

2023
2024

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THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE
MAGAZINE

A GENERATION OF
Opportunity

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^{P2} is completely funded through advertisements placed by Promise eligible post-secondary institutions

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CONNECT WITH THE PROMISE



The Pittsburgh Promise is committed to raising the required resources to fund students through the high school graduating class of 2028 (this year's 8th graders).

1ST WORD

In the earliest days of The Pittsburgh Promise in 2008, I was often asked by students, families, and community members this question: "how long will the scholarship fund last?"

It was understood that, although we were launching a campaign to raise a massive \$250 million, it was still a finite sum that would eventually be spent down. But because we had not yet granted any scholarships, I could only answer with "we hope to fund an entire generation of students."

By the time 2015 arrived, we had served eight classes of graduates, had a better grasp of the scholarship utilization rate, and had access to performance data which did not exist in earlier years. Therefore, we were able to announce exactly which class of graduates from Pittsburgh Public Schools would be the last to receive a Promise scholarship: the high school class of 2028. They were in kindergarten then, and they would be our 21st class of Promise Scholars. To ensure their inclusion, we also announced that we would have to raise \$265 million, not \$250.

WE ARE DELIGHTED that we can serve 21 classes of graduates. We anticipate celebrating their achievements, highlighting their successes, and standing in awe of the impact they will have on the world. We have already welcomed two to our Board of Directors and ten to our staff, and we have marveled that more than 700 Pittsburgh companies have hired Promise alums.

WE ARE GRATEFUL that Pittsburgh's private sector – approximately 7,000 donors – has stepped up in such a big way for Pittsburgh's kids to provide astronomical financial support to advance their education. Donors like an elderly friend who would regularly send \$30, a family that in small increments over some time has given an amount equal to their son's Promise scholarship, and major companies and foundations without which The Promise would be impossible. Our donors continue to provide breathtaking support to our mission.

WE ARE ALSO SAD that there will one day be a final class of Promise Scholars. The finite nature of these very large sums of money is inescapable.

The class of 2028 is now in the 8th grade. They were not yet born when we launched The Pittsburgh Promise. But with great anticipation we look forward to meeting the people they will become and celebrating the impact they will have. ■

Sincerely,

Saleem Ghubril Executive Director | The Pittsburgh Promise



1 GRADUATE

from high school in, or before,

2028

2 LIVE

In the City of Pittsburgh

90

Neighborhoods to choose from!

3 ATTEND

Pittsburgh Public Schools or one of its charters



4 EARN

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Attendance 90% + 2.50 GPA cumulative & unweighted
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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.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

SHARP & MARCH OF DIMES

Promise Students Volunteer at SHARP (Sarah Heinz Advanced Robotics Program) and March of Dimes.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Sarah Heinz House and March of Dimes

SHARP is a robotics program for 1st - 12th graders, located at Sarah Heinz House in Pittsburgh, which participates in the FIRST and VEX Robotics Competitions.

Our student-driven teams have long histories of success, both at competitions and in our communities. We value hard work, leadership, creativity, and putting the growth of our members before all else. We also seek to interest more students in robotics and STEAM careers through outreach programs across Pittsburgh.

Why did you choose SHARP to do your volunteer work?

I personally love creating systems and understanding concepts in engineering, so SHARP was the perfect opportunity to share this. While volunteering, we showcase our First Robotics Competition (FIRST) robot and explain the objectives it can achieve while also showing other cool technology to families such as LED paper flowers, Wonder Workshop Dash robots, and even bigger projects such as trebuchets! SHARP allows me to share what I love most with everyone around the city while also showing me the importance of giving back and spreading knowledge to my community.

Can you tell us a little bit about SHARP and what you do there?

SHARP consists of a FRC and VEX team which compete every year at competitions in Pittsburgh and surrounding states (and even sometimes in Texas for the World competitions!). FRC and VEX differ mainly in the size and materials used to build them as FRC robots are bigger and heavier using things like aluminum and sheet metal, while VEX robots are built with plastic and smaller sized bolts. Outside of the competitions we are all about growth and community service, so we commonly hold booths at local events such as Punkin Chunkin at Hartwood acres every year where we bring a full-size wooden trebuchet and launch pumpkins over 50 yards! Along with outside service, we also invite students from Sarah Heinz to tour our shop and answer any questions they have. Service allows us to share the magic of engineering with others. We are always looking for ways to expand and help the community!

How has volunteering at SHARP impacted your life?

It all started in my 11th grade Computer Science class when two of my friends invited everyone to the team. I had never investigated robotics before, but I love engineering and STEM, so I honestly thought why not! Joining SHARP was like joining a new family as all the students share a love for learning and community involvement just like me. I felt like I found a new place where I belonged. Volunteering with SHARP has allowed me to grow and share my love for technology while also showing the importance of giving back. There's nothing better to me than seeing someone smile at a new tool or creation I've shown them.

LEARN MORE


Get Involved!

Find out more about SHARP at www.sarahheinzhouse.org

Which skills acquired through volunteering do you believe will prove advantageous for your college journey and overall life?

SHARP has taught me so much and I'm not sure if I would appreciate engineering and community service in the same way without this program. From using power tools, planning projects, to serving our community - I've built my communication and leadership skills all around. This supportive environment has better prepared me for college and especially the workforce. I know leadership and communication are vital to any successful team, so I plan to apply what I've learned to any of the challenges life throws at me. It has also taught me that taking chances on opportunities can be more rewarding than anticipated, so I encourage anyone who isn't 100% sure on taking that chance on a new thing to go for it. ■





Justin Monchais, is a graduate of Pittsburgh Sci-Tech who is studying Computer Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

Since 1938, March of Dimes has helped millions of babies survive and thrive. Their goals are to end the preventable maternal health risks and deaths, end preventable preterm birth and infant death, and close the health equity gap. March of Dimes believes in

a world where every mom and baby is healthy regardless of wealth, race, gender, or geography. Through research, programs and advocacy, their supporters enable them to be there for parents throughout their pregnancies.

Why did you choose March of Dimes to do your volunteer work?

