

# Transforming a Generation



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**In the earliest days of The Pittsburgh Promise in 2008, our mission was met with great excitement and palpable hope.** Simultaneously, students, families, and community members often asked “how long will the scholarship fund last?” But because we had not yet granted any scholarships, we could only answer with “we hope to fund an entire generation of students.” In 2016, we had served nine classes of graduates and had access to scholarship utilization and performance data. At that time, we were able to announce specifically 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.



*Anne Lewis*

Anne Lewis  
Chair

Our endeavor to serve a generation of students through scholarships holds significant meaning to us personally, but it is the transformative ripple effects among families, neighborhoods and our regional workforce that continue to humble us. More than 730 Pittsburgh companies have already hired Promise alums. They are industry leaders and community stewards. They are homeowners and parents whose children now energize the hallways of many schools in Pittsburgh.

We always knew that we were investing in the future leadership of Pittsburgh – in Pittsburgh’s promise. We are approaching the tipping point of the realization of that vision. The lasting impact of funding a generation of young people will live within the individuals we’ve served. They will carry it forward into their families, their communities, and their workplaces. We hope you will enjoy reading a few of their stories throughout this report.



*Saleem Ghubril*

Saleem Ghubril  
Executive Director

Over the last 16 years, we have learned critical lessons about what it takes to improve access to post-secondary education for underrepresented students. While scholarships remain an essential piece of our work, we know that for many students, a scholarship is not enough to support their post-secondary enrollment, or success. Our direct outreach and public policy initiatives continue to be critically needed.

To help students navigate a complicated and expensive higher education system, and work to alleviate persistent opportunity gaps within Pittsburgh schools, the pilot of Promise Coaches was launched in 2020. Promise Coaches provide critical post-secondary planning, career exploration, and future visioning for students in under-resourced communities. This vital direct outreach has been a lifeline for students and families.

Pennsylvania is one of the most expensive states in the nation to obtain a post-secondary degree. We are actively engaged in advocating for sustainable policy solutions for funding post-secondary education in Pennsylvania. Public policy solutions are necessary to realize a just and thriving state-wide economy.

None of our work is possible without more than 4,000 donors who have demonstrated their commitment to Pittsburgh’s kids and provided astronomical financial investment in their education.

**We are beyond grateful.**

# Outcomes at a Glance

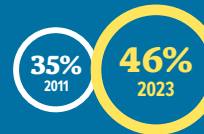
High School Graduation Rates:

**↑18** PERCENTAGE POINTS

The percentage of students who entered the 9th grade and, four years later, earned a high school diploma grew from 68% in 2011 to 86% in 2023.

Promise Eligibility

**↑20** PERCENTAGE POINTS



**Promise Eligibility: Increase For Economically Disadvantaged Students in 2023.** The percentage of economically disadvantaged high school seniors who met the combined minimum GPA and attendance requirements to receive a scholarship grew from 35% in 2011 to 46% in 2023. We are hopeful that this could indicate the beginning of a recovery from COVID.

**Over half of Promise Scholars are students of color.** A full breakdown of our students' demographics is on page 19.

The vast majority of Promise Scholars rely on additional, need-based financial aid to pay for their post-secondary education.

**80%** are from lower-income homes and may be eligible to receive federal and/or state grants

**16%** are from middle-income homes and may not be eligible for government grants, but were for loans



**Promise College and Career Success Coaches are moving the needle.** With a 2017/18 school year baseline, Promise eligibility rates decidedly rose in all three Coaching schools, and Promise usage rates are steadily on the rise in all three schools.

Persistence Rates

Every year since the inception of The Pittsburgh Promise, the persistence rates from the first to the second year of college for Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) graduates have been on par with or exceeded the national rates. **For the years 2009 through 2021, the average persistence rates were:**

**74%** National Student Clearinghouse

**75%** Pittsburgh Public Schools

As of December 2023, Promise Scholars had leveraged over \$500 million in critical post-secondary funding.

The Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship	\$ 169,414,062
Post-Secondary Institutional Aid	\$ 170,818,940
Government Grants	\$ 150,856,002
Independent Scholarships	\$ 12,823,192
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 503,912,198</b>



**730** LOCAL COMPANIES

**Promise Alumni are fueling our region's workforce with talent and diversity by contributing to more than 730 local companies.** They are emerging workforce leaders, homeowners, and parents.





## Honoring our Founding Board Chair, **Franco Harris**

**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. Our friend Ian Rosenberger wrote the following:

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*"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."*

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

*"It feels like destiny that I now work as an Occupational Therapist at Pittsburgh Public Schools, the very place that sparked my interest in this fulfilling profession."*



Promise Alum • **Dr. Evan Buchheit**

## Championing Equity and Accessibility in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh SciTech class of  
**2013**

**University of Pittsburgh**  
Bachelors of Science, Natural Science

**Chatham University**  
Doctorate, Occupational Therapy

**Occupational Therapist** Pittsburgh Public Schools

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 was breaking down barriers for individuals with disabilities, and 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 at Pittsburgh Public Schools, that I witnessed 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.

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. I enrolled at The University of Pittsburgh for my bachelor's degree with the invaluable assistance of The Promise. Later, I furthered my education and earned my doctorate at Chatham University, 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 Pittsburgh Public Schools, 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.

I am also 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.

**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.**

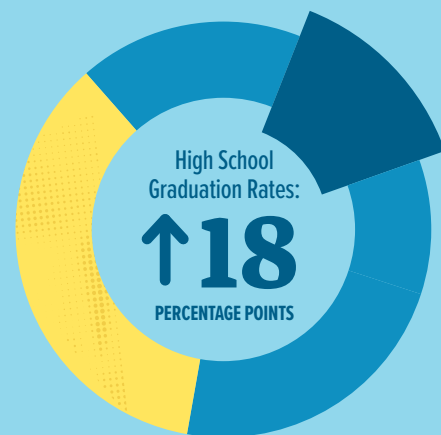


# Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

## Fostering Ambitious Educational Goals through Scholarships and Programmatic Initiatives

Year after year, The Promise has committed millions of dollars to scholarships, empowering students with the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education, whether through traditional four-year degrees, two-year programs, or vocational and technical credentials.

Beyond financial support, The Promise confronts systemic barriers to equity and access head-on through strategic programs and partnerships, detailed in the pages ahead. Our dedicated Promise Coaches work tirelessly with under-resourced students, nurturing them to recognize their potential, chart their educational journeys, and ultimately transform their futures.



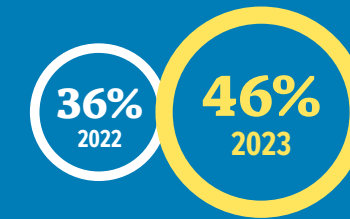
Since the inception of The Promise scholarship, the percentage of students who entered the 9th grade and, four years later, earned a high school diploma grew from 68% in 2011 to 86% in 2023.

Promise Eligibility:  
**↑20**  
PERCENTAGE POINTS

Since the inception of The Promise scholarship, the percentage of high school seniors who met the combined minimum GPA and attendance requirements to receive a scholarship grew from 47% in 2008 to 67% in 2023.

2023 Data May Represent Early Indications of Pandemic Recovery. It is worth noting that:

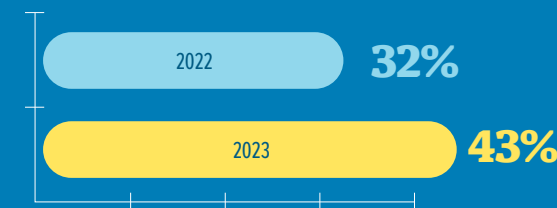
The proportion of graduates meeting GPA eligibility criterion for a Promise scholarship increased from 75% in 2022 to 89% in 2023.



The percentage of economically disadvantaged high school seniors who were eligible to receive a Promise scholarship grew from 36% in 2022 to 46% in 2023.

