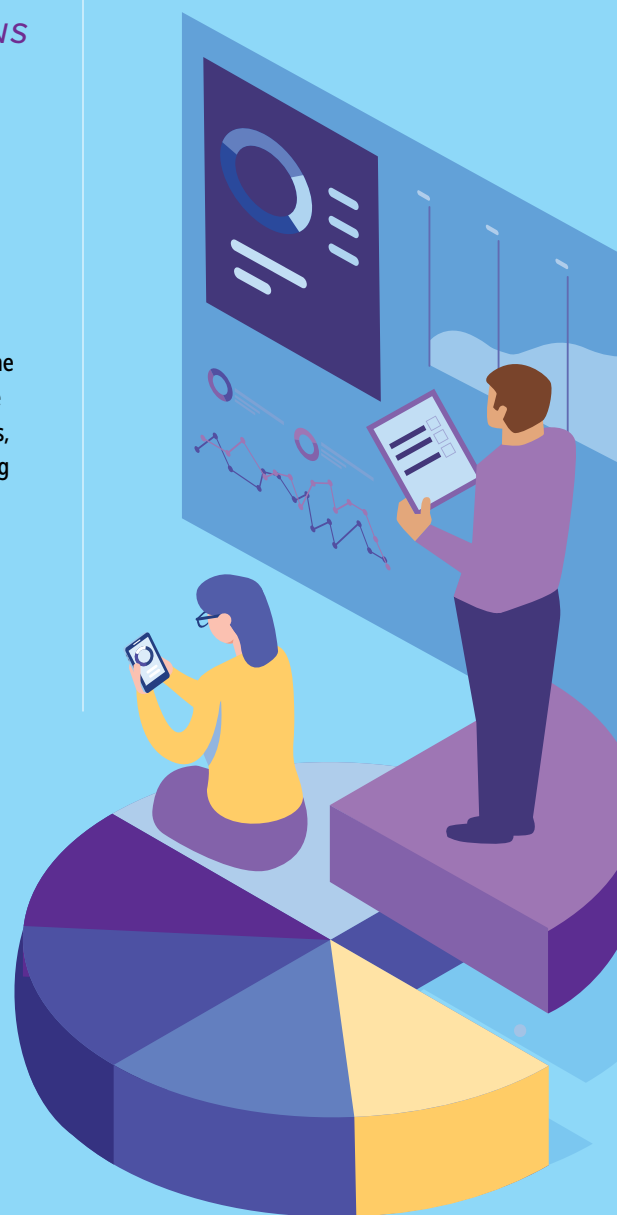
Another myth is that auditing jobs are boring. I find the job to be very fast paced, with many new learning experiences. I am continuously challenged and provided opportunities to mentor new assurance associates and work on new and different tasks than what I had worked on in the past. I'm never bored.

IT'S ALSO NOT TRUE THAT AUDITORS SIT IN A CUBICLE WITHOUT HUMAN INTERACTION. COMMUNICATION SKILLS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

Working on teams to complete the work for clients makes for a very collaborative environment. A large part of the job is communicating with the client, typically with higher-ranking executives. Being confident in asking questions to gain a better understanding, helping to explain improvements to the process, and clearly communicating issues in an appropriate and respectful manner are all part of our day.

Auditing is a profession that will open doors to many opportunities, providing the freedom to work in any industry of interest. All businesses are in need of auditors and your personal experience will be what you make of it! ■

Kylie Tobasco is a Certified Public Accountant working as a Banking and Capital Markets Experienced Associate at PwC in Pittsburgh. Kylie received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, a Bachelor of Science in Finance, and a Master of Accountancy from Penn State University.



LEARN MORE

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A SERIES OF DOORS

*With encouragement from
her family and teachers,
**Amanda reached further
than she ever expected to.***

When you start thinking about college, you come across stories from people who have always known what they wanted to be.

You meet young people in medical school who always recognized their passion for helping people. You read about students who saw a need in the world and became driven enough to fill that need in any way possible. These people seem to know exactly what they want out of life and precisely how to get there. It can be intimidating, and oftentimes overwhelming. But you don't need to know exactly what you want out of life at the outset to get where you want to be.

One day before starting high school, my dad asked me what career plan I had in mind. When I told him that I wanted to do something that would keep me as under the radar as possible, he was confused. He told me not to limit myself by doing the safe thing. I told him I was scared of not being average—what if I looked stupid? That's when he looked at me and said: "The only way you'll look stupid is if you don't even try at all."

It was around this time that my brother, 13 years my senior, was making great strides in his career as a computer engineer. After witnessing his success, I decided that I too would try my hand in dealing with technology. I learned basic skills in the information technology courses that I attended through Pittsburgh Carrick's CTE program and got two industry certifications: the NOCTI Workforce Competency Credential and Microsoft Tech Associate in Networking Fundamentals. These certifications demonstrated to the world that by the end of high school I already had the skills of an entry-level worker.

Theoretically, I could have just gotten a job right out of high school based on those credentials, but I was encouraged to consider college by many of my teachers and family.

So, one summer night before my senior year, I stayed up until 3 AM applying to six schools of interest. The week before school started, Robert Morris University (RMU) was the first institution to accept me. I knew a few people who had gone to Robert Morris for Computer Information Systems and gotten great employment opportunities. After my friend also got accepted, we decided to go together.

When I started college, I thought I'd be content with quietly getting my bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and moving on. Then, sophomore year I started learning more about RMU's integrated program, which would give me the opportunity to also complete a master's degree in just one extra semester. At this point, I flirted with the idea of going through with graduate school, but I still wasn't really sure about it. I didn't feel driven or skilled enough for it. But, then, I took an introductory course to data analytics in the fall of my junior year and finally found something that I knew had caught my interest. I talked to my academic advisor,



Amanda Linn is an alumna of Pittsburgh Carrick who is now studying both computer information systems and data analytics at Robert Morris University. She will graduate with both an undergraduate and graduate degree after just four and a half years.

"The biggest thing that I have learned is to not be afraid that you can't see the future. No one can."

Dr. Donna Cellante, about minoring in data analytics and she encouraged me to go all the way and get a master's. Another professor, Dr. Diane Igoche, told me that she could see me becoming a CEO and said I should consider the program.

With their encouragement, I did apply, and within a week I received my acceptance letter!

After my acceptance to the program, Dr. Igoche emailed students about internship opportunities at BNY Mellon and I applied in hopes of gaining professional experience. I thought that part of the interview went terribly and that there was no way I would get it, but the very next day I was offered the position in their Analyst Program! In this internship, I work alongside skilled programmers and technologists who teach me the ins and outs of business analytics, working with technology in a company setting, and interacting with people professionally and efficiently. I'm hopeful that someday I can get a job at BNY Mellon as a Data Analyst, which is someone who looks over company data for patterns and helps employees make effective decisions.