I decided to dedicate my time to volunteering at March of Dimes due to a personal connection. As someone who was born prematurely, their cause resonates with me on a deep level. I firmly believe in supporting their mission and raising awareness.

Can you tell us a little bit about March of Dimes and what you do there?

March of Dimes is an organization focused on enhancing the well-being of mothers and babies, particularly in relation to premature birth. Within the organization, I actively participate in various events, with two main highlights being the annual march held in front of Heinz Field and the Signature Chef's auction. These events serve as vital fundraisers for the organization.

How has volunteering at March of Dimes impacted your life?

Volunteering with March of Dimes has significantly impacted both my social and communication skills. Engaging in fast-paced environments during certain events has allowed me to quickly establish connections with those around me.

Which skills acquired through volunteering do you believe will prove advantageous for your college journey and overall life?

Through my volunteering experience, I have honed crucial social and communication skills, which I consider invaluable for my future. Regardless of the career path I choose, these skills will serve me well and remain essential throughout my life. ■



LEARN
MORE

Get Involved!

Find out more about March of Dimes at

www.marchofdimes.org



Evan Dine, graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, studying Pharmacy at Duquesne University.

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THING?

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Empowering Accessibility



During my time at Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, I immersed myself in the school community, engaging in multiple robotics teams and being an active member of the high school design squad. Together, we had the opportunity to create some cool technology, including hoverboards – a thrilling experience that fueled my curiosity for innovation. However, beyond my various hobbies, my true passion lays in breaking down barriers for individuals with disabilities. This passion continues to be a driving force in my life.

My motivation is deeply personal; it stems from the profound relationship I share with my brother and best friend, Jacob.

Jacob lives with disabilities that require therapy and assistive technology to help him lead his best and most independent life. It was during his time at Pioneer Academy, where he attended occupational therapy, that I was first introduced to the world of assisting others. Witnessing the impact of occupational therapy on Jacob's life, I became committed to pursuing a path that would enable me to help others and ensure accessibility for those with disabilities.

Jacob and I are inseparable. During our school days, I participated in numerous sports and activities alongside him, cheering him on with unwavering support. Today, thanks to the therapies and assistive technology he has received, we share hobbies like Taekwondo and fishing together, creating cherished memories that strengthen our bond.

When the time came to choose a post-secondary school, I knew I wanted to stay close to home to be near Jacob. My decision was driven by a desire to support him while also seeking opportunities to stretch my financial aid. After much contemplation, I found myself enrolling at The University of Pittsburgh for my bachelor's degree. Later, I furthered my education and earned my doctorate at Chatham University, with the invaluable assistance of The Promise program, which enabled me to achieve the highest degree in occupational therapy.

Today, I am Dr. Evan Buchheit, a board-certified, licensed, and registered occupational therapist. It feels like destiny that I now work at Pioneer Academy, the very place that sparked my interest in this fulfilling profession. Here, I collaborate day-to-day with some of the therapists who once helped Jacob, and the sense of fulfillment is beyond words.

As my passion for assistive technologies grew, I found myself teaching and consulting with students at the MIT summer program, BeaverWorks. Together, we worked on creating unique devices and assistive technologies tailored to members of their own communities. The experience was incredibly rewarding, and it inspired me to stay actively involved in my community.



Today, I am a proud member of Variety, the Children's Charity of Pittsburgh, and an assistant coach for the Mighty Penguins, an adaptive sled hockey team in Pittsburgh. These roles allow me to contribute to the community and support individuals with disabilities in meaningful ways.

Looking to the future, my aspiration is to create a culture and a collaborative space where rehabilitation professionals can come together to tackle complex challenges, ultimately benefiting individuals with disabilities in the Pittsburgh area.

Reflecting on my journey, I couldn't imagine telling my personal story or describing my professional life without acknowledging the profound impact of my incredibly close relationship with my brother, Jacob. He has been my guiding light, igniting my passion for accessibility and driving my commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of others. With every step I take, I strive to empower and enhance accessibility, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to follow this deeply fulfilling path. ■



Dr. Evan Buchheit graduated high school from Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy. Dr. Buchheit pursued his bachelor's degree at The University of Pittsburgh. He then went on to earn his doctorate at Chatham University. He is a board-certified, licensed, and registered occupational therapist and works at Pioneer Academy.



Assistive technology refers to any device, tool, software, or equipment designed to aid individuals with disabilities or limitations in performing tasks that might otherwise be challenging or impossible for them. The primary goal of assistive technology is to enhance independence, accessibility, and overall quality of life for people with disabilities.

Assistive technology can come in various forms, and its applications cover a wide range of disabilities, including physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental impairments.

Some common examples of assistive technology include:

- 1. Mobility aids:** Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and prosthetic limbs to assist individuals with mobility impairments.
- 2. Communication devices:** Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices for people who have difficulty speaking or understanding verbal language.
- 3. Hearing aids:** Devices to amplify sound for individuals with hearing loss.
- 4. Vision aids:** Screen readers, magnifiers, and Braille displays for individuals with visual impairments.
- 5. Cognitive aids:** Software and tools designed to support individuals with learning disabilities or cognitive challenges.
- 6. Assistive software:** Specialized software applications designed to assist users with various disabilities, such as speech recognition software, text-to-speech converters, and eye-tracking systems.
- 7. Prosthetics and orthotics:** Artificial limbs or braces that help individuals regain mobility and function.

Assistive technology plays a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in education, employment, and social activities.

Questions for Our Carrick Coaches

Carrick Promise Coaches answer questions about the challenges of last year and the opportunities of the year ahead.

1

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

2

What was the best part of coaching in 2022/23?

3

What challenges did you face this past year? How did you overcome these challenges?

4

What are you looking forward to most for fall 2023? What plans do you have in place for Carrick students in the fall?