### Core Promise Eligibility

(2.5 GPA and 90% attendance) recorded the highest ever eligibility rate for Black female students- 32% in 2022 to 43% in 2023



While 2023 data reflect movement in the right direction, disparities in high school graduation and Promise eligibility continue to persist between Black and white students and among PPS schools. Although Pittsburgh Public Schools must take decisive action to address inequities, tackling systemic disparities is a shared responsibility that extends beyond the scope of PPS only to all of us within the ecosystem.

Source: Pittsburgh Promise 2023 Administrative Data & Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center.



*"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."*



Promise Alum • **Janay Coleman**

## The Power of Opportunity: From Scholar to Student Advocate

Perry class of  
**2008**

**Chatham University**

Bachelors of business management and social service administration

**Strategic Workforce Initiatives Manager** The Pittsburgh Promise

From a young age, I held a deep appreciation for education and a strong desire to make a positive impact within my community. The existence of The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship was introduced for the first time to our class in 2008 and it brought immense excitement. 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 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.

My first child 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. 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, and now I work as the Strategic Workforce Initiatives Manager, responsible for establishing and facilitating connections between students/scholars and potential companies/career opportunities.

One of the programs that I am overjoyed to oversee is our Advancing Educators of Color (AEC) program. I know firsthand the impact that representation can have on a student's life. My first Black male teacher, Mr. Bala in fourth grade, was a pivotal figure in my education, especially in

building my confidence in math. His influence is why I believe so strongly in AEC. These scholars will not only excel as educators, but they will also inspire students who see themselves in their teachers.

My passion for giving back to the community and uplifting the next generation drives everything I do. Beyond my work with The Pittsburgh Promise, and spending time with my three children and husband, I've dedicated my time to organizations like A Plus Schools, Homeless Children's Education Fund, and Oakland Planning Development Corporation. I am deeply committed to programs that open doors for underrepresented populations, giving them access to opportunities that have been historically out of reach.

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. 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. 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.

**Together, we can build a diverse, equitable, and inspiring community where every voice is heard, every talent is nurtured, and every child sees a future full of possibilities.**



# Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

## Breaking Educational Barriers through Outreach, Equity Initiatives, and Partnerships

Our data show that even with the availability of significant financial support, too few PPS 9th graders graduate from high school, enroll in postsecondary education, and earn a credential. This perpetuates inequities for under-resourced communities and creates significant workforce challenges for our region’s economy. By breaking these educational barriers, we can initiate a cycle of generational transformation and economic mobility. Our efforts to address educational barriers remain essential to our mission and vital to our students.

## Promise Coaches

The work of college and career success coaching was built-in our programming from day one. Whether through professional educational outreach workers or trained peer Promise Ambassadors, direct service to help students learn about and plan for their unique pathways after high school has always been central to our mission. In 2020, we launched The Promise Coaches as an initiative to accelerate this work and effectively reach students at high schools where college-going had been substantially lower than at other PPS schools.

Promise Coaches work in partnership with PPS staff and community stakeholders, and focus intentionally on providing personal career exploration, mental strengthening, and appropriate interventions to every high school student starting in the 9th grade. We piloted Promise Coaches inside three high schools: Carrick (South Pittsburgh), Milliones (Hill District), and Perry (North Side). In 2024 we announced that Coaches would become a permanent part of our work and that we would expand to Westinghouse (Homewood) in the fall of 2024.

**The ultimate goal of Promise Coaches is unabashedly aspirational: grow the percentage of 9th graders who earn a post-secondary credential within ten years to 80% by 2034. This is a long-term goal that requires a full decade to measure (4 years of high school + 6 years of post-secondary).**



Carrick Coaches



Perry Coaches



Milliones (Uprep) Coaches

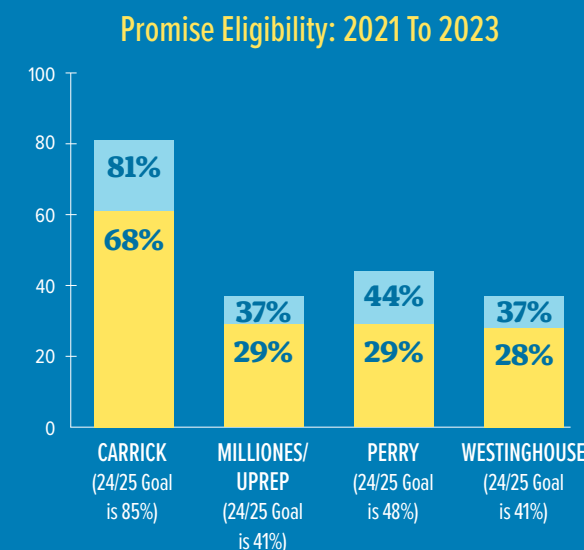
Our data highlight significant achievements in key metrics by Promise Coaches. The most significant impacts were among Black and economically disadvantaged students. These factors have traditionally impacted the pursuit of post-secondary options by young people. Coaches honor the struggles their students face and find ways to encourage and guide them toward future-focused decisions.

64%

72%

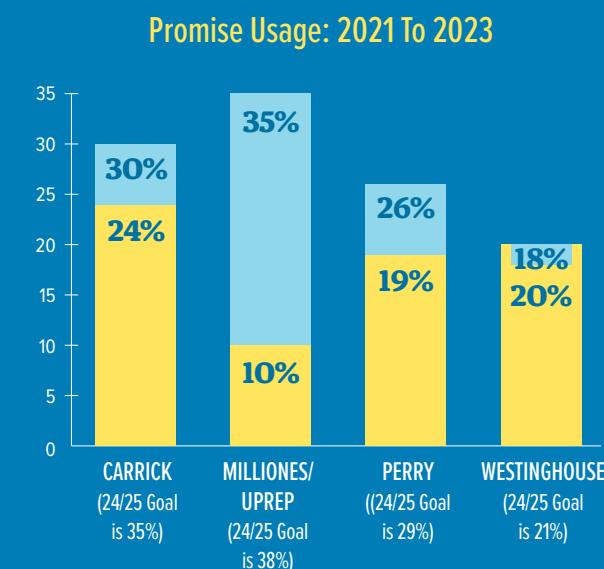
On average, 64% of 12th graders in our coaching schools received services from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services in school year 2022-2023, and 72% lived in economically-disadvantaged households.

Promise eligibility rates decidedly rose in all three Coaching schools, and Promise usage rates are steadily on the rise in all three schools. Specifically:



It’s noteworthy that more Milliones/UPrep graduates have started to enroll in 4-year post-secondary schools instead of 2-year programs. Data show Promise Scholars are more likely to persist toward a post-secondary credential if they begin their post-secondary education at a 4-year school.

Promise Coaching is central to the mission of The Pittsburgh Promise. Economic mobility for our students depends on their post-secondary attainment, and our region’s workforce depends on highly skilled and credentialed individuals. Coaching allows all of our young people, including those who traditionally face unfair barriers, to choose careers with family-sustaining wages leading to generational wealth and a culture of learning and contributing to our community.



**“PROMISE COACHES ARE AGENTS OF EQUITY WITHIN THEIR SCHOOLS.** They are trusted partners of our staff and build deep and caring relationships with the students. Their work is essential.” Dr. Wayne Walters, Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

**“PROMISE COACHES AT PITTSBURGH MILLIONES 6-12 PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PROVIDING PERSONALIZED SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS,** helping them navigate the post-secondary enrollment process, academic challenges, social pressures, and personal goals. By forming meaningful relationships with students and offering individualized mentorship, Promise Coaches contribute to a positive school culture and empower students to achieve their full potential both academically and personally.” Eric L. Graf, Principal, Pittsburgh Milliones 6-12

Source: Lowry, D., Irti, J., & English, B. (2024, August 23). *Bridges to the Promise: Coaching Initiative year 4 evaluation report*. Learning Research and Development Center.

## Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

# Programs and Outreach

**PROMISE AMBASSADORS** are high school seniors who serve as peer coaches and outreach workers. They promote post-secondary enrollment and advocate for the use of Promise scholarships. Promise staff employ and train Ambassadors in communication, as well as financial aid and post-secondary planning. The program offers an excellent opportunity to develop important communication, organization, and leadership skills.

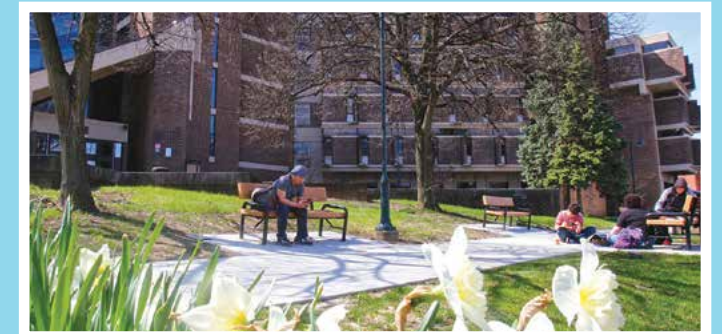


**SENIOR CELEBRATION DAY** is a high energy, annual event that brings together seniors from all PPS high schools to recognize and celebrate their post-secondary plans, be that a four-year or two-year college, a trade or technical school, military service, or joining the workforce.



**COLLEGE TOURS** occur frequently throughout the year and ensure that students can visit all our Preferred College Partner schools and consider post-secondary options across the commonwealth. For many students, this is the only college tour they will attend. Promise Ambassadors are required to join us on college tours so they can relay their experiences to students who may choose not to attend.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT** offers high school students the opportunity to experience college-level coursework and earn college credit. The Promise provides early access to Promise scholarship funds that may await eligible juniors and seniors upon graduation to pay for select courses. Dual Enrollment allows students to take courses at a reduced cost, explore fields of study, and complete essential courses while still in high school.



**PROMISE COLLEGE FAIR** is an annual college fair exclusive to The Promise's Preferred College Partners. Students are encouraged to explore their post-secondary option at this, and other college fairs offered in the community. At our most recent college fair, our Preferred Partners extended more than 400 "on the spot" acceptances and over \$2 million in scholarships.



**CAREER DAY** is an annual event for students in our coaching schools that inspires their post-high school plans. Over 130 volunteers from different sectors join us to showcase their industry, share their expertise, and spark the passions of eager young minds.



**TRANSITION POSSIBILITIES** is an annual event organized by The Promise and open to all Pittsburgh Public Schools students who identify as having a disability with or without an Individualized Education Program or 504 plan. The Promise provides information about post-secondary opportunities and coordinates with community partners, like the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, to share information about vital resources available to students.

**CAREER LAUNCH** is a partnership with more than 40 companies that support our work. This annual event has introduced talented Promise Scholars and Alumni to professional contacts, potential internships, and full-time employment. Career Launch offers Promise Scholars and Alumni exclusive access to available internships and jobs during peak hiring seasons.





## Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

# Equity Initiatives

We structure our scholarship to avoid exacerbating systemic inequities in a few important ways:



1

### Without Exception

**Without Exception:** The Promise is committed to ensuring that the scholarship is accessible to all students of all abilities, some of whom may require special accommodations or extra time. This includes students who have IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) and 504 plans.

### Extension Scholarship

2

**Extension Scholarship:** Students who graduate from high school and meet the residency, enrollment, and attendance requirements, but have a cumulative GPA of 2.0-2.49, are eligible to enroll in The Promise Extension Program. These students must use their scholarship at CCAC, a Promise Preferred College Partner, or at a non-CCAC offered program (example: cosmetology programs). In their first year, students must complete 18 credits and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Those who successfully complete a full year in the Extension Program may then use their Promise scholarship for any Pell-eligible post-secondary program in Pennsylvania.

### Compassion Appeals

3

**Compassion Appeals:** An appeals process helps us to ensure eligibility for students who experience life-events beyond their control like illness or homelessness. The Promise shares data with Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) to safeguard the eligibility of students who receive DHS assistance. Students and advocates can also submit appeals individually.



## Preferred College Partners

These institutional partnerships strengthen relationships between The Pittsburgh Promise and post-secondary institutions that provide additional financial aid and robust support services for Promise Scholars.

Over and above The Promise scholarship and other institutional aid, PCPs commit to reducing the cost of room and board by at least \$2,000. Importantly, the schools also provide targeted transition and academic support services to ensure student retention and success.

We are grateful to the institutions in this partnership for providing critical support, both financial and programmatic, to support our students' degree attainment.

- Allegheny College
- Carlow University
- Carnegie Mellon 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 University
- Moore College of Art and Design
- Mount Aloysius College
- Penn State (Beaver, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, and Schuylkill campuses)

- PennWest University - California, Clarion, and Edinboro
- 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

*"Being the first in my family to go to college, I now know how to navigate higher education when the time comes for my kids."*



Promise Alum • **Wade Lipscomb**

## Building a Legacy: From Pittsburgh Landmarks to **Generational Prosperity**

Allerdice class of  
**2010**

**Penn State University**  
Bachelor of Science, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

**Principal** Triple 3 Construction

**When I was in 11th grade, I had my future all planned out—or so I thought.** My family didn't have the money to send me to college, so I enlisted in the military planning to use their help to attend college someday. I had a ship date set right after my senior year. But then, during that crucial final year of high school, The Pittsburgh Promise visited our school and talked about the opportunity to receive \$5,000 a year to attend any higher education institution in Pennsylvania. That visit changed everything for me.

With the help of The Pittsburgh Promise, I enrolled at Penn State Greater Allegheny for two years before transferring to University Park to complete my bachelor's degree in petroleum and natural gas engineering. If I had gone into the military, I don't believe I would be in the position that I am today. Our nation was at war at that time. The Pittsburgh Promise opened doors I never thought were possible.

After graduating, I worked as a Petroleum Engineer for almost 10 years. It could have been a decent career, but in 2021, I decided to pursue a personal dream and started Triple 3 Construction. As a union employer, signatory to the carpenters, we have had as many as twelve carpenters in the field. We specialize in commercial interiors. Our projects have included significant landmarks like the FNB Tower and the Lemieux Suites at PPG Paints Arena.

I purchased a home in Brookline shortly after graduation and now have a couple rental properties in McKeesport. My wife, Moriah, is a nurse at Allegheny General Hospital, and we have two beautiful daughters, Jordyn and Leah. Being the first in my family to go to college, I will now know how to navigate higher education when the time comes for my kids. Hopefully one of them will take an interest in Triple 3 Construction, potentially turning it into a family business that continues to build generational wealth.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a tremendous program that had a considerable impact on my life. The connections I have made within The Promise have touched every milestone in my life. Saleem, the Executive Director of The Promise, officiated my wedding. A Promise alumnus, Jahmiah, helped me get my first internship. Through the Promise, I connected with my mentor, Alex, who helped me transition my company from residential to commercial work. Without my scholarship, and the network I gained through The Promise, I wouldn't be where I am today, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

**Knowing firsthand the life changing impact of this program, my wife and I proudly paid it forward by donating over \$25,000 to The Promise over the last few years. Contributing to such a meaningful cause brings us immense joy.** And I'm proud to be able to tell my girls that we've been a part of something greater by giving life-changing opportunities to others.



# Unlocking Generational Potential

## Transformative Impact of Promise Scholarships on Post-Secondary Access, Enrollment, and Economic Mobility

The Pittsburgh Promise provides \$20,000 scholarships to attend a university, college, trade or technical school in Pennsylvania. Many Promise Scholars stand as pioneers, representing the first in their families to embark on the journey of higher education. Through scholarships, we are not just investing in individuals; we are nurturing the seeds of generational transformation, ensuring that the promise that lives in our youth blossoms into brighter futures for them, their families, our workforce, and our region.