Growing up I never saw myself doing anything like this, because I never really saw myself doing much of anything. The biggest thing that I have learned since then is to not be afraid that you can't see the future. No one can.

The future is simply a series of doors; some are opened and some are closed, but you should never be afraid to try the doors that seem closed because sometimes those are the ones that can take you the farthest. ■

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SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES:

← A PRIMER FOR FUTURE PROMISE SCHOLARS →

Scholarships are a great way to help reduce the costs of post-secondary education.

But where should you start?

REMEMBER

to take advantage of The Pittsburgh Promise! Promise scholarships are available for all Pittsburgh Public Schools graduates if you reside in the city of Pittsburgh and attend a PPS school from day 1 of 9th grade through graduation, maintain a 90% attendance average over all four years of high school, and earn a 2.5 cumulative, unweighted GPA. The scholarship can be applied to any Pell-eligible 2- or 4-year school in the state of Pennsylvania upon graduation.

Let's face it: paying for post-secondary education can be a little scary. Tuition costs have been rising for most schools across the country. However, with a solid plan and preparation, these payments can become much more manageable. **Here are some ideas to help with your scholarship search!**

It's important to remember that scholarships are not reserved solely for valedictorians; there are scholarships available to *all* types of students. Don't be discouraged from applying if you don't think your grades are high enough. Oftentimes, scholarship committees award students who have other gifts, talents, and experiences. Seek out as many opportunities as you can.

You can start applying for scholarships as early as 9th grade! Scholarships are competitive—you will not win every award you apply for. As a general recommendation, you should apply for a few scholarships each month. By applying for two scholarships each month for all four years of high school, you'll end up submitting nearly 100 scholarship applications by the time you graduate.

Be sure to always complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year you are in post-secondary. Based on need, students might qualify for federal Pell Grants, which are another source of free money to help you pay for school. According to a recent study from NerdScholar, **\$2.9 BILLION in federal grants went unused in 2015** because qualified students did not apply. And even if you will not qualify for Pell Grant funding, completion of the FAFSA can open many new opportunities for students. You might qualify for other grants and scholarships through community organizations and the schools to which you apply. Plus, many scholarships (including The Pittsburgh Promise) require a completed FAFSA before they will consider your application.



- **READ:** Always **READ** the scholarship's description! You don't want to waste your time and effort applying for a scholarship for which you're not eligible. Be sure to read and understand the requirements and submit all the documents. These typically include letters of recommendation, personal essays, video, transcripts, and/or a picture.

- **PREPARE:** You can start preparing for scholarship applications now by searching for scholarships for which you are eligible, writing your personal essay, and by identifying a few teachers who know you well enough to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.

- **ESSAY:** When writing an essay for a scholarship, tell **YOUR** story. The committee wants to know what makes you unique. Be sure to have a teacher or counselor review your personal essay!



- **SCAMS:** Watch out for scams; scholarship applications should **NEVER** cost money. Also, if a scholarship seems "too-good-to-be-true" then it probably is. If they're promising you a full-tuition scholarship, and you only need to enter your name and credit card number, pass on that one.

- **MAJOR:** Search for scholarships specific to your major or field of study. There are **TONS** of scholarships specific to every field of study you can think of. Scholarships for welders are available, as are scholarships for nurses, business majors, and for students majoring in dance.

- **SCHOOL-SPECIFIC:** Check with your post-secondary school! A lot of times, schools will have money set aside for incoming first-year students. Talk to the school's financial aid office to find out more.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Be sure to pay attention to the eligibility requirements once you've received the scholarship! For instance, to remain eligible for The Pittsburgh Promise, you must maintain a 2.0 GPA and earn at least 24 credits each academic year. A lot of other scholarships have requirements like these.



STUDENT STORIES

"Apply for as many as you can, regardless of whether or not you're certain of your financial situation—there are a lot of scholarships out there that don't depend on financial eligibility!"



Halley Cook

Pittsburgh Allderdice Class of 2019

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Halley's mom saw information about The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation Scholarship in the Pittsburgh Allderdice monthly newsletter. Halley wrote the essays and sent in her application and although they ended up with quite a few applicants, she was excited and grateful to have been selected for an award of \$1,500 to use her freshman year. If she keeps her GPA above 3.0 during freshman year and remains a full-time student, she will get an additional \$1,000 for sophomore year.

She is pursuing an Economics and Mandarin double major, along with a minor in Chemistry and a certificate in East Asian studies while being on the pre-med track. After college, she hopes to attend medical school and go on to become a primary care physician.



Ezekieli Seti

Pittsburgh Allderdice Class of 2019

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Ezekieli stuck around after high school one day for a college fair. In the downtime between school and the event, he volunteered to help with some of the set-up. While chatting with the event organizers, he learned about some great scholarship opportunities available through PPS. After learning more, he decided to apply to more than one. Although he didn't receive the one that originally caught his eye, he was awarded the Sy Holzer Scholarship.

Originally from Tanzania, Ezekieli aspires to return to aid in the medical and political development of continental Africa. He wants to make the world a better place by helping others. To help him reach this goal, he is currently studying global health and political science, with hopes to go on to study both medicine and law.

"Just because you don't get one scholarship does not mean you will not receive another. Keep trying until you find the one for you!"



"The money is out there, you just have to do the research to find it! Be sure to begin your scholarship search as early as junior year!"



Chandler Searcy

Pittsburgh Obama Class of 2018

**ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MARKETING**

Chandler was awarded scholarships from The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, as well as the North Hills Ebony Women Scholarship, Northside Leadership Conference Scholarship Program, and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation Scholarship. Although many of these funds were one-time awards, one of them will renew as a four-year payment if she maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Chandler felt blessed and ecstatic to receive so many scholarships because the cost of college is so high and every bit helps. Once she finishes school she wants to transform her community. She is now studying marketing with hopes of working for a philanthropic organization or nonprofit.

MORE SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES NOT TO MISS

JLV College Counseling -

jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships

Students can sort by grade level, intended college major, and monthly due dates. They also have scholarship resources specifically for parents, students in the LGBTQ+ community, and undocumented students. It's updated monthly, so keep checking back.

Fastweb - fastweb.com

This popular scholarship and financial aid database matches students with potential scholarship opportunities.

College Board - opportunity.collegeboard.org

HS seniors can complete six steps on their College Board accounts. After each step, you may qualify for scholarships; after completing all six steps, you're entered into a \$40,000 contest. The steps are things you should be doing anyway.