Rob



- 1 Growing up, I was involved in everything from speech and debate to my high school tennis team, but it wasn't until I got the chance to work as a teacher's assistant at my local synagogue that I realized how much I loved working with young people. Over the coming decade, I would work as a camp counselor, a mentoring coordinator, and eventually a therapist and case manager before landing at The Pittsburgh Promise.
- 2 Getting to know the students here at Carrick and seeing them succeed and helping them with that process. Whether it's seeing them get a scholarship to a college they've been wanting to go to or seeing them realize that they have a passion for creative writing, finding ways to help students navigate their newfound passions and successes has been the thing that makes me most excited to come to school.
- 3 What comes to mind is the size of Carrick. With only four coaches here, we really had to stay diligent and remain organized to find the time to meaningfully meet with every student in the building. I always tell people that we wear a lot of hats. We plan career fairs and college visits, help students with scholarship essays and FAFSA applications, and work with students to process some of the difficult things going on in school and life.
- 4 We'll have more workshops for students to learn about and practice skills they'll need after graduating and will be working to give students and their families the opportunity to connect with new community partners we've been fortunate enough to meet this school year. ■

Brana



- 1 I graduated from Clarion University in 2017, with a bachelor's in communications digital media. Since graduation I have served in the education field in many roles. Through those roles I was able to determine that I love working in education. Being a part of this organization has allowed me to grow in my work and gain a new perspective on student support and engagement.
- 2 The best part of being a Coach is becoming a part of the Carrick Community and being able to serve alongside the other coaches.
- 3 A challenge we faced was incorporating Student Voice in the workshops and events we plan. We overcame that by having an open forum in our classroom workspace where students can voice their concerns and opinions.
- 4 I am looking forward to seeing our rising juniors become seniors and help them to plan out what they will do once they graduate. We are planning to bring back some of the events we had last year, such as our Carrick Cultural Night. ■

Emmanuel



- 1 I graduated from Pittsburgh Obama in 2015. I am a CCAC and Point Park graduate with a bachelors in education. While studying education in school I simultaneously started a media company and production studio where I focus on recording music, videography, and photography @ManMadeStudios.
- 2 The best part of Coaching is helping scholars begin the next chapter of their lives; getting to know them and appreciating their dreams and aspirations with them.
- 3 Finding an employer who valued both my work and capabilities. I overcame that challenge the day I sent off my Promise Coach application to The Pittsburgh Promise.
- 4 One on one meetings with new freshman, teaching them about the resources they have in our office and watching their shyness fade as they reveal their true personalities. ■

Angela



- 1 I earned my master's in social work in 2017 from PennWest: Edinboro and have been working with The Pittsburgh Promise since October of 2020. At work, I enjoy having the opportunity to empower students to take the lead when developing their post-secondary plans.
- 2 My favorite part of Coaching will always be getting to know my students as individuals and seeing their growth throughout the school year. A close second is laughing with the other Carrick Coaches.
- 3 A big challenge we faced was combatting misconceptions about what Promise Coaches do and how we do it. We were able to overcome this challenge by being more intentional with communicating with staff in the building to create stronger, collaborative relationships.
- 4 This year is particularly special for me because the students who were freshmen when I first started at Carrick are now seniors. I look forward to seeing them graduate! ■



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Our famous Oak Grove has stood tall since 1875. So has our commitment to students through support, opportunities, and affordability.

93%

Of first-year students received an IUP scholarship in 2022-23

\$2,000

Additional annual scholarship for Pittsburgh Promise students

**\$20
million**

In scholarships awarded in 2022-23

2,300+

Hands-on learning opportunities given to IUP students in 2022-23 through internships and other programs



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and the pursuit of
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It's no wonder that more than 10% of Pittsburgh Promise scholars chose Pitt.



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upitt.me/promise

Forge Ahead.

A GENERATION OF Opportunity

FROM THE CLASS OF 2008 AND THE CLASS OF
2028 JANAY AND HER DAUGHTER AMYA REPRESENT
BOOKENDS OF A GENERATION OF STUDENTS SERVED

As a class of 2008 graduate, Janay was among the first to receive a Promise scholarship. At the time, we had just begun and were hopeful to be able to serve an entire generation of Pittsburgh's students.

My upbringing took place on Pittsburgh's North Side.

