

# The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars

## of The McGuinn Family Foundation

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 2022 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

## EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR COMPANIES

UPMC

Highmark • PNC • BNY Mellon

American Eagle Outfitters • Giant Eagle • F.N.B. Corporation

Highmark Wholecare • Howmet Aerospace • KeyBank

McGuinn Family Foundation • PPG

Thermo Fisher Scientific • Viatris

# 2022



## **Bena Bingham**

Bena enjoys the therapeutic aspects of painting, watercolors, and scratch board. While at Pittsburgh CAPA, she held multiple jobs, participated in the Social Equity Club, and showed great academic resilience. She is interested in traveling and learning about marine biology and gemstones. Bena is studying art at Temple University.



## **Oluwatomisin Olaore**

Oluwatomisin completed an internship at the Boys & Girls Club in artificial intelligence, while serving as Vice President of her class at Pittsburgh CAPA. She also participated in the Hillman Academy Research Program. Oluwatomisin attends Penn State University majoring in computer science and hopes to become a mobile app developer.



## **Josiah Russle**

Josiah is passionate about art, athletics, and fashion. During their time at Pittsburgh Westinghouse, they participated in softball and tennis. They aspire to be an independent artist and role model for future generations. Josiah is pursuing their bachelor's in art at PennWest - Clarion.



## **Jack Ruzanic**

While attending Pittsburgh Online Academy, Jack enjoyed being a member of the National Honor Society. He also volunteered at the local food pantry. Feeding his love of film making and music, he attended the Steeltown Film Academy. In line with his passion, Jack is studying cinema production at Point Park University.



## **Mariah Sanchez**

Mariah dreams of becoming an animator. At Pittsburgh CAPA, she was involved in Steeltown Entertainment, Garfield Jubilee, Startable Pittsburgh, and volunteered with Toys for Tots. Mariah is attending Point Park University, where she studies animation to pursue her passion of art and learn about the creation of animating.

# 2021



## **Nikko Poole**

Nikko Poole Day was an honor bestowed to him for his successful completion of his Eagle Service Scout Project at the Brookline Teen Outreach Program. Nikko is attending Slippery Rock University to be a health and physical education teacher and hopes to have a positive impact on high school youth.



## **Grayce Ransome**

At Pittsburgh CAPA, Grayce was a member of the Black Student Union, Green Team, and was a 2021 class officer. Through her creativity, she won the Scholastic Key Award for her sculptures. Grayce majors in fine and studio arts at Edinboro University.



## **Carter Stokes**

Witnessing police brutality as an African American male has motivated Carter to fight against hate in this world. Carter hopes to unite the world through his music as a songwriter and rapper. He majors in commercial music technology at the California University of Pennsylvania.



## **Starr Wasler**

“Change is inevitable if you wish to progress.” Starr wants to change minds and the world and serve those who are disproportionately affected in their daily lives. She is studying architecture at Carnegie Mellon University.



## **Grey Weatherford-Brown**

Grey loves writing, as she was a Literary Arts Major at Pittsburgh CAPA. As Youth Poet Ambassador, she enjoyed showing young people the importance of self-expression and inspiring others with the power of the pen. Grey is studying creative writing at Susquehanna University.

# 2020



## **Ericka Morton**

Dance has been a major part of Ericka's life. Ericka graduated as a dance major from Pittsburgh CAPA where she participated in Student Council, National Honor Society for Dance Arts and Black Student Union. She has taken her love of dance to Slippery Rock University to study the art form.



## **Zaire Giles**

Zaire's academic success has earned him several scholarships to attend Penn State University to study mechanical engineering. As a student at Pittsburgh Obama he participated in Youth and Government, National Honor Society, Volunteering Community Gardeners, elementary school tutoring and volleyball.



## **Zaki Khouri**

With dreams of becoming a forensic scientist or pharmacologist Zaki studies biochemistry at La Roche University. He enjoys physical fitness, music and the sciences. At Pittsburgh Allderdice Zaki participated in soccer, track and field, National Honor Society, Social Justice Club and Dice TV Productions.



## **Katelin Kostelnik**

Katelin attends Slippery Rock University where she studies early childhood and special education. She values education and hopes to build a strong foundation for her students so that they may flourish. At Pittsburgh City Charter she was involved in National Honor Society, Student Assembly and Eco-stewards.



## **Mara Cohen**

At Pittsburgh CAPA Mara participated in Asian Student Union, Jewish Student Union, UPMC Teen Facilitator Program and tennis. Driven by her experiences as a child, Mara aims to become an art therapist to help children express their feelings creatively. She studies art therapy at Temple University.



# 2019



## 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.

# 2018



## **Keyona Hutchison**

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



## **Kortnei Almon**

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



## **Andrew Knight**

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



## **Maria Pilar Lojacono**

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



## **Anya Epstein**

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

# 2017



## **Jahonna Lipscomb**

A political science major at Point Park University, Jahonna is passionate about social justice and equality. While at Pittsburgh Brashear, she received a scholarship from the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh to study abroad in Morocco.



## **Brianna Gerner**

Brianna is a pre-med, global health major at Allegheny College. With a love of volunteering and working with children, she hopes to become a pediatrician and work in underdeveloped countries. Brianna graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA.



## **Bria Brown**

Bria is studying psychology and pre-med at Temple University. She enjoys art and painting in her spare time. A Pittsburgh Allderdice graduate, Bria is proud to be the first in her family to attend college. She plans to eventually go on to medical school.