To earn a Promise scholarship, students must:

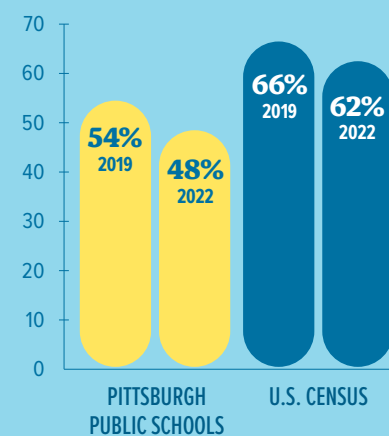


## Post Secondary Enrollment

Nationally and locally, college enrollment was detrimentally impacted by the pandemic. Nationally, post-secondary enrollment dropped 4 percentage points between 2019 and 2022 and 6 percentage points for Pittsburgh Public Schools students. Seamless college enrollment in 2019 (meaning enrollment the fall after high school graduation) for PPS graduates compared to the U.S. Census were 54% and 66% respectively. In 2022 those numbers dropped to 48% and 62% respectively. With the very disruptive rollout of the 2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), our country is once again bracing itself for another decline in college enrollment.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse & U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, October 2005 through 2022. Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center. Revised on 5/24/2022

Seamless College Enrollment



Declines in college enrollment represent a serious concern for our region and the state at large. While these issues are multi-factorial, the rising cost of higher education and the expense of an in-state degree in Pennsylvania are no doubt contributing factors. These discouraging trends continue to underscore the need for public policy solutions to make higher education affordable for all students across the commonwealth.

The Promise is actively engaged in efforts to address declines in enrollment and scholarship usage. In addition to the direct outreach work of Coaches, our staff launched a “reach back” campaign to 568 scholars who had been Promise eligible but had no enrollments for 2023. Initial results found 30 students who were already enrolled in college, 18 of whom were able to start receiving Promise funds immediately. This is slow and steady work, but we are pleased that an additional 20 students responded with interest in enrolling in school within a year. Those students are working with Promise staff to explore their path forward.

BLACK MALE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BE THE SUBGROUP MOST UNDERREPRESENTED IN PROMISE USAGE.

11% GAP

The vital work of our Promise Coaches is a key strategy for narrowing, and eventually closing, this gap.

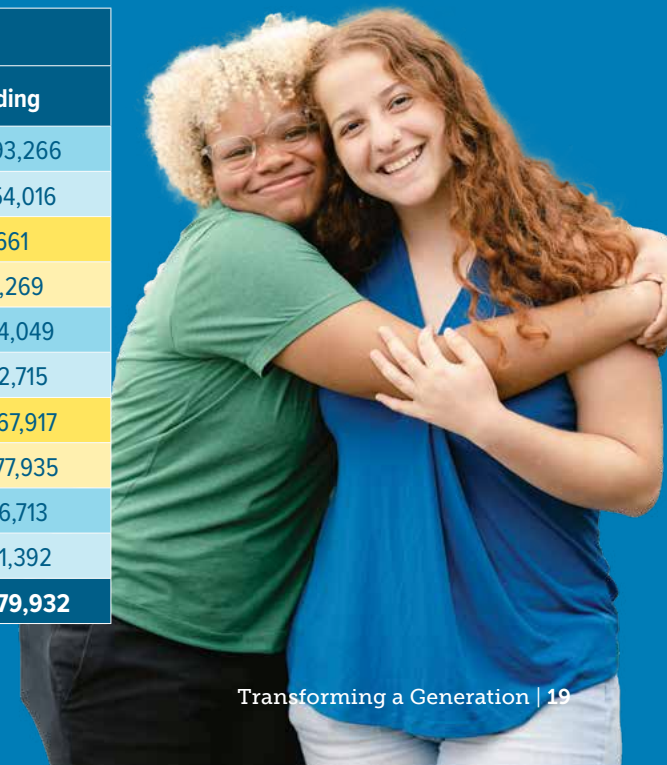
Source: Pittsburgh Promise 2023 Administrative Data & Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center.

As of Jan. 9, 2024, 11,881 students received more than \$173 million in Promise scholarships.

The recipients, by gender and ethnicity, are presented in the table below:

PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS		TOTAL	
		Students	Funding
African-American/Multiracial	F	3,423	\$45,893,266
	M	2,032	\$25,154,016
American Indian	F	3	\$7,661
	M	6	\$104,269
Asian or Pacific	F	194	\$3,074,049
	M	185	\$2,712,715
Caucasian	F	3,219	\$52,667,917
	M	2,631	\$40,977,935
Hispanic	F	111	\$1,476,713
	M	77	\$1,101,392
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,881</b>	<b>\$173,079,932</b>

Source: Promise Administrative data as of Jan. 9, 2024



## Unlocking Generational Potential

# The Promise Scholarship Leverages Critical Funding

The vast majority of Promise Scholars rely on additional, need-based financial aid, to pay for their post-secondary education.



Promise Scholars are from lower-income households and may have received federal and/or state grants

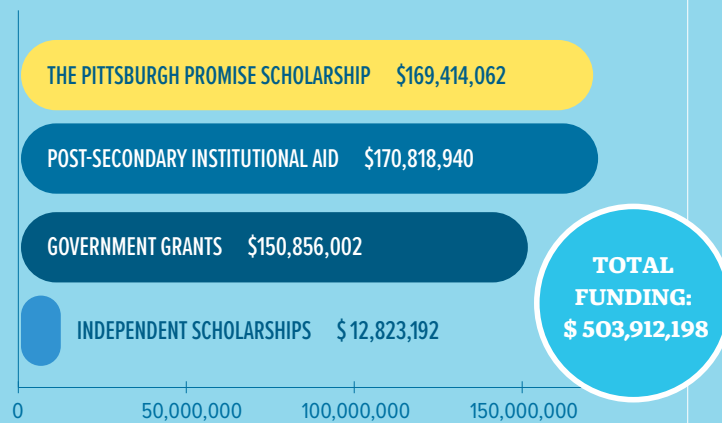
Source: Pittsburgh Promise Administrative Data as of December 2023



Promise Scholars are from middle-income households and may not have been eligible for government grants, but were for loans

For these students, many of whom are also the first in their family to pursue higher education, The Promise scholarship is an essential source of financial support that leverages other critical funding.

### The Promise Scholarship Leverages Critical Funding for Students\*



\*As of December 2023 | Source: The Pittsburgh Promise Administrative Data

### Persistence Rates

PPS graduates stay in college at a slightly higher rate than the nation's average. Every year since the inception of The Pittsburgh Promise, the persistence rates from the first to the second year of college for Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) graduates have been on par with or exceeded the national rates compiled by the National Student Clearinghouse. This is significant as national rates include students of all demographics and PPS graduates represent a population of students that is the vast majority low-income. For the years 2009 through 2021, persistence rates were:



It is also encouraging that the persistence of Black graduates of Pittsburgh Public Schools has risen 15% over the past two years to now meet national averages for Black collegegoers at 66%.

Source: Persistence and retention report. National Student Clearinghouse  
Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center.



Promise Scholars enrolled in more than 150 post-secondary institutions in Pennsylvania. The top 23 are listed below.

	Promise Scholars	Percent of Scholars
CCAC	2651	22%
Pitt Main	1212	10%
Slippery Rock	597	5%
Point Park	572	5%
PSU Main	529	4%
IUP	522	4%
Robert Morris	413	3%
Carlow	411	3%
CalU	406	3%
Duquesne	347	3%
Temple	321	3%
Clarion	265	2%
Chatham	241	2%
Edinboro	223	2%
La Roche	211	2%
PSU Greater Allegheny	189	2%
Pitt Greensburg	162	1%
CMU	151	1%
PTC	133	1%
PSU Erie	132	1%
Rosedale Tech	115	1%
Allegheny	114	1%
Pitt Johnstown	110	1%

Source: The Pittsburgh Promise Administrative Data; as of January 9, 2024.