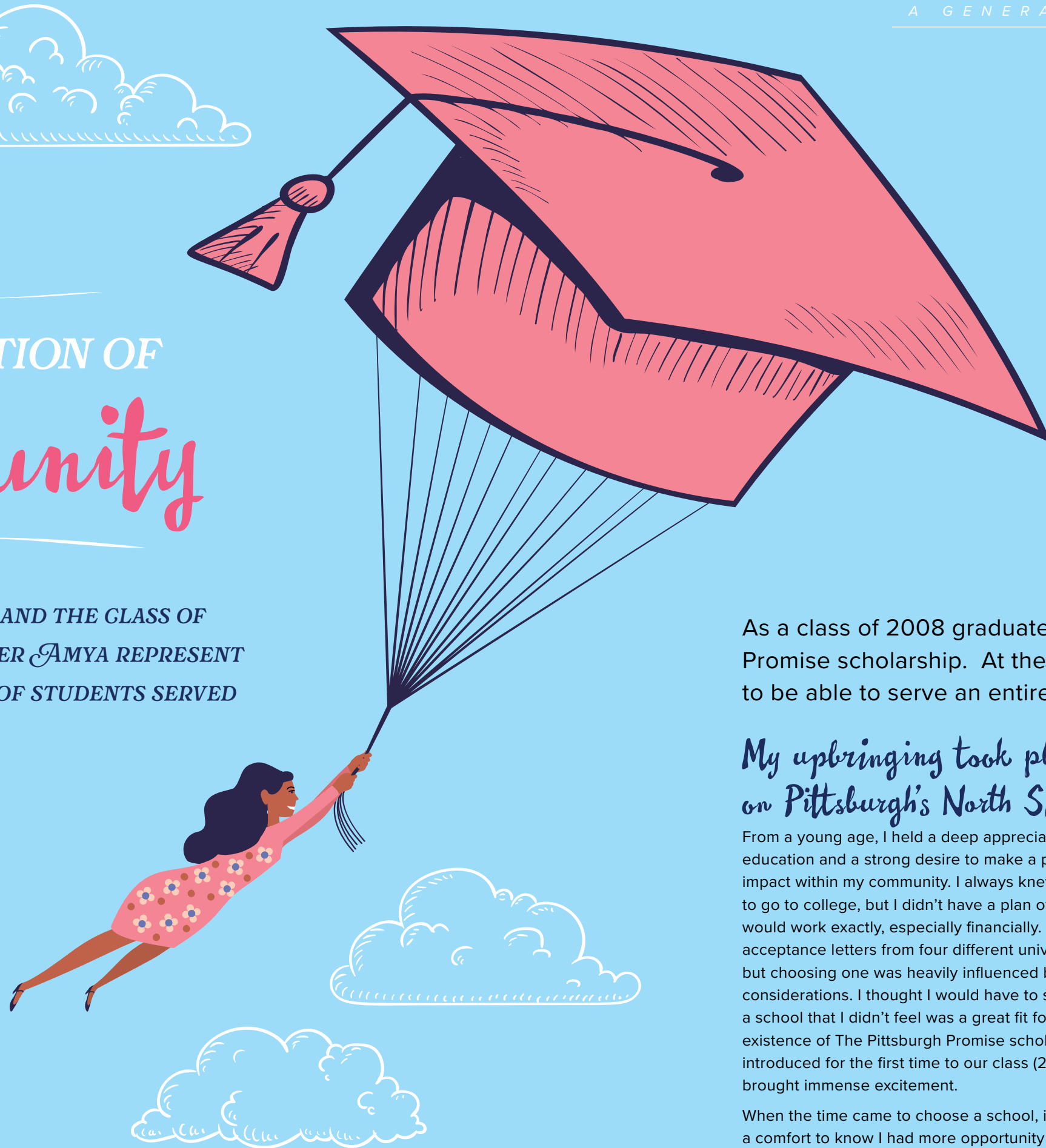
From a young age, I held a deep appreciation for education and a strong desire to make a positive impact within my community. I always knew I wanted to go to college, but I didn't have a plan of how it would work exactly, especially financially. I received acceptance letters from four different universities but choosing one was heavily influenced by financial considerations. I thought I would have to settle for a school that I didn't feel was a great fit for me. The existence of The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship was introduced for the first time to our class (2008). It brought immense excitement.

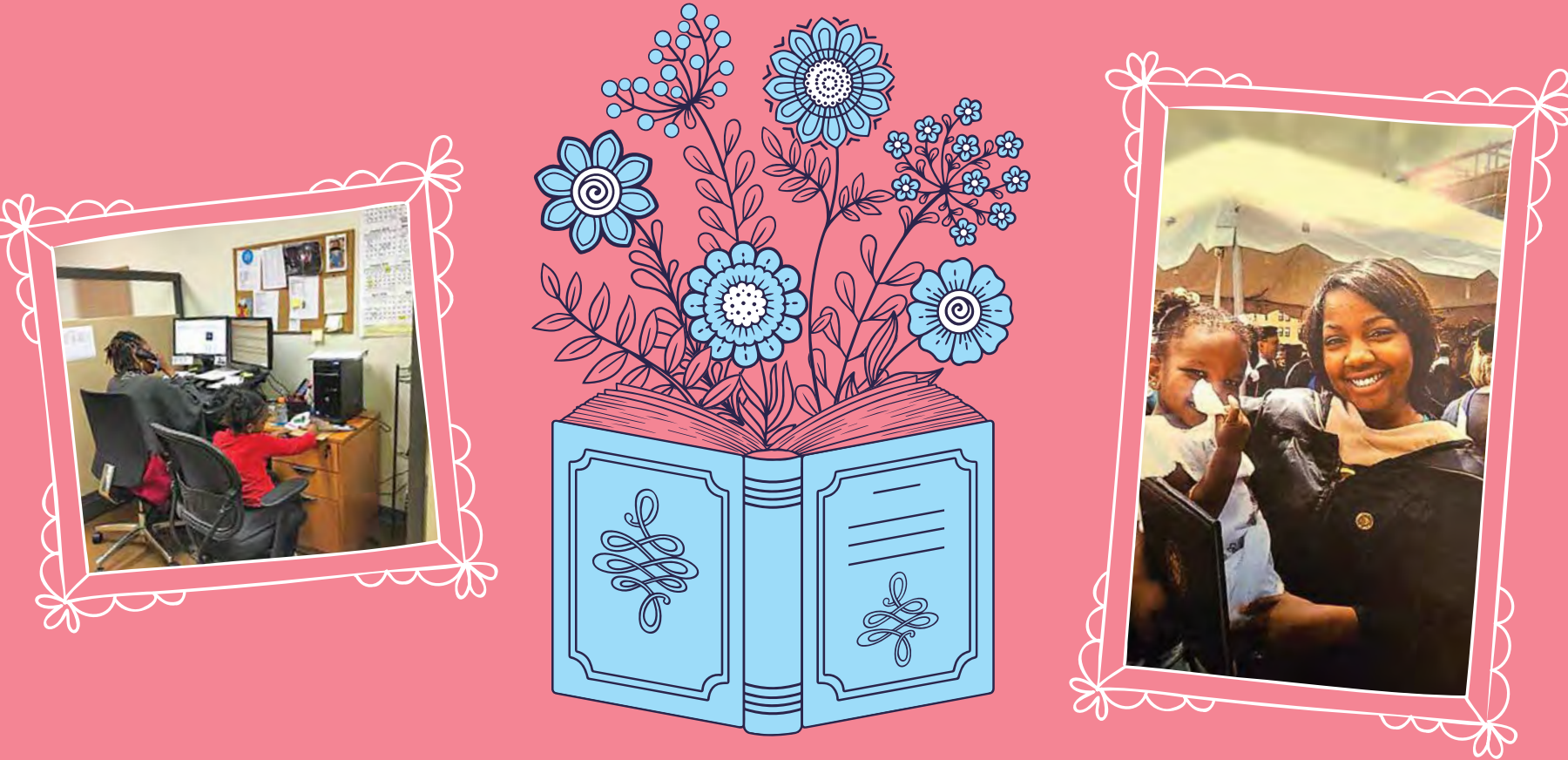
When the time came to choose a school, it was a comfort to know I had more opportunity than I thought because I had the money to fill in the gap.