RaiseMe - raise.me

Students record their high school achievements; they are then awarded small, "micro-scholarships" from the school they plan to attend. You can earn micro-scholarships for everything from earning an "A" in that math class to participating in Debate Club to volunteering at your place of worship.

Niche -

niche.com/colleges/scholarship/no-essay-scholarship

Niche has a monthly \$2,000 scholarship contest that requires a simple entry, with no essay. This scholarship is extremely competitive because of its ease. Still, it's worth submitting an application each month.

Pennsylvania's State System Of Higher Education Foundation - ThePAFoundation.org

These are scholarships specifically for students who are attending one of the 14 state schools. Plenty of opportunities here, so if you're considering a state school, be sure to apply!

Pittsburgh Public Schools scholarships

- To apply, talk to your counselor. The application should be available in November of your senior year.
- Seven scholarships are available through PPS. The award amount varies anywhere from \$750 to \$4,000.
- Requirements include two letters of recommendation, a 1-page written statement about your educational plans, a signed copy of your high school transcript, and SAT/ACT scores. If you meet all the criteria of the scholarship, you'll be invited for an interview with the district's scholarship committee.
- Last year, a total of 26 winners received scholarship funding!

TAKE IT *from* THE EXPERTS**JENNIFER MARINO****SCHOLARSHIP SPECIALIST**

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

www.pittsburghfoundation.org/scholarshipsearch

In her position as The Pittsburgh Foundation's Scholarship Specialist, **Jennifer Marino** administers about 300 different scholarships. The Pittsburgh Foundation's scholarship search engine provides a great resource for Allegheny County residents. Opportunities open specifically to PPS students include the Frank A. Weidman Fund, the Robert L. Vann Scholarship Fund, and the Unknown Donor Scholarship Fund.

"The Pittsburgh Foundation awards \$2.3 million in scholarships annually and not just to students with a 4.0. Our minimum GPA is 2.0. Many scholarships are for students with financial need, specific majors, or diverse life experiences. Our scholarships include awards for 2- or 4-year colleges and universities, and trade or vocational schools. Our application makes it easy for students to apply for multiple scholarships at once."

PRO TIP:

The number one reason why students don't receive scholarships is because they don't apply!

**DR. TCHETCHET DIGBOHOU****SCHOLARSHIP MANAGER**

POISE FOUNDATION

www.poisefoundation.org/post-secondary-scholarships

Dr. Tchetchet Digbohhou is the Scholarship Manager at POISE Foundation and he is responsible for managing and administering the current portfolio of the foundation's scholarship programs. In his role he also has the opportunity to design and implement new scholarships.

"Some of the best practices in college scholarships application can be summarized in four simple, but very powerful, ideas:

Curiosity - Students must develop a burning desire to find out about scholarships. Meticulously search online for local and national organizations and colleges that offer scholarship opportunities.

Attention to details - Carefully read through and understand eligibility criteria, application timeline, and sometimes arcane requirements.

Preparation - Put in hard(er) work in order to bridge the gaps that may exist between where you stand today regarding such areas as academics, test scores, leadership potential, or community involvement, and what is expected by the specific scholarship you want.

Execution - Methodically craft and gather every single piece of a winning application, including an outstanding essay and strong letters of recommendation."



Danny Jackson is the Outreach Coordinator for The Pittsburgh Promise. He joined The Promise team after previously teaching fifth grade in South Central Los Angeles, California, and working with Pittsburgh Public Schools seniors on college and career preparation through the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees from the University of Notre Dame.



Heather Hackett is an Executive Editor of *P² - The Pittsburgh Promise Magazine*. She earned a BA in Communications in English Writing and Communications from The University of Pittsburgh, where she is now pursuing a Master's in Public Policy and Management at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES:

A Primer for Future Promise Scholars



LYNDSEY ROZZI

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER

THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE

www.pittsburghpromise.org

Lyndsey Rozzi began her career in the nonprofit education field working in a therapeutic setting at Wesley Spectrum Highland School. After volunteering with the United States Peace Corps, Lyndsey returned to her work with Pittsburgh students and youths. Prior to joining The Promise, she coordinated a college and career readiness program for Pittsburgh Public Schools students at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. Her role formerly as the Scholarship Coordinator and currently as the Partnership Program Manager at The Pittsburgh Promise has afforded her the opportunity to sit on the application review panel for scholarships offered through both The Pittsburgh Foundation and Pittsburgh Public Schools.

"Scholarship committees look far beyond GPA and AP courses when considering who should receive a scholarship. For instance, students with an inspiring story, valuable volunteer work, great financial need, or who demonstrate a strong work ethic make for excellent candidates. Take a chance, submit your application. You never know who you may impress."



For those who think.

For those who create.

For those who've been told
no, no chance and not you.

For those who work harder.

Smarter. Faster.

FOR THOSE WHO STRIVE



Edinboro.edu

A man with a beard, wearing a black suit and white shirt, is sitting on a wooden bench. Behind him is a large window with a sign that says "BUILD YOU" in large, textured, metallic letters. The background outside the window shows a blurred view of trees and a building.

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YOU

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Preferred College Partners

The **Preferred College Partners** program is intended to strengthen relationships between The Pittsburgh Promise and certain post-secondary institutions that provide additional financial aid and robust support services for Promise Scholars. **Preferred College Partners** will provide grants for room and board to Promise-eligible students who are accepted to the institution and live in on-campus housing.



These **Preferred College Partners** will extend program benefits to Promise Scholars who enter as freshmen in fall 2020:

Allegheny College

California University Of Pennsylvania

Carlow University

Carnegie Mellon University

Chatham University

Cheyney University

Clarion University

Duquesne University

Edinboro University

Geneva College

Grove City College



Indiana University Of Pennsylvania

Juniata College

Kutztown University

La Roche University

Mansfield University

Mercyhurst University

Mount Aloysius College



Penn State–Select Campuses

Pittsburgh Technical College

Point Park University

Robert Morris University

Rosedale Technical College

Saint Vincent College

Seton Hill University

Shippensburg University

Slippery Rock University

Susquehanna University

Thaddeus Stevens

College Of Technology

Thiel College

Washington & Jefferson College

Waynesburg University

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 FOR FUTURE PROMISE SCHOLARS:

1

Be certain to consider Preferred College Partners during your post-secondary school search.

2

Visit the schools and ask about financial aid and support services for Promise Scholars.

3

Apply to all schools of your choice.

4

Complete the FAFSA (FAFSA.gov) and PA State Grant Form (Pheaa.org) as early as possible (Oct. 1st) and no later than May 1st.