The table below features, by gender and ethnicity, the enrollment and attainment rates of Promise Scholars, classes of 2008 through 2022:

	Received a Promise Scholarship	Still Enrolled*	Attained a Degree or Diploma	Percent Still Enrolled or Attained
Black Females	2,906	506	1,082	55%
Black Males	1,676	214	474	41%
Multiracial Females	321	77	129	64%
Multiracial Males	242	58	73	54%
White Females	3,076	543	1,646	71%
White Males	2,484	412	1,191	65%
Asian Females	182	62	84	80%
Asian Males	174	42	79	70%
Latinx Females	103	31	43	72%
Latinx Males	65	19	22	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,229</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>4,823</b>	<b>60%</b>

Source: National Student Clearinghouse & Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center.

### STUDENT SNAPSHOT

The high school graduating class of 2015 is featured below. Promise scholarships expand post-secondary access to historically disenfranchised students. The comparison reveals that more work is needed to ensure:

- Students who get to post-secondary schools access and receive the supports they need to attain a degree; and
- Students “right match”, meaning that they attend the type of school that provides a learning environment and resources that best fit their individual needs.

Data findings like these invite analysis of best practice interventions to better support our students to degree attainment-- including our Preferred College Partners and inform the work of Promise Coaches.



63%

Of all Pittsburgh students who began their post-secondary education at a four-year public university: 63% earned a degree or are still enrolled



67%

Of those who began their education at a four-year private university: 67% earned a degree or are still enrolled



25%

Of those who began their education at a two-year public college: 25% earned a degree or are still enrolled

Source: NSC Data Snapshot: Yearly Success and Progress (2023) & National Student Clearinghouse & Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Citation: Lowry, D. & Iriti, J. (2023). Pittsburgh Promise Annual Report Analyses. Pittsburgh, PA: Learning Research and Development Center.

“BROADENING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEANS THAT WE ARE CREATING SUPPORTIVE CONDITIONS OR REMOVING BARRIERS FOR CERTAIN GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD NOT ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. Data shows that these groups typically have lower grade point averages and are more likely to come from families with economic disadvantage, so these students have many more factors that can make it difficult to persist in college. So, as we are successful in increasing postsecondary enrollment for these students, we can also expect that persistence and degree attainment rates are likely to go down, because we have brought more students into the college pool who have more significant challenges. Broadening access to postsecondary enrollment is a positive outcome for a community, even though follow on indicators may drop—we’ve just brought students into the pool who were not previously included.” Jennifer Iriti, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Inclusion and Outreach Strategy and Research Scientist, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh

*“The Pittsburgh Promise opened a world of possibilities for us—now, we get to build our lives and give back to the city we love.”*

Promise Alumni • **Shawna and Ian Gugliuzza**

## A Promise Fulfilled: A Journey from Middle School Friends to Community Leaders

**Shawna**

Carrick class of  
**2009**

**Program Manager**  
Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.

**Slippery Rock University and  
Penn State Greater Allegheny**

2013 - Psychology

**Ian**

Carrick class of  
**2008**

**HVAC Technician**  
Phillips Heating & Air Conditioning

**CCAC West Hills Center**

2012 - HVAC/Science

**Shawna:** In high school, I was a bit of an accidental perfectionist. I didn't start out with the goal of getting straight A's every semester, but once I started, I made it my mission to keep it up. Even though I was doing well academically, college didn't even cross my mind until my senior year. **When my counselor told me about The Promise, a whole new world of possibilities opened up. Suddenly, attending a four-year university was within reach.**

I was the first in my family to go to a four-year university straight out of high school, so I didn't have anyone to guide me through it. But I worked through the difficulties and knowing that I would graduate without a mountain of student loans gave me the freedom to take full advantage of the opportunities that came my way—including studying abroad in London for a summer semester.

During my senior year of college, I applied for an internship at The Promise. Those few months adapting to my first “big girl” job were eye-opening. The team at The Promise saw potential in me and encouraged me to apply for a position at Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., even making an introduction on my behalf. Eleven years later, I'm still with Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. As the Program Manager for our flagship program, Leadership Pittsburgh (LP), I get to work with over 60 executive-level leaders each year, helping them connect with each other and engage with the most pressing challenges and exciting opportunities in our region. It's incredibly fulfilling work.

**Ian:** I was always more hands-on, a visual learner who loved working with tools and building things from scratch. So, when I found out that The Promise would cover my full tuition at trade school, I was thrilled. I enrolled at CCAC West Hills Center to study HVAC, and it was the perfect fit for me.

During the day, I worked in the field as an apprentice, getting hands-on experience. At night, I attended classes where I learned the science behind what I was doing during the day. Now, I'm in the third generation of my family's residential heating and cooling company, and I'm soon to be one of four owners. I love my job. Every day brings new locations and challenges, and I get to educate homeowners on the science behind their systems, which is something I'm passionate about.

**Shawna:** Ian and I actually met in middle school, but we didn't start dating until college. It's funny how life brings people back together. Now, we're married, own our home in West Mifflin, and in 2023, our son Luca was born. We're so grateful to be able to raise our family here, in the city we both love. The Pittsburgh Promise played a big role in helping us get here, and now we have the chance to give back to the community that supported us.



# Strengthening The Workforce

## Promise Alumni are Essential for a Thriving Economy

Our alumni are trusted and emerging leaders in our regional workforce and communities.

All our work funnels towards boosting our regional workforce with a pool of diverse and prepared talent.

We want Pittsburgh's young people to be economically mobile and then remain and thrive in the region.

Our regional employers and supporters agree. **Promise Alumni have been hired at more than 730 organizations in our region.** They are instrumental in fortifying our region, and realizing our vision

for a community that is not only prosperous but also equitable and just for all.