The Promise granted me the freedom to attend my dream institution, Chatham University. This opportunity held profound meaning not only for me, but also for my family.

Amya was born in 2010 while I was working to complete my studies at Chatham. It was during that time that I discovered that I would like to work in social services or the nonprofit world. I had the opportunity to intern at The Promise office.

After I graduated, I was hired by The Promise as the Scholarship and Development Coordinator, primarily engaged in data entry. My role evolved over the years to managing the entire scholarship program, to now working as the Strategic Workforce Initiatives Manager, responsible for establishing and facilitating connections between students/scholars and potential companies/career opportunities.





I've always wanted to help students understand that The Promise is not just a scholarship-- it's a network.

The Promise is a big part of the educational and workforce ecosystem in our region.

Amya and her brothers were by my side through my career growth at The Promise. I even went into labor with my son Eli at the office and wrote down the contractions on a sticky note. Amya joined me for “take your child to work” days and all my children saw my work first-hand during COVID while I was working from home. “The moments of kicking back with my mom after school, watching her wrap up her tasks, are still super clear in my mind,” Amya told me. Over time, Amya absorbed a ton about The Promise initiative and spreading the word about the program among her friends became her thing. Today Amya is an up-and-coming 8th grader and part of the last class to receive The Promise scholarship. She is all about embracing her passions. From rocking it on the

sports field with flag football, soccer, and basketball, to conquering virtual realms through video games and expressing herself on canvas, she’s a force to be reckoned with. But what sets Amya apart is her unwavering enthusiasm for the unexplored. I asked her what she wanted for her future, and she said, “I hope that in the future I achieve all my goals and that I can help my family along the way.” I know Amya is primed to make her mark on whatever the future holds.

The significance is not lost on me --that I was part of the inaugural graduating class while my daughter belongs to the culminating class of 2028.



This fact truly underscores the profound impact the scholarship has had on our region. Beyond financial assistance, it has demonstrated to me and those that have come after me that our aspirations are within reach, and that a network of people is dedicated to witnessing our success. My aspiration for my daughter is that she internalizes this message, unburdened by financial constraints, and instead is empowered by the unwavering support of our regional community.

The Promise holds a deeply personal significance to me outside of my role as a staff member and alum, as it represents the embodiment of both opportunity and connection. It signifies the chance for individuals to transcend their current circumstances and access educational resources that might have been otherwise out of reach. The Promise not only connects students with financial support but also connects them with a network of educators, mentors, and peers who share their commitment

to learning and growth. On a broader level, The Promise also reflects the values of social equity and empowerment. By providing access to education for individuals who might face systemic barriers, the scholarship contributes to leveling the playing field and promoting diversity in education and beyond. I know these values will continue past 2028 as The Promise evolves.

I have, and will continue to, emphasize to my daughter and her peers the significance of excelling in their studies.

The Promise scholarship is but one example of the many doors they can unlock if they work hard and dream big. On graduation day in 2028 I will hold so much pride—pride for myself, pride for my daughter and her classmates, and pride in the transformational work of The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship which will have funded a generation of worthy students. ■



Janay Coleman is a Pittsburgh Promise alumna who attended Perry high school and Chatham University. Today she is the Strategic Workforce Initiatives Manager at The Pittsburgh Promise. Janay is a member of the Professional Women’s Network, has been named in Pittsburgh’s 30 under 30, and is an alumna of Leadership Pittsburgh. She has served on the boards of A Plus Schools and the Oakland Planning Development Corporation. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children walking trails and taking spontaneous weekend trips to decompress and enjoy one another.

SENIOR CELEBRATION DAY



SENIOR CELEBRATION DAY

Graduating Class of 2023

Asia Broughton, MC, Promise Ambassador, and Class of 2023 graduate from Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, maintained high levels of energy at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall on April 26 for The Pittsburgh Promise's annual Senior Celebration Day.

This high-spirited pep rally celebrates the post-secondary plans of all graduating seniors and, this year, announced Cleveland Brothers' \$1 million donation for Promise Scholarships.

In addition to a dance-off and a sign language lesson, Asia shared her PPS pride and inspirational words with her 800 peers before they departed for college, trade school, technical education, the military, or the workforce.

PPS Superintendent Dr. Wayne Walters, Pittsburgh Promise Executive Director Saleem Ghubril, and Cleveland Brothers representative TJ Cleveland all shared enthusiastic salutes to the Class of 2023 and encouragement for post-secondary planning and involvement in the Pittsburgh community. Mercedes Williams, PPS Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, prompted cheering as she and a student leader read the names of all post-secondary options for the Class of 2023.

A sing-along to "Our Time is Right Now" was led by an all-city choir before Ian Rosenberger, CEO of DayOwl, dispersed a brand new sustainably-made backpack to every senior in attendance (compliments of DayOwl and the Richard King Mellon Foundation). Many thanks to DJ Rick Mathews for providing the soundtrack behind this fun, festive morning.

Congratulations, PPS Class of 2023!
The Pittsburgh Promise is proud of you!



Julie Shepard is the Senior Manager of Development and Events at The Pittsburgh Promise.



>>> Benji Storm

Benji Storm's determination to earn The Pittsburgh Promise began at Perry Traditional Academy where he was an exemplary student, excelling in various clubs and academics. In 2016, Benji went above and beyond the requirements to earn The Promise scholarship and graduated as a co-valedictorian.

Due to his socioeconomic circumstances at the time, it was Benji's goal to graduate with as little debt as possible. Benji first attended the Community College of Allegheny County, where he earned an associate degree with the highest honors in 2018. He then transferred to The University of Pittsburgh to pursue a bachelor's degree in business administration, which he earned in 2020.

