

# The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars of Highmark

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 2021 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

## EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR COMPANIES

UPMC

Highmark • PNC • BNY Mellon

American Eagle Outfitters • Giant Eagle

Highmark Wholecare • Howmet Aerospace • KeyBank

McGuinn Family Foundation • PPG

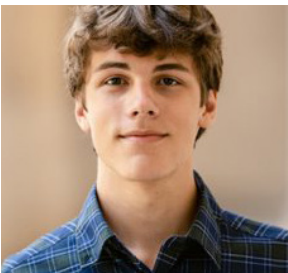
Thermo Fisher Scientific • Viatris

# 2021



## **Azriah Crawley**

While attending Pittsburgh CAPA, Azriah worked a job and participated in several extracurriculars including the Frisbee Team, Black Student Union, and Mock Trial. Azriah currently attends the University of Pittsburgh with the career goal of becoming a lawyer.



## **Benjamin Gradek**

Ben loves to give back by volunteering at a nursing home and Waverly Presbyterian Church. While attending Pittsburgh CAPA, he achieved High Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society. Ben is studying computer science at the University of Pittsburgh.



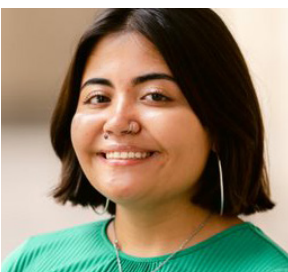
## **Jah'liyah Smith**

While attending Pittsburgh Westinghouse, Jah'liyah was cheerleading captain, Class Council member, and Promise Ambassador. She has showcased her leadership by being a part of different organizations such as YouthPlaces and Neighborhood Learning Alliance. Jah'liyah is studying graphic design and American Sign Language at Temple University.



## **Lauren Smith**

Lauren won many scholarships and awards for her outstanding academics and humanitarian work, including the SciTech Student of the Year and the Challenge Program Award for Community Service. Currently studying information systems at Carnegie Mellon University, she wants to impact the lives of others and push for a better world.



## **Madison Young**

At Pittsburgh Brashear, Madison was a cheerleader, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, and was ranked top 20 in her graduating class. She studies journalism at Temple University and wants to be an investigative broadcast journalist. Madison is passionate about creating video content to inspire and entertain others.

# 2020



## **Julie Piasecki**

In addition to being valedictorian at Pittsburgh Brashear, Julie participated in Drama Club, school musicals, International Thespian Society and was president of National Honor Society. Julie also worked as a Promise Student Ambassador. Julie is studying health care administration at Slippery Rock University.



## **Janine Kwizera**

At Duquesne University Janine is studying biology with aspirations of becoming an OB/GYN. This profession will allow her to fulfill her goals of caring for others and making a positive impact on society. As a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice Janine received an award for perfect attendance.



## **Aaliyah Thomas**

Aaliyah is pursuing a nursing degree at Chatham University. She plans to work as a travel nurse before training to be a nurse anesthetist. As a Global Leadership Council Member at Pittsburgh CAPA she earned a scholarship to participate in an immersion program in Japan.



## **Sachin Thiagarajan**

Driven by a passion for learning and a desire to become a physician, Sachin is a pre-med major at University of Pittsburgh. He hopes to work with Doctors Without Borders and serve as a trauma surgeon in the U.S. military.



## **Eli Anish**

Eli is a dedicated runner having won many competitions and awards including back-to-back District Individual Cross Country Championships. Building upon his athletic success at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Eli runs competitively for University of Pittsburgh where he is studying health sciences.

# 2019



## **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.



# 2018



## **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.



## **Austin Taylor**

Austin is studying biology at the University of Pittsburgh. He aspires to become a cardiologist. In addition to being a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador, 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. While pursuing her degree she also works at Taco Bell.

# 2017



## **Sarah Ossman**

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



## **Vergel Prima**

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



## **Rebecca Boles**

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



## **Syerra Hopkins**

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



## **Brandon Dean**

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

# 2016



## **Mathew Johnson**

Mathew is an accounting major at Duquesne University. He aspires to become a Certified Public Accountant after he graduates, and to someday establish his own accounting firm. Mathew is an avid lover of music. He graduated from Pittsburgh Carrick where he was very active in athletics and played five sports.



## **Greta Gasswint**

Greta is a dancer as well as an engineering major at Penn State University. Devoted to science and the arts, she sees herself as a community leader, a role model, and an innovator. Greta is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, where she wrote for the school paper, participated in school musicals, and was valedictorian of her class.



## **Jordan Anderson**

Jordan graduated from Pittsburgh Obama and now studies public health at Temple University. She hopes to open her own orthodontist practice one day. In high school, Jordan helped to establish a garden in conjunction with her school's Food Revolution Club and volunteered with a local food pantry.



## **Joy Padolf**

Joy is studying international relations at Duquesne University where she hopes to learn more about the way the U.S. interacts with other countries in order to break barriers across borders. A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Joy enjoys art and music and recently submitted her own film to the Make a Change Film Festival.



## **Dylan D'Alessio**

Dylan D'Alessio attends Carlow University, where he received an academic scholarship. A business management major, he's focused on developing the skills to someday start his own business. While attending Pittsburgh Brashear, Dylan was on the basketball team and also volunteered as an assistant coach for a children's league.