5

Once accepted to a Preferred College Partner school, reach out to the school's financial aid office to learn more about your individual financial aid package. Financial aid packages will vary by school and by student.



MILLER
AFRICAN CENTERED
ACADEMY
GETTING BETTER
AT
GETTING BETTER

PROUD MOM

HAIL

The Rapping Principal



Graduates of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Class of 2019 are starting college this fall, and many will be using The Promise scholarship to help them along the way.

One of these recent PPS alumna, Nile Ross, had the push and guidance from her mother, Dr. Margaret Starkes, to strive to be Promise-eligible. Dr. Starkes is a Pittsburgh Public Schools graduate, parent, and principal. She has her own promise that she intends to keep, and that is to ensure that her children and students are using education as “the roadmap to liberation.”

“The arts are the vehicle for expression and self-discovery. We need education to unpack our gifts, to discover our purpose, and to build a sustainable life for ourselves and for those yet to come. Once you obtain it, it is yours, and it cannot be taken away.”

Dr. Starkes, also known as The Rapping Principal, uses hip hop music as a form of encouragement to get her students involved academically and socially. Her unique approach has gone viral, gaining the attention of Missy Elliot and Ellen DeGeneres.

“The Pittsburgh Promise sets the standard for Pittsburgh students, providing a barometer for what college-readiness looks like. At Pittsburgh Miller, we promote The Promise by using literacy every day, encouraging parents and families to become actively involved in their child’s education, and recognizing that it takes a village to raise a child.”

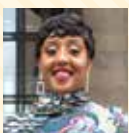
After graduating last year, Starkes’ daughter, Nile, enrolled at Temple University in Philadelphia to study dance, the same art form she crafted at Pittsburgh CAPA. Nile says, “The Pittsburgh Promise will help me pursue my passions without the pressing burden of college debt.”

Nile participated in National Honor Society at Pittsburgh CAPA, served as co-president of National Honors Society for Dance Arts, and was a member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.

“During my time at CAPA, I learned a lot about myself through everyday events and my interactions with different people. I hope my experience at Temple is full of discovering more about what I like, dislike, and what I can do to make the world even a little bit better.”

Isaiah Ross, Dr. Starkes’ oldest child, graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA in 2014 and used The Promise scholarship to continue his studies at Point Park University. He currently travels the country as a musician. The youngest of the children, Zion Ross, is a junior vocal music major at Pittsburgh CAPA. ■

DR. MARGARET STARKES IS A PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL AND PARENT WHO PROMOTES THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE.



Since 2003, in many different capacities, **Mercedes J. Williams** has worked in 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, good news stories, and serves as a liaison between the media and school district. Mercedes is a proud Pittsburgh Public Schools alumni, employee, and parent.



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

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PITTSBURGH'S STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY



*STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY BRINGS THE POLICE AND THE CITY'S HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY CLOSER TOGETHER IN A SETTING THAT OFFERS **A SAMPLE OF POLICE TRAINING.***

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Student Police Academy (SPA) offers an opportunity for local students in grades 9-12 to become closely acquainted with the roles and career opportunities of being a Pittsburgh Police Officer.

Instructors are law enforcement professionals who present educational topics, lead field trips, and simulate experiences of what policing and its training are all about.

Participating students receive training once a week for 10 weeks in many of the functions of law enforcement. They experience some of the highlights of police training and learn about the operations of the police bureau.

Students are taught the basics of criminal law, search and seizure, patrol tactics, and many other subjects. They learn about processing a crime scene, how police canines are used, and are exposed to many of the specialty police units. SPA participants meet and talk with many of the street officers that they see every day, as well as members of the command staff and training staff that serves them.

SPA is free to participate in and the application period opens in early 2020. Although the program is not an accredited certification course to become a sworn police officer, it offers exposure to the career and paths to working in law enforcement.

Students leave this training with a greater understanding of the work police officers do, an increased ability to see how the police serve the community, and ideas about how they can assist in improving their own communities. Most importantly, students get to know the men and women behind the badge on a more personal basis! ■

**LEARN
MORE**

**For more information on the
City of Pittsburgh Student Police Academy,
please contact John Tokarski:**

412-255-2117

john.tokarski@pittsburghpa.gov

John Tokarski has worked for the City of Pittsburgh for 18 years, currently serving in the Department of Public Safety as the SaferTogether Pittsburgh Project Coordinator. He lives in Hazelwood and is the father of three Pittsburgh Public Schools' graduates.





A PROMISE FULFILLED

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

The Pittsburgh Promise provided the scholarship funds that allowed Charmaine, a CAPA graduate, to attend Seton Hill, where she earned a degree in Business Administration in 2014. She's taken that degree into the Human Resources field, where she currently works as a recruiter for Giant Eagle.

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

A Pittsburgh Promise Preferred College Partner, Seton Hill offers students career preparation grounded in the Liberal Arts.

Seton Hill
UNIVERSITY

For more information about Seton Hill University's academic programs, visit www.setonhill.edu, call 724.838.4281 or email admit@setonhill.edu.

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The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE
OUR 2019 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 2019 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

UPMC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Ramara Stevenson At Pittsburgh Brashear, Ramara participated in the teaching magnet program. Currently, she is studying physical therapy at Slippery Rock University with hopes of someday owning her own practice. Ramara is appreciative of the support she receives from her family and the different cultures she was exposed to through her academic career in Pittsburgh Public Schools.



Guy Beresteanu An avid fencer, Guy organized a clinic, coached children, competed internationally in four Junior Olympics, and started a team at Pittsburgh Allderdice. He is attending The University of Pittsburgh Honors College where he is studying statistics and chemistry. Guy plans to go on to medical school and become a physician.



Pee Yar Originally from Burma, Pee graduated from Pittsburgh Brashear. She credits her volunteer experiences with allowing her to appreciate different perspectives, gain confidence, and be a part of a community. These qualities will serve her well when she becomes a physician's assistant after earning her degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Brittney Smith Brittney played soccer and softball at Pittsburgh Brashear. She also served as Student Council superintendent and was involved in student advocacy work. She is now attending Robert Morris University where she is studying to become a nurse. Brittney is active in her church and holds a part-time job.



Ezekieli Seti Originally from Tanzania, Ezekieli aspires to return to aid in the medical and political development of continental Africa. He wants to make the world a better place by helping others. At Pittsburgh Allderdice he was president of the Garden Club and a participant in Global Minds Club. Ezekieli is studying global health and political science at Allegheny College.