Benji took advantage of many Promise programs throughout his college experience. He was named an Executive Scholar—a program that builds a pipeline between high-performing Promise Scholars and Promise donors, attended events, and even interned briefly in The Promise office. Through the Executive Scholars program, he had the opportunity to tour BNY Mellon which opened his eyes to opportunities within the corporate world and foreshadowed his current employment. Benji began working at BNY Mellon as a bank loan administrator at the beginning of 2022. He is now a part of a new team focusing on client processing models and enjoys getting a peek into the world of finance. Benji's biggest dream is to work for an organization that serves a greater purpose that aligns with his values, while also being appreciated for his authenticity, hard work, leadership, and creativity. ■

“Without the scholarship provided by The Pittsburgh Promise, I **would have not had the opportunity to pursue education**; at least not without having to choose between massive debt or an education, for which I am eternally grateful.”

LEARN
MORE

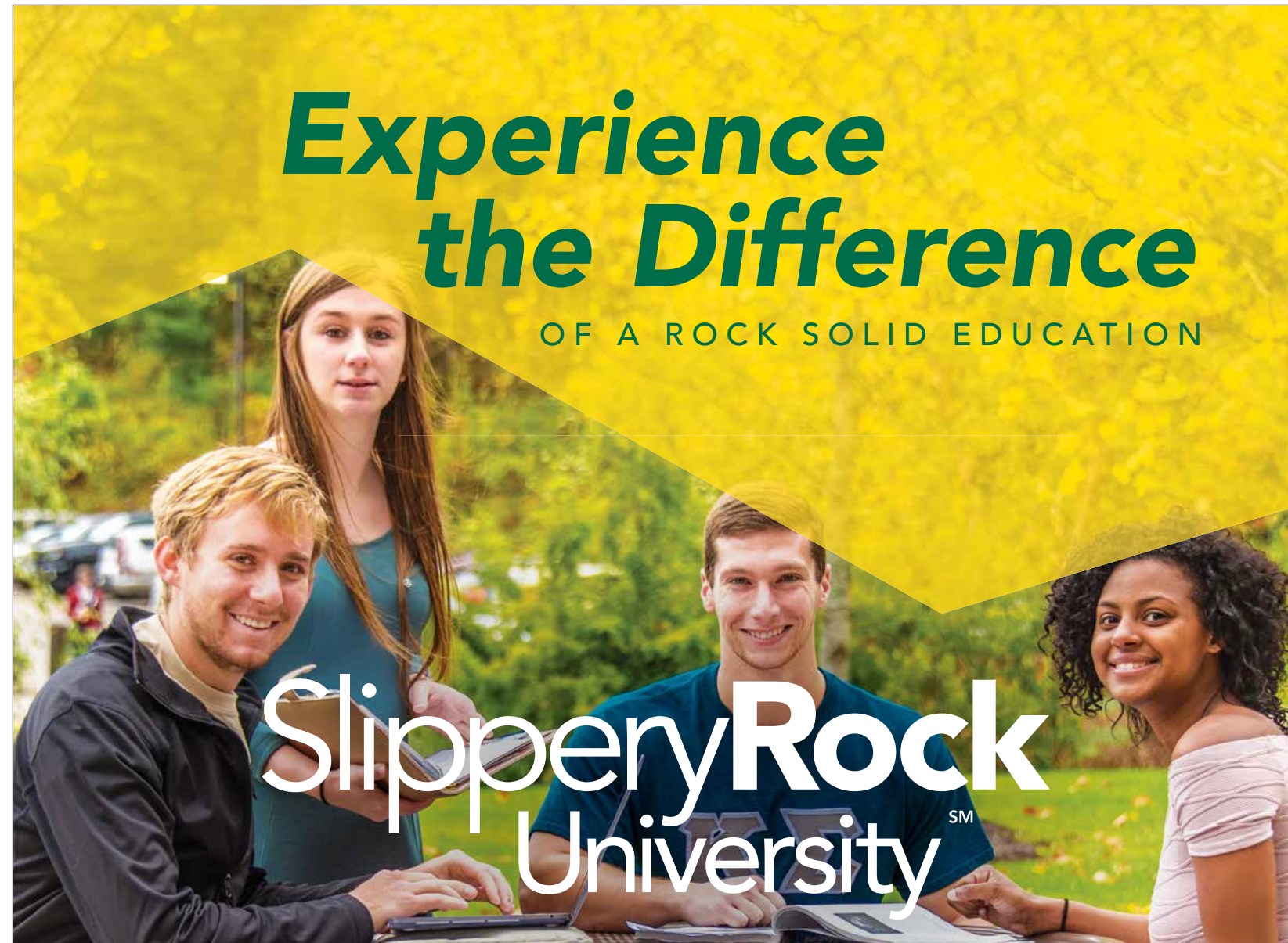
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weekly Where Are They Now
Wednesday (WATNW) segment.
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Heather Rourke is the Promise Alumni
Manager at The Pittsburgh Promise.

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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

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The Promise has **thirty-four Preferred College Partners (PCPs)**.
PCP's provide grants for room and board to Promise-eligible students who are accepted to the institution.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT pittsburghpromise.org/the-scholarship/about/preferred-partners

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 2024:



Allegheny College

Carlow University

Chatham University

Cheyney University

Duquesne University

Geneva College

Grove City College

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Juniata College

Kutztown University

La Roche University

Lincoln University

Mercyhurst University

Messiah College

Mount Aloysius College

Penn State campuses -
Beaver, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton,
Mont Alto, Schuylkill campuses

PennWest University –
California, Clarion and Edinboro

Pittsburgh Technical College

Point Park University

Robert Morris University

Rosedale College

Saint Vincent College

Seton Hill University

Shippensburg University

Slippery Rock University

Susquehanna University

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

Thiel College

University of Pittsburgh –
Greensburg campus

Washington & Jefferson College

Waynesburg University

Westminster College

Williamson College of the Trades

Wilson College

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 Consider Preferred College Partners during your post-secondary school search.

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.

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

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.

3 Apply to all schools of your choice.

The Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholars Program

A PIPELINE BETWEEN HIGH-PERFORMING STUDENTS AND
OUR MAJOR CORPORATE DONORS

THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE WAYS THAT THE PROMISE HELPS STUDENTS TRANSITION NOT ONLY FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE, BUT ALSO FROM COLLEGE TO A CAREER.

