

The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars of PNC

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



JaQuay Blair

At Pittsburgh Obama, JaQuay was a High Honor Roll student while working and participating in extracurriculars including cheerleading and cooking club. She is a creative spirit who loves to make things with her hands such as t-shirts, keychains, pens, and trinket boxes. JaQuay attends Robert Morris University pursuing a business degree.



Reggie Branson

The pandemic taught Reggie that success does not come without some sacrifice. He loves to learn, especially when it comes to understanding how things work. Reggie attends Waynesburg University and wants to own and manage an automotive mechanic shop.



Tirzah Duncan

Tirzah is passionate about working with children and pop culture. She loves exploring how entertainment reflects people in society as well as how entertainment affects people. Moreover, Tirzah's passion for health equity has led to her studying at Temple University to be a healthcare provider.



Emily Kane

Emily is a huge baseball fan, being a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Pirates. That love for the game led to her to study sports marketing at the University of Pittsburgh. Emily wants to fight to make the world better for LGBTQ+ people, especially the youth.



Ben Schachter

Overcoming ADHD and childhood epilepsy, Ben achieved High-Honors and the Best Teammate award on the Fencing Team at Pittsburgh Allderdice. Ben attends Penn State University majoring in computer science and aspires to create his own video game.

2020



Niraj Nepal

Motivated by helping others and the importance of culture, Niraj volunteers with ARYSE working with refugee and immigrant youths. At Pittsburgh Carrick he was active in sports, National Honor Society and International Thespian Society. Niraj studies computer science at Duquesne University.



Mikeiya Bennett

Mikeiya is passionate about empowering others and ensuring everyone's voice is heard. She helped create Student Council at Pittsburgh CAPA and was elected Class President. At Temple University she studies political science and aspires to become a lawyer to advocate for justice in our political systems.



Steven Tsoukalas

Steven studies mechanical engineering at University of Pittsburgh and has dreams to design and manufacture aerospace technology. At Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy he participated in BotsIQ Robotics competition, Math League and was president of National Honor Society.



Amila Niksic

As valedictorian at Pittsburgh Obama, Amila has been awarded a scholarship to attend University of Pittsburgh where she is studying biomedical engineering. Amila founded the Obama Academy Speaker Series, taught English at SOS Children's Village International and was a research assistant at Pitt.



Isabella Sciulli

Isabella strives to be a successful businesswoman full of the confidence and motivation needed to excel in her career. As a Pittsburgh Allderdice student she was a member of National Honor Society and participated in a Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser. She is majoring in business at La Roche University.

2019



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.

2018



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.

2017



Miracle Collington-Dennison

Miracle is a computer science major at Penn State University. She is passionate about education and community service. She hopes to one day own her own business. Miracle is a Pittsburgh Obama graduate.



Carolyn Pallof

A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Carolyn loves using her creativity to write and design. She started her own online business and ran cross country. Carolyn attends the University of Pittsburgh where she is very active on campus and interested in business.



Emily Kostelnik

Emily is majoring in marketing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, she was captain of the field hockey team and maintained a part-time job in addition to excelling in school.



Leonard Reichert

Leonard is a Pittsburgh CAPA graduate. A multimedia major at Point Park University, Leonard has a love for music and art. He hopes to become a graphic designer in the future. Community service taught him the importance of considering others.



Sara Agip

Originally from Peru, Sara came to the United States without knowing any English. She takes great pride in how far she has come and hopes to one day own a business. Sara is a Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate who attends Penn State University as a business major.

2016



Jordyn Gilliard

Jordyn is a Pittsburgh Obama graduate who is now studying communications at Chatham University. She hopes to pursue a law degree eventually. She participated in Summerbridge Academy and received the North Hills' Ebony Women's Scholarship, Bob O'Connor Scholarship, and a NEED Scholarship.



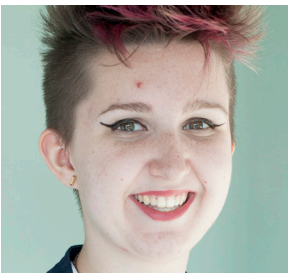
Molly Rohrer

Molly is attending Carnegie Mellon University and hopes to pursue public policy and international relations. A Pittsburgh CAPA graduate, she is passionate about dance. Because of her interests in feminism and politics, Molly hopes to attend law school and change perceptions about women in government.



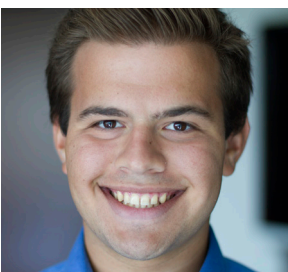
Micah Anthony

Micah was a member of the Pittsburgh Carrick engineering club. He loves anything related to math or computer coding and programming. He now studies computer science at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is a Panther Pride Award recipient. Micah enjoys volunteering through his church's men's group.



Laura Condon

Laura, a Pittsburgh CAPA graduate, studies English writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Laura was the president of the National Honor Society at her high school as well as a member of the travel club. An avid writer, she has self-published a novel and hopes to be a professional writer in the future.



Collin DeWitt

Collin is a finance major at Temple University where he received the President's Scholarship. While he attended Pittsburgh Allderdice, he was on the crew team and participated in marching band. He was also president of his youth synagogue. He enjoys music and plays both the guitar and saxophone.