Highmark Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Zachary Beckman At Pittsburgh Obama, Zachary was valedictorian, class treasurer, and captain of the baseball team. His near perfect attendance record proves he is motivated by learning and being active in his school and community. Zachary is pursuing a pre-med track at The University of Pittsburgh and plans to become a doctor to make a real difference in the world.



Jaclyn Acrie Jaclyn is passionate about reforming the criminal justice system. She is a legal studies major at Point Park University and hopes to become a civil rights or criminal defense attorney. She enjoys figure skating and playing softball. Jaclyn is proud that her hard work at Pittsburgh Allderdice has paid off and attending college has become a reality.



Nyjah Burr During her time at Pittsburgh University Prep, Nyjah received many awards, including the Leader for Change Student Envoy award and The Challenge Program Huntington Bank Award for academic achievement in STEM. Her internship at West Penn Hospital led her to study nursing at CCAC. On a recent service trip to Jamaica, Nyjah learned that a small group of people can make a huge difference.



Thomas Saba Thomas is studying at The University of Pittsburgh to become a physical therapist with hopes of working for a professional sports team. He attended Pittsburgh Allderdice, where he was a member of the Dragon Fit Club, volleyball team, and ski club. Beyond his love of sports, Thomas participated in the Carnegie Mellon University Music Preparatory School.



Taylor Blake Taylor stayed active at Pittsburgh Carrick by participating in National Honor Society, student council, tennis, soccer, softball, cheerleading, and tutoring younger students, all while maintaining a part-time job and working as a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador. Taylor is attending The University of Pittsburgh to study chemistry.

PNC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise

Stacy Evans Stacy graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice, where she was a member of French Club, African American Center for Advanced Studies, and Black Student Union. Community service taught her that even the slightest actions can make a big impact on others. She is studying psychology at Penn State University and enjoys traveling and learning about different cultures.



Shane Smith Reflecting his passion for both computers and swimming, Shane was on the swim team and helped to create the For Inspiration of Science and Technology Robotics Team at Pittsburgh Brashear. He is studying computer science at Slippery Rock University's Honors College. Shane hopes to become a teacher.



Caryn Madigan As a Pittsburgh CAPA student, Caryn participated in a variety of activities, including ultimate frisbee, volleyball, track and field, feminist student union, culinary club, and UPMC Teen Facilitators Health Education. She is passionate about playing saxophone, teaching children, and dancing. Caryn is currently studying finance at Penn State University.



Autumn Wilde Autumn held many leadership positions at Pittsburgh Brashear, including serving as president of The Future is Mine club and being a Promise Ambassador. She won her school's first gold medal in tennis and was a member of the softball and track and field teams. Autumn is studying marketing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and plans to work in the non-profit field.



DaMon Macklin At Pittsburgh Obama DaMon excelled as a student and an athlete. He participated in football, basketball, and track. He was also an active member of National Honor Society. He is a recipient of the NAACP Pepsi Scholarship. DaMon is attending Duquesne University where he is majoring in accounting.

BNY Mellon Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise

Lauryn Petrick A valedictorian of Pittsburgh Carrick, Lauryn is attending The University of Pittsburgh where she studies chemistry. She aspires to become a dermatologist. In high school she was involved in National Honor Society and a member of the senior class committee. Lauryn is passionate about dance and deeply committed to making the world a better place by helping others.



John Friend John is studying cyber security at Slippery Rock University. He worked with elementary students in a YMCA afterschool program and held a part-time job while in high school. He was a member of the National Honor Society at Pittsburgh Carrick. In his free time, John enjoys gaming and spending time outdoors hunting with his family.



Abigail Helterbran Showcasing her love for writing and singing, Abigail was a part of the writing team and cast for four original musicals. She also enjoys softball, candle making, and math. Abigail is attending Temple University with a Presidential Scholarship to pursue her goals of becoming an associate and fellow of the Society of Actuaries. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh City Charter.



Ni Gayatri Ni is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice where she received many awards for her work in engineering and chemistry. In addition to her academic success, Ni participated in Chinese Club, Asian Pacific Student Union, Charity Club, and Society for Women Engineers. Ni is studying electrical engineering at The University of Pittsburgh—Greensburg.



Nyah Faulk Nyah completed an internship with the Andy Warhol Museum where she enjoyed learning art history. She was also active in community service work at Saint Mary Mercy Church. Nyah, a Pittsburgh City Charter graduate, is currently attending CCAC where she studies criminal justice.

302

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

Lily Tolchin As creator of the "Make it Write" Creative Writing Workshop, Lily taught children of battered women to express their feelings through writing. She also wrote the "My Generation" column for *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* for five years. Lily's love of writing led her to attend The University of Pittsburgh to pursue a degree in English writing. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice.



Jason Walter While attending Pittsburgh University Prep, Jason was the captain of the chess club and had an internship with the CEO of The Benedum Center for Performing Arts. He is now attending Edinboro University to study graphic design. He is a loyal and dedicated individual who cares deeply for his family and friends.



Dyllin Wood Dyllin is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice where he was involved in many activities including fencing, drumline, volleyball, and served as vice president of the school's Charity Club. Dyllin is attending The University of Pittsburgh—Johnstown to study computer science. He aspires to develop video games or create biomechanical devices in the future.



Lexis Wright Lexis received the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation Scholarship at The University of Pittsburgh, where she is studying business marketing. At Pittsburgh CAPA, Lexis held numerous leadership roles including president of the senior class and Black Student Union, and serving as an ambassador for The Pittsburgh Promise and Female Empowering Mission.



Anita Rzewski Anita served as Fashion Club president at Pittsburgh Allderdice and was a Nordstrom Fashion Ambassador. She is studying marketing at The University of Pittsburgh and wants to become a leader in the ethical fashion industry. Anita is passionate about music, art, politics, and learning. Community service taught her that we all must take responsibility for the world in which we live.

Giant Eagle Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise

Sydney Martin At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Sydney served as African American Center for Advanced Studies Executive Council Secretary and was a member of Black Student Union. She is studying journalism at Robert Morris University where she will cultivate her passion of writing for advocacy and meaningful change. She aspires to use her voice as a pathway to positively impact the lives of others.



April Rigot April was active in theatre arts and Society of Women Engineers at Pittsburgh Brashear. She graduated co-valedictorian and is attending The University of Pittsburgh through the Pittsburgh Public Scholars program. April is studying computer science and hopes to encourage young girls to also pursue careers in STEM fields.



Cesare Pampena A Pittsburgh SciTech graduate and environmental engineering student at Carnegie Mellon University, Cesare wants to contribute to a long-term solution to combat the global climate crisis. Cesare is most proud of his participation in volunteer activities with The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and American Red Cross through Interact Club and National Honor Society.