Once chosen for the program, students have the chance to connect with the company with which they are matched and pursue professional development opportunities during their college years. High school seniors with a strong academic performance, a commitment to community service, and leadership skills are encouraged to apply. Applications will be circulated to seniors this fall!



“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

EXECUTIVE COMPANIES

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

UPMC | Highmark | PNC | BNY Mellon | American Eagle Outfitters
Giant Eagle | Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company
F.N.B. Corporation | Highmark Wholecare | Howmet Aerospace
KeyBank | McGuinn Family Foundation | PPG
Thermo Fisher Scientific | Viatris

EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS

of The Pittsburgh Promise



“Without the Executive Scholar program, I would never have been able to develop my relationship with PNC as soon as I did and start my career soon after graduation.

My experience as a Pittsburgh Promise Executive Scholar has been a crucial part of my journey throughout college, in the search for internships, and gaining a job after graduation. As an Executive Scholar, I was partnered with PNC Bank which later provided me with the opportunity to apply to and receive an internship position with PNC’s Technology team. I acquired many valuable skills through this internship that I would not have been able to learn without the connections that I developed with PNC through the Executive Scholar program. I also had the opportunity to develop a mentorship with an employee from Thermo Fisher Scientific during my senior year of college. This was essential to me, as they gave me a unique view of the technology field and provided me with information such as which certifications may be useful for applying to jobs in the future. After graduating, I look forward to continuing to work for PNC in their Technology Development Program.

SHANE SMITH, 2019 PNC SCHOLAR

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PROMISE SCHOLARS TO DATE
HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS

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CMU is proud to partner with The Pittsburgh Promise in support of the education of youth and their dreams for a brighter future.

"Each one of us has a role to play in bringing beauty and dignity to our mission — through the impact we make on society, the leaders we develop, and the opportunities we create for others."

- Farnam Jahanian
President, Carnegie Mellon University

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University**

CMU.EDU

Carnegie Mellon University is a private, internationally ranked research university with acclaimed programs spanning the sciences, engineering, technology, business, public policy, humanities and the arts. Our diverse community of scholars, researchers, creators and innovators is driven to make real-world impacts that benefit people across the globe. With a bold, interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial approach, we do the work that matters.



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PA State Grant Match Program is available for eligible first-year and transfer students.

Duquesne University is a Preferred Partner of the Pittsburgh Promise.

Visit duq.edu/affordability for scholarship details, PA State Grant matching info, net price calculator, and more.

Ask The
PRESIDENT
WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

Besides the pursuit of academic excellence, what else would you tell your students to pursue throughout their years of post-secondary education?



Ron Cole, Ph.D. *President, Allegheny College*

At Allegheny our priorities center on holistic student success, including not only educating but mentoring and supporting students throughout the arc of their Allegheny experience. One ingredient of this is engaging students in high-impact practices, such as faculty mentored research.

I've always encouraged students to seek a topic they were passionate about, while mentoring them through the process of the research itself. Learning the process of research builds skills in critical thinking and communication to develop a clear argument based on data and logic.

Research paired with other experiences like co-curricular activities, internships, the arts, and athletics help to create strong outcomes that lead to pathways students may not have ever imagined and jobs that don't yet exist, for their future careers and the confidence needed to pursue them.

I am committed to the work of ensuring our students and graduates will thrive -- built upon our core liberal arts values, integrated with our distinctive and relevant major-minor curriculum, and developed through high-impact practices, such as undergraduate research. This is what prepares students for exciting outcomes into the 21st century.



Farnam Jahanian, Ph.D. *President, Carnegie Mellon University*

Pursuing post-secondary education is such a formative experience that shapes students' professional and personal lives. To guide them in their journeys, I like to offer students three pieces of practical advice.

First, I encourage students to step outside of their comfort zones and venture widely. A very wise person once said that "one of life's ultimate luxuries is the power to choose how you spend your time." By choosing to immerse themselves in new intellectual and cultural environments, students can create the context for discovery and creativity beyond what they imagined possible.

Second, I tell students to seek out perspectives other than their own. Exploring different and challenging points of view will engender better, stronger solutions for our society. In a world that continues to seem divided, we all have an opportunity to build bridges.

Finally, students should spend time reflecting. It has never been more important to develop a healthy work-life balance and care for your mind, body, and spirit. Self-care means something different for everyone. It could mean taking a bike ride, eating healthily, or meditating. Your health and well-being are just as important as anything else on this incredible journey.



Ken Gormley *President, Duquesne University*

Duquesne University proudly offers our students a holistic experience to discover what they're good at and why that's good for the world. College environments give you time to explore your interests, find new passions and expand your horizons. Take advantage of it!

Consider joining student organizations that match your interest—whether it's service, performing arts, club or intramural sports, writing (join the college newspaper!) or science (what about an honor society?)

Use your classroom knowledge in real-world settings by taking advantage of internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer service; these will connect you to businesses, hospitals, non-

profits, and other institutions. You'll gain practical experience, build professional networks, and enhance your career prospects.

Develop friendships with fellow students from new places. Learn about the different cultures on your campus. Every university and college has a mission upon which it was founded—learn about that mission and think about how it can shape you, not just as a student but also after you graduate.

College is a great time for you to reach for bigger goals: Think about what you want to achieve and the impact you want to make on the world. And then go after it!



Michael Driscoll, Ph.D. *President, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

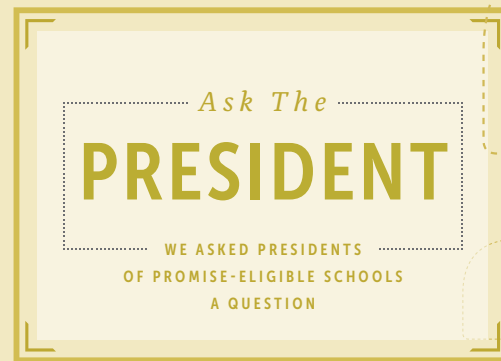
Look for opportunities outside of the classroom that connect with your studies: find an internship, do research with a faculty member, write a paper, or do a special project. This will cement what you are learning and connect your studies with real-life experiences in meaningful ways.