#1 Cochran	Allegheny Health Network	Auberle	Bounteous	Chartiers Valley High School	Compass Group	Edinboro University	Freedom Now Home Care LLC	Human Services Center Corporation	Landmark Event Staffing Services Inc.	Mt. Washington Children's Center	Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations	Robert Morris University	UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
1Hood Media	Allegheny Intermediate Unit	August Research Systems, Inc.	Brandgage	Chartwell Pennsylvania, LP	Compati Home Healthcare	Edward Jones	The Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh	Humane Animal Rescue	Langan Engineering & Environmental Services	Multimedia Training Systems, Inc.	Pittsburgh Broadcasting Corporation	Rohrich Cadillac Inc.	UPMC Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care
84 Lumber	Allegheny Land Trust	August Wilson Center for African American Culture & Lumber	Branding Brand	Chase	COMPUCOM, Inc.	Electronic Merchant Systems	Fund for the Advancement of Minorities through Education	IBEW Local 5	LANXESS	Mylan	Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	The Rubinoff Company	UPMC Enterprises
ABC Transit	Allegheny Millwork & Lumber	August Wilson Center for African American Culture & Lumber	Braskem USA	Chatham University	Computer Enterprises Inc.	Elfinwild Presbyterian Church	Gabriel Fera, PC	IBEX	LANXESS	National Robotics Engineering Center	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership	Ruth Kolb Law, LLC	UPMC Family Hospice
Abercrombie & Fitch	AllianceRX Walgreens Prime	The August Wilson African American Cultural Center	Bridgeway Capital	Chemimage Corporation	Concepts Management Group	Eminent Hospitality Solutions Company	GAI-Tronics	IBM	Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	NCI Building Systems, Inc.	Pittsburgh Flight Training Center	SAC Manufacturing Company	UPMC Health Plan
AbsoluteCare	Alliant Insurance Services	Automated Health Systems	Brightstar Care	Chevron Corporation	Concordia	Encompass Health	Gatesman	Ideal Integrations	Law Offices of Paul McElrath	Neighborhood Learning Alliance	The Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation	SAGA-ATRA	UPMC Magee Women's Hospital
ACA Engineering	Allied Universal Security Services	Avaler Business Solutions	Broadcom Corporation	Child & Adolescent Clinical Associates, Inc.	Confluence	Entercom Communications Corporation	Gateway Clipper Fleet	Idelic	Lawrenceville Corporation	Net Xperts LLC	Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse	Salsa Labs	UPMC Mercy Hospital
Accredo Health	Alorica	Axiom Metals Inc.	Broder Tech Services	Children's Home of Pittsburgh	ConnectiveRx	Conturo Prototyping, LLC	Gateway Health Plan LP	Ikos Holdings, Inc.	Lawrenceville United	NetApp	Pittsburgh Parking Authority	Sargent Electric Company	UPMC Pinnacle Hospitals
Achieva	Alschuler Communications	Baierl Automotive	Brookline Teen Outreach	The Children's Institute	Covestro	Crafton Children's Corner	GE	Incline Consulting Group	Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.	Neville Chemical Company	Pittsburgh Magazine	Scalo Solar Solutions	UPMC Presbyterian Hospital
ACLU of PA	Alumni Theatre Company	Baldwin-Whitehall School District	Bruce & Merrilees Electric Company	Children's Museum of Pittsburgh	Crafton Children's Corner	Creative Products International	General Dynamics Information Technology	Incline Equity Partners	Leidos	New Horizon Care Services	Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	Schneider Downs	UPMC Shadyside Hospital
ADP, LLC	ALUNG Technologies, Inc.	Banfield Pet Hospital	Burns Scalo Real Estate Services	Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.	Crafton Children's Corner	Crossroads Foundation	General Motors	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Lekins LLC	NHS Human Services Inc.	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Sci-Tek Consultants, Inc.	UPMC Sports Performance Complex
Advance Auto Parts	Amachi Pittsburgh	Bank of America	Burns White LLC	Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.	Crafton Children's Corner	Crothall Healthcare	Innovation Works	Industrial Scientific	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	Niche	The Pittsburgh Project	Sewickley Academy	UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
AECOM	Amazon	Bank of New York Mellon	Butler Gas Products Company	CIGNA Corporation	Crossroads Foundation	Crowne Plaza Hotel	innovu, LLC	InfoBATE	Liberty Mutual Insurance	The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sheet Metal Workers Local 12	UPMC Institute and Clinic
Aeropostale	Amel's Restaurant	BASF	Butler Gas Products Company	CIMA Technology Inc.	Crothall Healthcare	CVS Health	Impleo, Inc.	Ingmar Medical	Lighthouse Project (YMCA)	Noble Energy Inc.	The Pittsburgh Public School District	Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square	UPS
Aerotek	American Eagle Outfitters	Bayada Home Health Care	CVS Specialty	Cintas Corporation	Crowne Plaza Hotel	CVS Health	Intel Corporation	Innovation Works	Limbach Holdings Inc.	North Way Christian Community	The Pittsburgh Promise	Siemens Industry	Urban Impact Foundation, Pittsburgh
Aethon	American Geotechnical & Environmental Services, Inc.	Bayer	CVS Specialty	Cintas Corporation	Crowne Plaza Hotel	CVS Specialty	Intervala LLC	Innovation Works	Litigation Solutions LLC	Northwest Bank	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sierra Club	Urban Innovation21
Aetna, A CVS Health Company	American Income Life - Arias Agency	Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management	DBAZA Health	Citizens Bank	Crowne Plaza Hotel	DBAZA Health	InventHelp	Innovation Works	LobaNova	Northwest EMS	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Affirm, Inc.	American Textile Company	Bayer Material Sciences	Dedicated Nursing Associates	Citron Alex	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Dedicated Nursing Associates	IT Security, Inc.	Innovation Works	Lobos Management Local 373	Northwestern Mutual	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sinclair & Company LLP	Urban Outfitters
African American Center for Advanced Studies	American Water	Bayer Pharmaceuticals	Deloitte	City Charter High School	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Deloitte	J.A. Sauer Company	Innovation Works	Lois Johnson Learning and Child Care Center	NovaCare Rehabilitation	The Pittsburgh Promise	Slippery Rock University	Urban Pathways K-5 Charter School
Aires	An Answered Prayer	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Veterans Affairs	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Veterans Affairs	Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Inc.	Innovation Works	Loving Kindness Healthcare Systems	Novum Pharmaceutical Research Services Inc.	The Pittsburgh Promise	Smith and Nephew Robotics	Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Alco Parking Corporation	Anchor Hocking	Bellevue Police Department	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jackson Kelly PLLC	Innovation Works	Loyal Home Health Care	NRG Energy, Inc.	The Pittsburgh Promise	Smith Brothers Agency	The Utility Workers Union of America
Alcoa	Anderson Equipment Company	Bellevue Police Department	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jacobson Engineering Group Inc.	Innovation Works	Lunova Group	Oakland Sunshine Daycare	The Pittsburgh Promise	SoftWriters Inc.	The Utility Workers Union of America
Alcosan	Anixter	Bellevue Police Department	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jefferson Hospital	Innovation Works	Lutheran Senior Services	Oasis Farm & Fishery	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sogeti	VA Hospital Pittsburgh
AlixaRX	Ansyls, Inc.	Bellevue Police Department	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh	Innovation Works	Luv & Care Home Care	Ogletree Deakins	The Pittsburgh Promise	Spartan Pharmacy	Vector Marketing
Allegheny Center Alliance Church	Anti-Aging and Longevity Center of Pittsburgh	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish Healthcare Foundation	Innovation Works	M&J Electrical Contracting	Ohio Valley Hospital	The Pittsburgh Promise	SPHS Behavioral Health	Verizon
Allegheny Conference on Community Development	APOST	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	M&T Bank	Olympus Energy LLC	The Pittsburgh Promise	Sprint	Victorian Finance LLC
Allegheny County	Appalachian Energy Services	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia	Omni Hotels & Resorts	The Pittsburgh Promise	State Farm Insurance	Victory Media, Inc.
Allegheny County Children Youth Services	Applied Systems Associates, Inc.	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Management Sciences Associates	Open Systems	The Pittsburgh Promise	State Farm Insurance	Vincentian Collaborative System
Allegheny County Health Department	ARCADIA Healthcare	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Manchester Academic Charter School	Operation Better Block Inc.	The Pittsburgh Promise	Steel City Interpreters	Viro Architectural Glass
Allegheny County Housing Authority	ARM Group Inc.	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Manchester Youth Development Center	Orbital Engineering Inc.	The Pittsburgh Promise	STV	Voci Technologies, Inc.
Allegheny County Law Department	Argo AI	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Manchester Youth Development Center	P.O.O.R.L.A.W.	The Pittsburgh Promise	Surgical Product Solutions	Waldron Private Wealth
Allegheny County Medical Examiner Office	ARL Logistics	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Manchester Youth Development Center	P3R	The Pittsburgh Promise	Surgeon General's Office	Watson Institute
Allegheny General Hospital	ARM Group Inc.	Beacon Hill Staffing Group	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	City of Pittsburgh	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Department of Environmental Data Validation Inc.	Jewish HealthCare Foundation	Innovation Works	Manchester Youth Development Center	PA Cyber Charter School	The Pittsburgh Promise	Surgical Product Solutions	Wecht Pathology & Associates

# Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

## Catalyzing Generational Change by Funding our Mission

Since our launch in 2008, our donors joined us in our belief that educational access can transform lives and the region. Our mission is sustained by the unwavering generosity of our supporters, friends, and volunteers. For 16 years, their steadfast dedication has made this critical work possible. Our fundraising campaign remains ambitiously driven, bolstered by supporters' long-term investments in the young people of our region. These enduring commitments are truly moving the needle. We are profoundly grateful for their continued belief in our work.