Zoe Fuller Zoe is a hard worker who aspires to enact change in her community. A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, she was active in soccer, musicals, Youth and Government, and held a part-time job. Zoe attends The University of Pittsburgh where she majors in linguistics with a minor in film studies. She hopes to eventually become a lawyer and change the world in positive ways.



Jasmynie Miller As a successful student athlete, Jasmynie participated in soccer, track and field, in addition to the African American Center for Advanced Studies and Black Student Union. She graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice and is now attending Temple University where she is studying marketing.

**LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY**

The Pittsburgh Promise and La Roche University 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, I can proudly say that I am a college graduate.

— NICOLE LINKES '16



Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

KeyBank Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise


Totionna Hill Totionna wants to help folks who struggle with mental health disorders. For her senior project at Pittsburgh City Charter, she created a video to support people battling poor body image and depression. Totionna is a hard worker, having participated in Gwen's Girls and maintained a part-time job while succeeding academically. She is now studying psychology at Slippery Rock University.



Kyra Baillie In addition to her role as Pittsburgh Obama's Youth and Government Chapter president, Kyra participated in track, cross country, soccer, and swimming. She hopes to someday work in local government and become a teacher. Her love of the city led her to enroll at The University of Pittsburgh, where she is studying political science.



George Begler While attending Pittsburgh Allderdice, a service trip to Dominican Republic sparked George's interest in history and learning about other cultures. Recognizing similarities between people from different parts of the world led George to study sociology at The University of Pittsburgh. He plans to study abroad and hopes to build bridges between cultures.



Giordana Verrengia Giordana was a valedictorian at Pittsburgh CAPA and has received numerous awards for her writing and poetry. She participated in volunteer activities with National Honor Society and was an Urban EcoSteward with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Giordana is pursuing her passions for writing and language as an English major at The University of Pittsburgh.



Gabriella Henderson Gabriella is proud to be attending Temple University, where she studies criminal justice. She hopes to one day work for the FBI. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Gabriella participated in volleyball, cheerleading, track, and the African American Center for Advanced Studies. Volunteering with local food banks taught her to be more selfless.

McGuinn Family Foundation Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise


Noor El-Hajomar Noor graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. He is studying biomedical engineering at The University of Pittsburgh and looks forward to continuing his academic success and giving back to his family. Noor enjoys caring for his pet fish and aquascaping his many tanks, a practice he considers a living art.



Alexa Diven Attending Slippery Rock University's Honors College to study civil engineering is an accomplishment of which Alexa is especially proud. Her many passions, including beauty, fashion, motorcycles, and hunting, make her a well-rounded individual. She is excited to pursue her interest in engineering. Alexa graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick.



Venetia Khouri Venetia is studying secondary education at Duquesne University with a plan to become a social studies teacher. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh City Charter. While in high school, she interned at Manchester Academic Charter School to pursue her love of education and helping students.



Julianne Jacques Julianne was very active at Pittsburgh CAPA where she was captain of the mock trial team, a writer for the *CAPA Chronicle*, and a member of the ultimate frisbee and debate teams. She is attending Temple University with hopes of becoming a teacher and eventually going to law school. Julianne is most proud of her work at Camp AIM, a day camp for students with special needs.



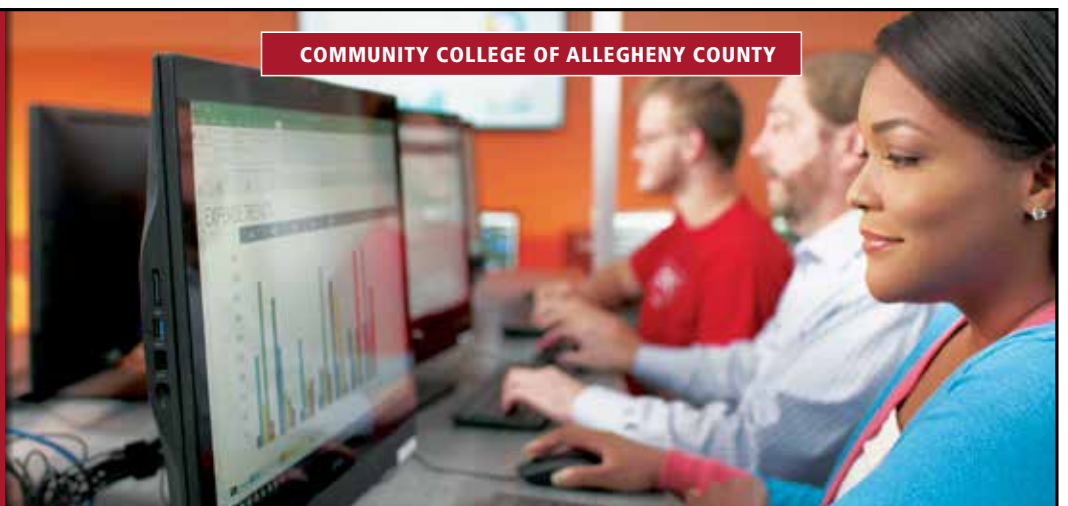
Shawntea Mahdi Shawntea is proud to be a first-generation student at Allegheny College and dedicated to reaching her highest potential. She is studying biology with plans of going to medical school to become a doctor. Shawntea served as a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador and peer tutor at Pittsburgh City Charter.

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- Evening
- Weekend
- Online



COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY



Mylan Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise

Julie Ceoffe Julie's biggest passion is writing. She is attending Robert Morris University to study English and aspires to write novels and poetry that will help others in their times of need. She also enjoys practicing yoga and volunteers with Tree Pittsburgh and Teamster Horsemen. Julie graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice.



Nile Ross Nile is pursuing her passions for movement and dance at Temple University where she is studying kinesiology and dance with aspirations of becoming a physical therapist. Nile is most proud of her advocacy work while at Pittsburgh CAPA as a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, organizing events for the Month of Nonviolence, and participating in rallies against injustice.



Curran McCune Curran is enhancing his love for space and pursuing his dream of becoming an astronaut by studying aerospace engineering at Penn State University—Greater Allegheny. He aspires to one day travel to Mars. At Pittsburgh SciTech he participated in the Dungeons and Dragons Club, Feminist Student Union, and the Gay-Straight Alliance.



Thao Tran Thao's participation on the track and field and cross country teams at Pittsburgh Brashear supported her interests in physical activity. She now studies exercise science at Chatham University. She wants to someday create more efficient methods to help people who are in pain. Thao has worked with the Citiparks Summer Lunch Program and Pretty Up Beechview.