Seek out a job, or volunteer on campus or in the community. Not only will this build your knowledge and your résumé, but it will also help you become a more well-rounded person.

Be intentional in seeking leadership and group experiences. When you join a club or an organization, commit to being a leader for

the group or for one of its activities. If you're interested in athletics, join a team. Leadership and teamwork skills apply to anything you do in your future, no matter what direction you choose after graduation.

If you have the chance to study abroad, do it – it's the best time in your life to take advantage of travel. Learn another language, learn about a culture different from yours, spend time in another country. In today's world, understanding and appreciating different perspectives is extremely important for both your career and your personal success.



Besides the pursuit of academic excellence, what else would you tell your students to pursue throughout their years of post-secondary education?



Joe McCarthy, Ph.D. *Interim Provost, University of Pittsburgh*

I would encourage students to pursue curiosity. When you follow your curiosity, you're motivated by the intrinsic desire to learn and improve, which is the foundation of post-secondary education. However, you should recognize that learning does not have to be restricted to the classroom. This time in your life is a time of exploration. It is a time to broaden horizons, meet new people, and learn more about yourself. Life will be filled with new opportunities, some of which will cause excitement, confusion and sometimes even fear. But stepping out of your comfort zone now, while it can be scary, will help you build resilience and

is a crucial step to further exploration. So, follow your desire to tap into new subjects, interests, or networks. Join the student organization you've been eyeing. Send that professional networking inquiry to a potential mentor. Ask the question, in class, of your mentor, or to a campus leader. Once you push past that initial discomfort, you will be able to find pathways that satiate your curiosity and help you grow in entirely new ways. Embrace the new as it comes because every experience, good or bad, can shape your being and guide you in your pursuit of excellence.



Karen Riley, Ph.D. *President, Slippery Rock University*

Post-secondary education presents an unparalleled opportunity to try new things and to learn and grow both inside and outside the classroom. Of course, your coursework is crucial, but make sure you take advantage of the opportunities that occur outside the classroom as well. The skills and knowledge that you acquire through these activities are also important to your long-term professional and personal success.

One often overlooked opportunity is working with the faculty outside the classroom. Get to

know your professors and work with them on their projects too. Most of them are not only willing to let you help, they're often excited to work with interested students on their projects too. Faculty have literally dedicated their lives to the pursuit of knowledge in a single area. Their passion is unmatched and often contagious. Even if you do not pursue their area of study or focus, working with someone with that level of relentless dedication and persistence can serve as an exemplar for you and the pursuit of your own passions.

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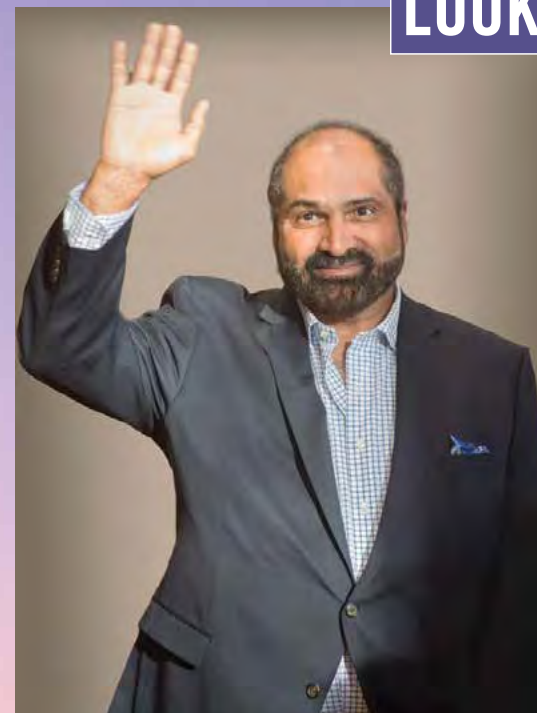
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LAST LOOK



From early January 2008 and until his death on December 20, 2022, Franco Harris led the Board of Directors of The Pittsburgh Promise. And every step of the way, he moved boulders out of the way of Pittsburgh's kids so that they may be able to run after their dreams. Franco did that with humility, energy, imagination, and even love.

Franco embraced the mission of The Promise because he understood the mission of The Promise. While Franco and his siblings were expected to follow in their father's honorable footsteps and join the military as their path to economic mobility, it was a scholarship to play football at Penn State University that made it possible for him to get a college education.

And had it not been for that scholarship, the world would have missed out on football legend, on business brilliance, and on human decency of the most authentic kind.

There are countless people out there whose hearts and souls were touched by Franco in deep and abiding ways. He made them – made us – feel very significant and very special. After Franco died, we received many contributions to honor his memory. We also received a few letters describing his impact.

My friend Ian Rosenberger wrote the following:

"When I was 9 or so, my dad took me to my first Pirates game. They were playing the Padres. Andy Van Slyke, Bobby Bonilla, and Barry Bonds all started. As we sat down, my dad pointed to the man in front of us and said quietly 'Ian, I want you to introduce yourself, look him in the eye and shake his hand. His name is Franco Harris.'"

I was nervous. I had no idea who this guy was. I was 9. Finally, during the 7th inning stretch I worked up the nerve. I tapped him on the shoulder, reached out my hand, looked him in the eye and said, 'My name is Ian, Mr. O 'Harris, and I'd like your autograph'."

He gave me a huge smile and laughed. Then he said something like 'so, I'm Irish now.' Then he signed my program, 'Best wishes to Ian, from Frank O'Harris.' I'll never forget it."

Likewise, we will never forget Franco. His impact is indelible. ■



Saleem Ghubril is the Executive Director of The Pittsburgh Promise.



1901 Centre Avenue
Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.pittsburghpromise.org



The Pittsburgh Promise is committed to raising the required resources to fund students through the high school graduating class of 2028, this year's 8th graders.

For more information on
The Promise scholarship visit
pittsburghpromise.org.