## Executive Scholars Program

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. This creates a pipeline between our high performing students and our corporate donors.



**“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. 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. Now I work as a Technology Development Program Associate with PNC.”  
Shane Smith, 2019 PNC Scholar

## Executive Scholar Companies



## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### UPMC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Raemire Boyd** At Brashear High School, Raemire participated in football and basketball, as well as community service through the Big Brother Big Sister program. As the first in his family to attend college, Raemire is driven by the belief that he can break systemic cycles and become a productive contributor to society. He is studying Physical Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Malerie Branson** Malerie is a well-rounded student from Pittsburgh Obama Academy. She participated in softball, soccer, National Honor Society, and Youth Advance while maintaining excellent grades. Malerie is now an Early Childhood Education major at Geneva College.



**Nataya Calloway** Carrick alum, Nataya, has been involved with the Neighborhood Learning Alliance since her sophomore year. This program has assisted her in receiving early college credit and a high school internship at a local hospital. Nataya is excited to follow her passion for helping others while studying Nursing at CCAC.



**Eli Half** Eli was an exemplary student at Pittsburgh Allderdice. Besides research for Carnegie Mellon University, he was a debate team member and AP Government and Politics faculty assistant. Eli continues to pursue ways to engage, and effect change in the community by majoring in Political Science and Statistics at Carnegie Mellon University.



**Victorious Sankofa** Victorious is a Pittsburgh Allderdice alum who was actively involved in his community. He participated in wrestling, basketball, and sailing while attending classes for his passion, IT. Victorious is now attending Temple University pursuing a degree in Information Technology.



UPMC  
**\$110**  
MILLION

“By fulfilling our commitment to The Pittsburgh Promise, thousands of urban youth have embraced the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education, which has transformed their futures. Nurturing our community is at the core of UPMC’s mission.”

**Leslie C. Davis**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer, UPMC

### Highmark Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Sam Alawadhi** Pittsburgh Allderdice alum, Sam, has a dream to use computer science to create an initiative to help immigrant students. During his time at Allderdice, Sam participated in Global Minds, acted as a delegate in Model UN, and served as President of the Engineering Club. Following the path to realizing his dreams, Sam is now studying Computer Science at Point Park University.



**Madina Mada** At Pittsburgh Perry Traditional Academy, Madina was a superb scholar. She was involved in the African Club, Gwen’s Girls, National Honor Society, and volunteered at Allegheny General Hospital. Her love of helping people led her to nursing. Madina is now a Nursing student at Carlow University.



**Asiya Perez** As a Pittsburgh SciTech alum, Asiya Perez is a community enthusiast. She participated in the Feminist Student Union, Interact Club, Boys and Girls Club, robotics, and volunteered as a firefighter. Asiya is now a Nursing student at Robert Morris University.



**Brooklyn Wrzesinski** At Pittsburgh Carrick, Brooklyn enjoyed playing basketball and getting good grades. Brooklyn is a Nursing major at CCAC with a desire for giving back. Her journey began when her mother was diagnosed with cancer, inspiring Brooklyn to pursue a path in healthcare.



**Thomas Zielmanski** Thomas attended Taylor Allderdice High School where he played baseball and was a proud member of the National Honor Society. His unwavering dedication to his family and personal growth is evident in his strong work ethic and consistent academic performance, reflecting his commitment to excellence in all endeavors. Thomas attends Penn State University.



HIGHMARK  
**\$5.3**  
MILLION

“It is imperative to the future of our region that we work collaboratively to educate students and retain them to support the continued expansion of our diverse economy, which is generating career opportunities for students with post-high school training or a college degree. The Pittsburgh Promise is a great example of how we can work together as a community to capitalize on these opportunities, and Highmark Health is proud to be a supporter of this groundbreaking program as we are very focused on educating the next generation health care workforce.”

**David Holmberg**  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Highmark Health



## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### PNC Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Monica Bynum** Monica is determined to build robust connections with business and health professionals to support her dream of becoming a psychologist. This Brashear alum invested her time into her education by participating in cross country and serving as head of the yearbook committee and president of the BSU. Monica is pursuing a degree at Cheyney University as a Psychology major.



**Patrick Hudyma** Patrick is the perfect example of how hard work and dedication can help you overcome anything. This Pittsburgh SciTech alum devoted time to excelling academically and professionally, despite school not being easy for him. Patrick is continuing his education at CCAC, pursuing Cybersecurity.



**Michael Ulis** Michael is devoted to excelling academically and professionally. During his time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, he received academic honors such as High Honor Roll and the Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award for Merit. Michael is continuing to follow this path as a Data Science major at Penn State University.



**Chaynee White** Pittsburgh CAPA alum, Chaynee takes pride in her strong work ethic. While maintaining stellar grades, she participated in volleyball, softball, Stand Together, Black Student Union, and worked as a lifeguard in the summer. Chaynee is now studying Biology with a track in Pre-Vet Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



**Kenian Williams** Kenian is a student at CCAC and dreams of being a business owner and a public-school teacher. He is a graduate of Pittsburgh Perry Traditional Academy where he was an exceptional student. Kenian credits community service with shaping his character and instilling a lasting sense of social responsibility.



**PNC**  
**\$3.8**  
**MILLION**

“One of the greatest challenges our region will face in the years ahead will be the growing gap between the number of good jobs available here and the availability of workers with the education and skills to fill them. The Pittsburgh Promise is playing a critical role in the effort to find solutions that close that gap as it builds bridges between employers, educators, and students. The Promise helps businesses appreciate the challenges of educators, helps educators understand the demands of the marketplace, and opens a pathway to success for students who imagine a bright future in Pittsburgh.”

**William Demchak**

Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, The PNC Financial Services Group

### BNY Mellon Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Jason Garland Jr.** Jason is a leader and is passionate about the world of finance. During his time at Pittsburgh CAPA, he spent time teaching high school students about finance as the President of Financial Solutions. Jason continues to follow his dreams as a Finance major at Duquesne University.



**Kristina Greg** Kristina is a graduate from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School. Her enthusiasm for mathematics and science led her to recognize engineering as a perfect fit, propelling her to engage in various programs and camps in pursuit of her dream. Aspiring to become a bioengineer, Kristina aims to push the boundaries of science and technology. She is studying Bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Jamieka Tabb** Due to many challenges, Jamieka had to work harder than most to maintain stellar grades. At Pittsburgh Westinghouse, she was involved in cheerleading, senior council, student voice, and student envoy. Jamieka is studying to be an esthetician at South Hills Beauty Academy.



**Theresa Thrasher** Theresa is a graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA and is passionate about becoming a doctor. She has excellent people and communication skills that will no doubt allow her to reach her goal. Theresa is a student at PennWest California on a Pre-Med track.



**David Weisfield** David is a Pittsburgh enthusiast. As a student at Pittsburgh Allderdice, he was a member of a jazz band, the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra. With the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, David is excited to bring his love of percussion to Portugal on tour to represent Pittsburgh. He is studying Economics and Percussion Performance at The University of Pittsburgh.



**BNY MELLON**  
**\$3.5**  
**MILLION**

“At BNY Mellon, being invested in the world means using our expertise, skills, and resources to help bring positive change in society and for the environment. Our investment in The Pittsburgh Promise is making a positive change in our community.

The Promise also provides our company and our region a distinct, competitive advantage by fueling the talented and diverse workforce we need to create a future that benefits everyone.”