Brian Woolley Brian chose chemical engineering as his major at Carnegie Mellon University because he aspires to contribute to innovations that will help preserve the environment. Brian graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice, where he was involved in many activities including soccer, tutoring, working with children, and numerous volunteer efforts.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise

Vincent Folkes A Pittsburgh City Charter graduate, Vincent now attends CCAC. He is learning about bioengineering and entrepreneurship and wants to own a biotech company. He was awarded the 2019 MLK Alpha Kappa Alpha Essay Contest and Carnegie Mellon University MLK Writing Awards. He's involved in Youth Undoing Institutionalized Racism and is an advocate for the black and trans communities.



Jada Woods Jada received the KAPPA Scholarship Endowment Fund award, giving her a full scholarship to Penn State University to study chemical engineering. At Pittsburgh CAPA, Jada taught piano to younger students, was secretary of Students in Action Committee, and a leader in Female Empowerment Mission. She aspires to create a pre-college program to introduce underrepresented students to STEM.



Shane McKown At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Shane was captain of the wrestling, lacrosse, and football teams. In addition to his love of sports, he enjoys traveling and experiencing different cultures. Shane attends Penn State University where he studies mechanical engineering and hopes to one day work as an engineer and travel the world.



Lan Anh Le Lan Anh is a graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech, where she received numerous awards and honors for her success in academics. She has extensive volunteer experience including activities with American Red Cross, Central Blood Bank, and Animal Friends. Lan Anh enjoys drawing, movies, webcomics, and helping others. She is studying nursing at The University of Pittsburgh.



Riley Wolynn Through involvement with Planned Parenthood, UPMC School Health Partnership, and The University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, Riley has sought to understand and improve how scientific discoveries are applied to public health. A Pittsburgh CAPA graduate, she is studying biological sciences at The University of Pittsburgh through the Pittsburgh Public Scholars program.

EXECUTIVE COMPANIES

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

UPMC | Highmark | PNC | BNY Mellon
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KeyBank | McGuinn Family Foundation
Mylan | Thermo Fisher Scientific

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2017, 2018

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BY US NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2017, 2018

RANKED BY
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one of the
BEST
VALUES
FOR YOUR MONEY
2018, 2019

SlipperyRockSM University

The Pittsburgh Promise

Preferred College Partners

EXPERIENCE
THE DIFFERENCE



CIVIL ENGINEERING

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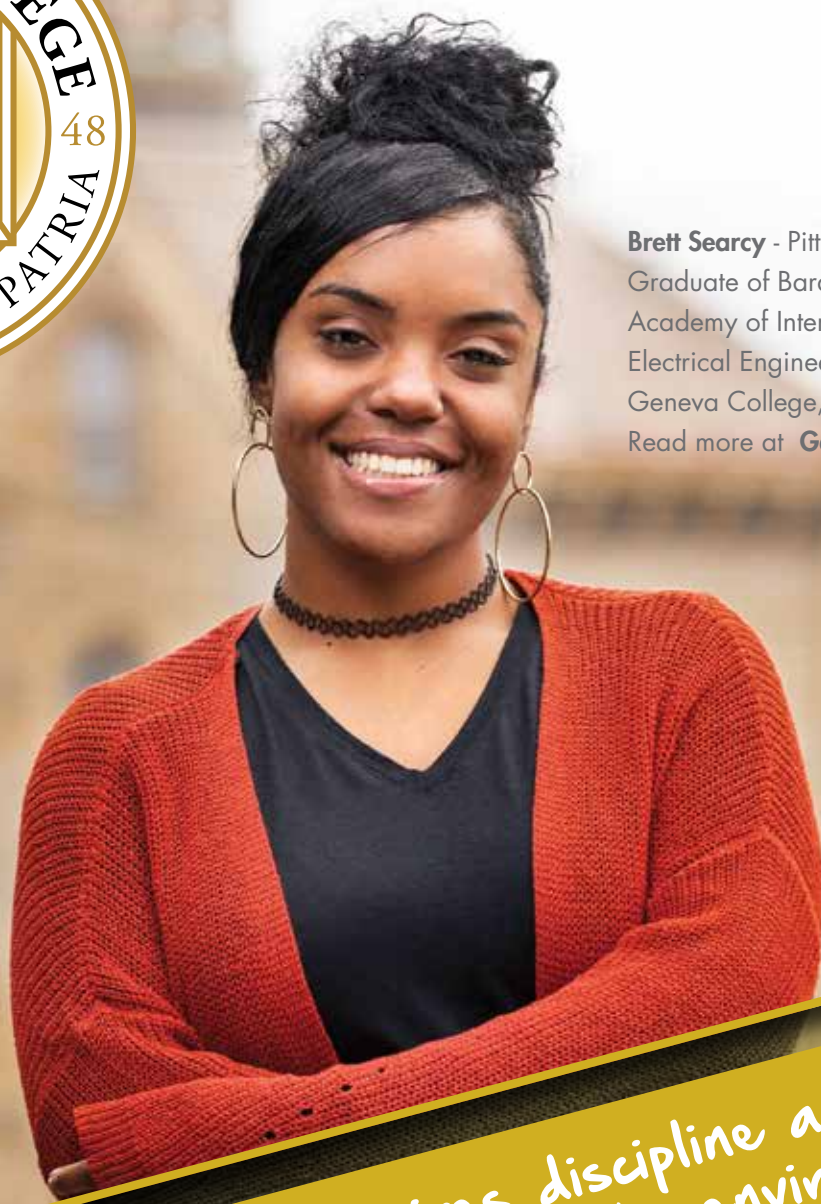
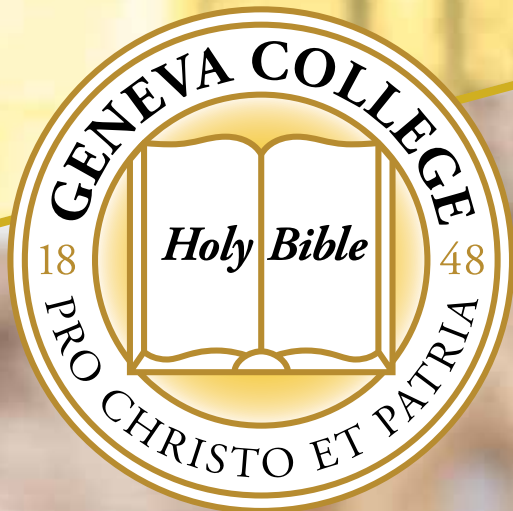
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Brett Searcy - Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate of Barack Obama
Academy of International Studies 6-12,
Electrical Engineering major at
Geneva College, class of 2020;
Read more at Geneva.edu/brett

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Brett uses Geneva's Pittsburgh Promise match to double the money she can use for her education.
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Ask The PRESIDENT

WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

What advice do you have for students trying to find and receive scholarships for their post-secondary education?