# 2015



## **Raj Pohrel**

A computer engineering major at Penn State University, Raj did not have a computer growing up in Nepal. As the first in his family to attend college he hopes to become a computer engineer. Raj volunteered at a program called Computer Reach, restoring computers for students overseas. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear.



## **Samantha Oliver**

Samantha is attending Penn State University to study business. She has been playing soccer since she was seven years old, which led her to become a volunteer soccer coach and referee. Samantha is a graduate of Pittsburgh Carrick and a Lawrence and Elizabeth Held Scholarship recipient.



## **Sarah Conte**

Sarah attends the University of Pittsburgh to pursue nursing and is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA. Sarah plays the clarinet, oboe, and piano, and has played at the Byham Theatre. In addition, Sarah volunteers her time at the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society.



## **Angelica Advent**

Angelica attends the Community College of Allegheny County and hopes to become an ultrasound technician. She is passionate about helping others and created a club at Pittsburgh Allderdice that makes jewelry for women diagnosed with cancer. Angelica also cares for her sister with special needs.



## **Ra'naa Billingsley**

Ra'naa is a nursing major at Duquesne University and a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA. She hopes to become a nurse and eventually open her own spa. Ra'naa was a member of her school's Black Student Union and Women's Student Union. In addition to her Promise Scholarship, Ra'naa received two academic scholarships from Duquesne University.



# 2014



## Alexis Mighty

Alexis is a pre-medicine major at University of Pittsburgh–Greensburg. She enjoys helping animals and hopes to one day own a veterinary clinic. A graduate of Pittsburgh SciTech Academy, she served as a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador working to promote college readiness in her school.



## Aysar Gharaibeh

Aysar accomplished a personal triumph when he was accepted to his first choice among colleges, Carnegie Mellon University. Aysar studies business and hopes to one day receive his MBA. He is passionate about traveling and meeting new people. Aysar is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice.



## Brianna Blotzer

Brianna studies radiology at La Roche College. She hopes to one day earn her MD and become a radiologist. Brianna takes pride in her perfect attendance record during her high school career at Pittsburgh Brashear. She also plays the violin and has been in orchestra since the sixth grade.



## Courtney Killmeyer

A Pittsburgh Brashear graduate, Courtney is pursuing a degree in nursing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Courtney has been dancing for fourteen years and teaching dance for three years. Apart from her Promise Scholarship, Courtney was proud to receive the Sutton Scholarship and the EWEAA Scholarship.



## Joshua Patton

Joshua is a graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear and attends Allegheny College. He is interested in political science and spanish and hopes to eventually attend law school. Joshua enjoys literature and traveling. One of his favorite memories is traveling to Peru as a World Affairs Scholar with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.

# 2013



## **Jacob Himes**

Jacob is studying chemistry and Japanese at Temple University. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Jacob was as a member of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, National Honors Society, and United States Leadership Academy. He also received Temple University's Dean's Scholars Scholarship.



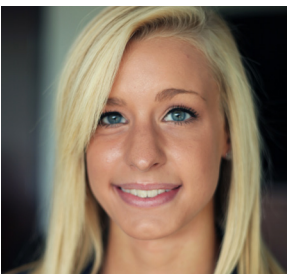
## **Caitlin Miller**

Caitlin attends Point Park University and is pursuing degrees in communications and public relations. A graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, Caitlin is passionate about community service. She teaches children at her local dance studio and was a National Honors Society peer tutor.



## **Qawiyah Muhammad**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, Qawiyah attends Chatham University and is pursuing a degree in nursing. Qawiyah is interested in helping others and she gives back by volunteering at the Jubilee Kitchen. In addition to her Promise award, she received a Ben Carson Scholarship.



## **Katie Spinneweber**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, Katie is studying in the competitive five-year Physician Assistant Program at Seton Hill University. In addition to her Promise Scholarship, Katie was awarded an academic scholarship with Seton Hill.



## **Emily Van Horn**

Emily studies computer science at Slippery Rock University. Graduating valedictorian from Pittsburgh Perry, Emily was involved with the drum team. In addition to her Promise award, Emily received the Northside Leadership Conference Scholarship and Slippery Rock University's Merit Scholarship.

# 2012



## **Juliana Collins**

A graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, Juliana attends Temple University and studies psychology. She hopes to help those who are struggling with mental illness. Juliana is also the proud recipient of multiple awards for her writing.



## **Maria Whaby**

Valedictorian of her graduating class at Career Connections Charter High School, Maria attends the Community College of Allegheny County and studies nursing. Maria is also proud to be a member of the National Honors Society.



## **Cory Hanlon**

A graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, Cory attends Carlow University and studies nursing. Cory was an active hospital volunteer and hopes to pursue emergency room medicine. Cory was also awarded the Pittsburgh Penguins' 2012 Inner City Scholarship and Academic Scholarship at Carlow University.



## **Sharese Dunmore**

A graduate of Perry High School, Sharese is a student at Chatham University majoring in nursing. Sharese is proud of her volunteer participation to clean her neighborhood and collect items for those in need. She hopes to work one day as a pediatric nurse.



## **Amanda Dugan**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Langley with a 3.96 GPA, Amanda attends La Roche College and studies psychology. She is proud of her work as a volunteer at the Highmark Caring Place. In addition to The Promise Scholarship, Amanda was awarded the Langley Alumni Scholarship and La Roche Merit scholarship.