2015



April Yoder

A graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA, April is attending the University of Pittsburgh to study communication science. April's passion for writing and literature inspired her to start a book club at her school. She is most proud of receiving the regional gold and silver keys in writing from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



Ashley Mayers

Ashley, a Pittsburgh Brashear graduate, studies psychology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Ashley volunteered at ACH Pathways helping children in Pittsburgh's Hill District. In addition, she worked part time and still managed to volunteer in her neighborhood clean-ups and community garden.



Silvia Giampapa

Silvia graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice and is attending Carnegie Mellon University. Silvia is majoring in biology and chemistry. She hopes to work towards greener energy and inspire others to protect the planet. She speaks Italian and plays piano. Silvia was also one of her school's rowing team captains.



Jacob Davis

Jacob is a Pittsburgh Brashear graduate attending Saint Vincent College to study computer science. He was an active athlete throughout school, swimming, playing soccer and baseball, and coaching baseball for four years. He is a recipient of the House of Representative's Excellence in Education Award.



Zachary Greenhouse

Zachary graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice, where he was captain of the lacrosse team. Zachary loves music and has been playing guitar for nine years. He served at the Jewish Community Service Organization and Student Hunger Action Coalition. Zachary is attending Franklin and Marshall College, and his major is currently undecided.

2014



Alan Hord

Alan, a political science major at Penn State University, plans to go to law school. A graduate of the Pittsburgh SciTech Academy, Alan was the treasurer for the National Honor Society and a participant in the Investing Now program at the University of Pittsburgh.



Anita Trimbur

Anita is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA and attends the University of Pittsburgh. Anita is passionate about photography and writing. She won the Regional Gold Key Scholastic Award for poetry, fiction, and screenwriting. Anita also volunteers at her church and the National Humane Society.



Elizabeth Bagley

Elizabeth attends West Chester University and studies business management. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA and volunteers her time at the Andy Warhol Museum and a community garden. Elizabeth's work in community service has taught her the importance of helping others.



Marcus Dean

Marcus is a graduate of Pittsburgh Perry and attends Westminster College. As an active athlete, Marcus was captain of the Perry Basketball Team. He is also on the basketball team at Westminster College where he studies communications. In addition to his Promise Scholarship, Marcus is an awarded NEED Scholar.



Tajendra Subedi

Tajendra studies computer engineering at the University of Pittsburgh–Titusville. T.J. has always had an interest and aptitude to work with computers. A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, he is especially proud of graduating with honors. T.J. was a member of the Nepali Club and Tennis Team.

2013



Rebecca Brown

A valedictorian at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Rebecca studies sociology and communications at the University of Pennsylvania. Rebecca founded two service clubs at her school, Becca's Closet and Allderdice Cares. In 2012, she won The Princeton Prize in Race Relations for the region.



Deja Hopkins

Deja is studying finance at Robert Morris University. A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, her goal is to become a financial advisor and to share financial literacy and knowledge with low-income communities. She received a Shyne Award and a Robert Morris University Academic Scholarship.



Benjamin Junker

A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, Benjamin is passionate about civic engagement. He served as Lieutenant Governor in the YMCA PA Youth and Government Program, and served as Ambassador for the regional Council on International Educational Exchange. Ben studies economics and political science at Carnegie Mellon University.



Erica Lisitsa

Erica studies computer science at the University of Pittsburgh. During her time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, she was the captain of her field hockey team. To commend her commitment to Friendship Circle, a volunteer organization supporting teens with special needs, she was awarded an Ida Wagner Fellowship Award.



Kelsey Sturm

Kelsey studies business at Penn State University–Behrend. A graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, Kelsey is passionate about community service. She is the recipient of the Girl Scouts Bronze and Silver Awards as well as the Greenfield Organization Youth Volunteer Award for her years of service.

2012



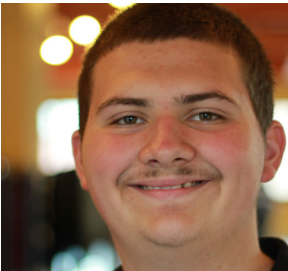
Elizabeth Paulin

A graduate of City Charter High School, Elizabeth attends Clarion University and studies accounting. Elizabeth is especially proud of the multiple Microsoft certifications and Microsoft Office awards she obtained in preparation for college.



Erika Mangual

A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, Erika attends Point Park University for business management. She is especially interested in communication and creative business applications. Erika was also awarded the Academic Scholarship at Point Park University.



Anthony Michalski

Anthony attends Robert Morris University and studies accounting. A graduate of Pittsburgh Perry, Anthony hopes to stay in Pittsburgh to pursue a master's degree in his field. Anthony's goal is to one day work for the federal government.



Kenya Finn

Kenya attends Duquesne University to study in engineering. Kenya hopes to own a small business one day. A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, she was especially proud to earn straight A's during her senior school year.



Leeza Tokarski

A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, Leeza attends Point Park University and studies advertising and public relations. Outside of Leeza's outstanding academics she was her senior class vice president and involved in school athletics. She received Academic and Athletic Scholarships from Point Park University.