Dr. Michael Driscoll *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Scholarships can reward your hard work and you should definitely take a look at reputable sites like fastweb.com to find opportunities that match your interests and background.

You also should check with the financial aid office at the college of your choice to see what's available there. At IUP, for example, our alumni have funded many scholarship opportunities—

some based on merit, some on need. Many are based on what high school you graduated from or what major you plan to pursue. In all cases, you won't have to pay them back, which is the best part.

I had scholarships when I started college, and I know from experience they are worth pursuing.



Dr. Mary C. Finger *Seton Hill University*

Finding scholarships to fund a college education is a priority for so many students and their families. At Seton Hill, we have focused fundraising efforts on creating and expanding scholarships for our students in recent years—so students should talk with the admissions team at the colleges they are interested in to identify institutional scholarships.

High school guidance counselors are also a great resource. They know about national and local organizations that offer scholarships to deserving students. Many employers offer scholarships to their employees—or the dependents of their employees—as well. Many professional

organizations also offer scholarships to students planning to study majors in their fields. In addition, the United States Department of Labor offers a scholarship database on its website, listing a variety of opportunities for students.

Above all, students need to research the opportunities and pay close attention to scholarship application deadlines and requirements. And while many scholarships are based on grades and academic rigor, students will also find their extracurricular activities—from sports to clubs to volunteer work—make them prime candidates for scholarship aid.



Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith *Pittsburgh Technical College*

Education is transformational and it strengthens individuals, the workforce, and our communities. It's an important investment, but the cost of attending college can be prohibitive for many students.

My best advice is to thoroughly research scholarships and grants and to start the process early. Research should include identifying scholarship opportunities, determining qualifications, and knowing and keeping deadlines.

Most students are aware of scholarships that are awarded for academic performance or athletic achievement. However, they may not be aware of scholarships based on less traditional criteria like being a first-generation college student, having a family member who provided military service, being a member of a

fraternal organization or serving as a member of a volunteer fire department. Identifying these opportunities requires a commitment to research, asking questions, and applying for awards for which they qualify.

At Pittsburgh Technical College (PTC), we are committed to a higher standard and to making securing financial aid as easy as possible. We pair current and prospective students with financial aid planners to identify appropriate scholarships and grants. PTC supports students with financial literacy in the process of applying for aid.

Many employers actively recruit PTC students by providing scholarships. Our programs also align with the skill sets needed by employers so, after graduation, PTC graduates are provided career opportunities with these companies.



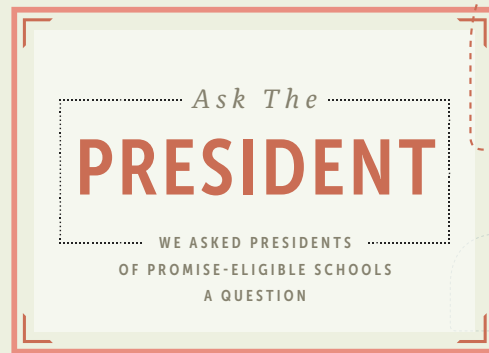
Ms. Geraldine M. Jones *California University of Pennsylvania*

Some students don't want to discuss their family finances, but there's no reason to be shy. Be proactive and ask directly about scholarships. Talk to your high school counselor. Search university websites. Tour colleges that interest you and stop at the financial aid office. If you can't visit, call and request scholarship advice. Remember that most students need some type of financial aid—and unlike loans, a scholarship is money you don't have to pay back.

If you qualify, look for scholarships based on ability, as well as need. For example, Cal U awards Vulcan Merit Scholarships based on your

high school grade point average and SAT or ACT test scores. For other scholarships, eligibility might be linked to your achievements, your field of study, or your ties to a certain organization. Even small awards make higher education more affordable.

Remember that scholarships come with conditions. In return for the award, you'll need to work hard and keep up your grades. If you need tutoring or advice, just ask. The same bold, proactive approach that helped you earn your scholarship can become an important ingredient in your academic success.



What advice do you have for students trying to find and receive scholarships for their post-secondary education?



Dr. Hilary L. Link *Allegheny College*

A college education is one of the most important investments you and your family can make in your future. First and foremost, do not rule out a college or university based on published tuition and fees alone. What initially might seem out of reach can be an attainable option after financial aid is considered. Use the Net Price Calculator found on each school's website, and don't hesitate to contact schools directly to ask questions about scholarship support. Admissions and financial aid staff members are there to help you navigate an unfamiliar—and what at times can seem daunting—process.

As you visit campuses and apply to schools, make sure to remember the basics as you're seeking financial aid. Meet deadlines, such as those from institutions, your state, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); explore reputable online resources with information about outside scholarships; make the effort to submit strong applications for those scholarships. And as you progress in your journey through college, stay on the lookout for scholarship opportunities from your school and other organizations. You may be eligible to apply for additional scholarships based on your major, your involvement in activities, or awards that you receive.



Dr. Susan Traverso *Thiel College*

Colleges and universities, private organizations, and government programs all offer many scholarships. Your high school guidance department is a good place to start. In addition to having information about state and federal financial aid, they can give you information about scholarships through local service organizations. Don't stop there, though!

Public libraries can provide credible web resources about scholarships. Most important, though, will be speaking to the colleges you would like to attend. Do not be put off by the "published" tuition rates. Colleges offer substantial aid to students and families. Merit scholarships based on a student's academic

record, leadership grants, and athletic awards are available at many schools. Need-based institutional grants to eligible students can supplement state and federal aid as well.

Scholarship opportunities unique to a particular college can also support students. For example, Thiel College offers scholarships designed exclusively for Pittsburgh and/or Allegheny County students as well as awards for specific academic pursuits. Thiel's Dietrich Honors Institute—supported by The Dietrich Foundation in Pittsburgh—is another source of scholarship support unique to Thiel College. It is never too early to begin gathering information about scholarships or to make a campus visit.

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Get ideas.

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Have a blast.

Have all new stories to tell.

Wonder how you ever lived

without that insight,

that moment that changed everything.



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LAST LOOK

Polish Hill Polish immigrants working in the steel industry settled the Polish Hill neighborhood in the 19th century. You can still find some of the city's best pierogies and traditional Polish treats in the neighborhood's shops.



1901 Centre Avenue
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A young Black man with short dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a brown jacket over a green hoodie and has a backpack on. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green trees and a building.

DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITY!

**LEARN
MORE**

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

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

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

For more information, email

dualenrollment@pittsburghpromise.org