## **Maura Carr**

Maura has a love for children and hopes to help shape the young minds of the future. She is an early childhood education major at University of Pittsburgh—Greensburg. Maura was valedictorian at Pittsburgh Carrick and played volleyball.



## **Issam Abushaban**

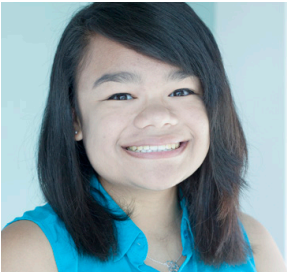
At Pittsburgh SciTech, Issam was editor and director of the SciTech News. He also worked in a research lab at the University of Pittsburgh where he now studies biomedical engineering. He's interested in neuroprosthetics and working on neurodegenerative diseases.

# 2016



## **Joseph Jones**

Joseph is a biology major at Robert Morris University and hopes to attend medical school to become a neurosurgeon. He was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador and participated in ROTC while attending Pittsburgh Perry. He also volunteered at food and blood drives and was a member of the Coalition Against Violence.



## **Anita Morrison**

Anita studies early childhood education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and hopes to return to Pittsburgh to teach. A love of children led her to volunteer at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh while attending Pittsburgh CAPA, where she was president of the National Music Honor Society.



## **Erion Morton**

Erion is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice. Because of her desire to help others, she volunteered at the Children's Museum and participated in service projects throughout the Hill District during high school. Erion plays the saxophone and hopes to become a music teacher. She now attends Chatham University for music.



## **Jacob Richards**

Jacob is a Ben Carson Scholar who graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA. He is a STEM enthusiast who now attends the University of Pittsburgh, where he is studying engineering. Jacob was a member of the Student Action Committee while attending high school, as well as a volunteer for community arts initiatives.



## **Johanna Vallejo**

Johanna is studying biological anthropology at Penn State University. She was very involved during her time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, participating in swim team and marching band. She is a proud black belt in American freestyle karate, and also has interests in travel, classical music, and animal welfare.



# 2015



## **D'Angelo Spencer**

D'Angelo is an HVAC major at Dean Institute of Technology. A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, he hopes to start his own business. In high school, D'Angelo played football, participated in track and field, and was a little league baseball coach. In his senior year, he led Brashear as the captain of the football team to a city championship.



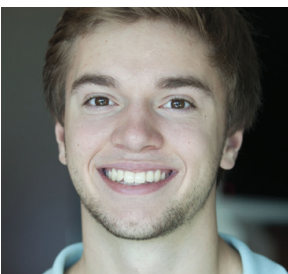
## **Marna Owens-Bailey**

Marna graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA with a passion for helping others. She plans to become an engineer to create technologies that will allow others to live more comfortably. Marna is an NAACP and Pepsi Scholarship recipient, and currently attends Penn State University–Behrend, studying mechanical engineering.



## **Marianne Kitsio**

An engineering major at the University of Pittsburgh, Marianne loves to dance and learn about new cultures. While attending Pittsburgh SciTech Academy, she received high honor roll and earned the Most Improved Student Award. Throughout high school, Marianne tutored middle school students and volunteered at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.



## **Jesse Moldovan**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, Jesse wants to engage in political dialogue that will help resolve the problems in the world. During high school, he participated in Junior Statesmen of America, Model UN, and Habitat for Humanity. Jesse is majoring in political science at the University of Pittsburgh.



## **Thomas Rone**

Thomas is a conservation and wildlife management major at Delaware Valley University. A graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, Thomas is interested in animals and the reasons behind their behavior. After college, Thomas plans to help preserve endangered species. Thomas was also awarded the NEED Honors Scholarship and Kappa Scholarship.

# 2014



## **Kendre Crawford-Blue**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Milliones (UPrep), she was her class valedictorian. Kendre is studying nursing at Penn State University. Passionate about giving back to teens, she hopes one day to start a non-profit that will benefit disadvantaged teen girls.



## **Chelsea Geruschat**

Chelsea is a biochemistry and molecular biology major at Penn State University. She graduated valedictorian from Pittsburgh Carrick. In high school she traveled to Argentina on a Global Travel Scholarship. In the future she hopes to work with Doctors Without Borders.



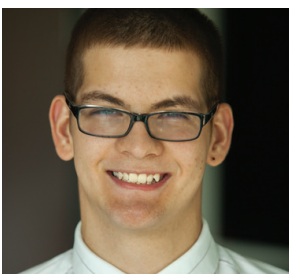
## **Jordan Lawson**

Jordan graduated from Pittsburgh Allderdice as Student Council Vice President and Captain of the rowing team. A political science and business major at Penn State University, Jordan is proud that he has received full college scholarship through a Bunton-Waller Fellowship and a Kappa Scholarship in addition to his Promise award.



## **Zachary Neal**

A graduate of Pittsburgh Brashear, Zachary is a seven-time Carson Scholar. Zachary was inspired by an internship at Shadyside hospital to study nursing at Duquesne University. Zachary is especially proud of being an Eagle Scout as well as completing his first half-marathon.



## **Sam O'Shell**

Sam attends the Community College of Allegheny College studying HVAC with a plan to also study environmental engineering. A graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, Sam believes in hard work and was employed during all of his high school years. He is especially proud of his work with the National Honor Society.