**Eric Boughner**

Chairman of BNY Mellon Pennsylvania

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### American Eagle Outfitters Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Ny'Jai Chapman** Ny'Jai is a leader from Pittsburgh Westinghouse. In high school, Ny'Jai maintained good grades while getting involved in activities such as Operation Better Block. She is determined to continue her hard work to achieve her dreams. Ny'Jai is now studying Interior Design at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



**Gavin Chonko** Gavin is a graduate of Pittsburgh Carrick who worked hard to maintain good grades while working in his free time. Currently, Gavin is a Screenwriting student at Point Park University.



**Nicholas Efran** Nicholas is driven by being of service to others. During his time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, he devoted time to making his community better. He participated in National Honor Society, GSA as their president, and volunteered at blood drives and small businesses. Staying on this track, Nicholas is now pursuing a degree in Social Work at The University of Pittsburgh.



**Andrew Ferris** Andrew, a Pittsburgh CAPA Graduate, is embarking on a new chapter in life, studying Biology at Geneva College. In his school community, he participated in soccer and cross country. Andrew's goal is to practice medicine and provide healthcare in countries lacking proper medical care.



**Abigail Langhoff** Abby attended Brashear High School and participated in soccer and Senior Steering Committee. Abby was awarded the Carson Scholarship for volunteering and academic excellence. She attends Point Park University and is majoring in Business Management.



**AMERICAN  
EAGLE  
OUTFITTERS**  
**\$2.2  
MILLION**

“American Eagle Outfitters empowers young people to reach their full potential and express their most authentic version of themselves. We are proud to support The Pittsburgh Promise, which has been effective in promoting academic success and encouraging students in the Pittsburgh community to dream big and work hard toward their highest aspirations.”

**Jay Schottenstein**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

### Giant Eagle Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Sacha Billit** Sacha is a graduate of Pittsburgh Carrick where she learned many valuable lessons. She was a member of the volleyball and fencing teams, and the Japanese club. After an unfortunate accident, Sacha quickly realized she needed to push herself to perform well. Sacha is now taking this dedication and work ethic to Temple where she studies Graphic Design.



**Luis Jimenez** Luis dreams of bringing people together and teaching lessons through his love of sports. While a student at Pittsburgh Allderdice, he played soccer, most recently as a Pittsburgh Riverhound. Luis is studying Sports Management at Wilson College to make his dream a reality.



**Hannah Paras** Hannah is passionate about helping others and has devoted her time to volunteering at her local Boys and Girls Club to make her community better. At Pittsburgh CAPA, she was an engaged member of the National Honor Society and President of the Keystone Club. Hannah is studying Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University.



**Ivry Sasson** Ivry was the captain of the chess team at Pittsburgh Allderdice and devoted time to helping families and young kids learn to play chess through Queen's Gambit Chess Institute. Ivry is continuing his studies at The University of Pittsburgh in Global Business.



**Alisha Smith** Alisha is a graduate of Pittsburgh Obama, where she found a love for astronomy. She took great pride in striving for excellent grades and is looking forward to keeping this trend throughout college. Alisha is now studying Astrophysics and Astronomy at Carnegie Mellon University.



**GIANT EAGLE**  
**\$2  
MILLION**

“Supporting The Pittsburgh Promise is an investment in the extraordinary potential of our local students who will become the future workforce in our communities. We are proud that our support enables students, regardless of their circumstances, the opportunity to pursue their educational ambitions.”

**Bill Artman**  
Chief Executive Officer, Giant Eagle

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Owen Blumenfeld** Owen is a leader from Pittsburgh Obama. Outside of school, Owen devoted time to the Manchester Youth Development Center where he modeled leadership and taught children robotics and coding. Owen is intrigued by American infrastructure and is passionate about improving the railroad system. Following his dreams, Owen is studying Rail Transportation Engineering at Penn State.



**La'Nell Brooks** La'Nell is a student at Point Park University studying Business Management with a passion for event planning. At Pittsburgh Obama, she was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador. La'Nell also participated in Highmark Back to Business, Ruth's Way, and earned college credits with the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation.



**Emerson Carmine** Emerson is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice who is passionate about expanding his knowledge of the world. During high school, he participated in Marching Band, Dungeons and Dragons Club, Debate Team, Math League, Robotics, and Chess Club. Emerson is now studying Physics at Dickinson College.



**Kani Cobert** At Pittsburgh Carrick, Kani found an interest in engineering, arts, and computer science. He participated in a robotics program through Empower House where he helped build machines with his team and participated in competitions. Kani is excited to explore his interests as a student at Point Park University.



**Mason Peck** At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Mason was an excellent student. While maintaining great grades, he participated in football, baseball, track and field, National Honor Society, and worked as a lifeguard. Determined to reach above and beyond, Mason is now pursuing Mechanical Engineering at The University of Pittsburgh.



**CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT COMPANY**

**\$1 MILLION**

“Cleveland Brothers, a 4th generation family-owned CAT dealership, operates 29 locations and employs 1,300+ individuals throughout the region. Our company is always looking for local talented individuals as we continue to grow. We believe education unlocks limitless potential, and that all individuals deserve access to higher education. Through The Pittsburgh Promise, Cleveland Brothers is proud to invest in our region and nurture dreams and aspirations of young minds. Together, we believe in cultivating a future by empowering the next generation with the tools they need to build a brighter tomorrow.”

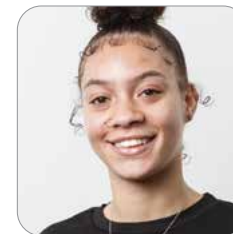
**Jay Cleveland**

President and CEO, Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co., Inc.

### F.N.B Corporation Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Darryl Bey** While a student at Pittsburgh Perry, Darryl was involved in “Perry Fellas”, a group to make Perry a better place. He also held a job at Midwest Direct. Darryl attends Point Park University and is majoring in Business Management with a goal to be an entrepreneur in real estate.



**Kazeema Givens-Brown** Kazeema attended Carrick High where she was a member of the basketball and track teams. She also delved into the culinary arts through the CTE program. Committed to a bright future, Kazeema is studying Criminal Justice at Point Park University.



**Setareh (Star) Hakemi** Star is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice where she worked hard to improve her English while maintaining outstanding grades. Star is now a student at CCAC with aspirations of being a lawyer.



**Kamal Long-Childs** Kamal graduated from Pittsburgh Obama Academy and is ready to prove there are no limits to what he can achieve. Kamal is impassioned by leading by example and helping others find their way as a peer mentor. He is now studying Business Management and Real Estate at CCAC.



**Tyler Rosario** At Pittsburgh CAPA, Tyler was a contributing member of his school community. He was involved in the CAPA Student Council, Future Kings Mentoring, National Honor Society, and served as an intern for A+ Schools. Outside of school, he prided himself on getting a head start by taking classes at Pitt. Tyler is now a student at The University of Pittsburgh studying Engineering.



**F.N.B CORPORATION**  
**\$1 MILLION**

“Pittsburgh’s economic success depends on our ability to prepare the next generation of our local workforce. Through FNB’s partnership with The Pittsburgh Promise, we can expand opportunities for students to achieve their academic aspirations, thrive in their careers and contribute to our region’s lasting prosperity.”

**Vincent J. Delie, Jr.**  
Chairman, President and CEO

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### Highmark Wholecare Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Selena (Mylo) Barber** At Pittsburgh Brashear, Mylo found a passion for serving their community, working with young people, and learning more about the mind. Mylo was involved in the GSA, band, the Student Conservation Association, and held a teaching internship. Mylo is now studying Psychology at CCAC.



**Zachariah Jonassaint** At Pittsburgh City Charter High School, Zachariah showed exemplary devotion to his academics. He was a school ambassador and participated in the Student and Government Council while interning at the Citizen's Science Laboratory. Zachariah is now taking this work ethic to The University of Pittsburgh where he is studying Public Health.



**Malik Porterfield** While a student at Pittsburgh Carrick, Malik was involved in Journey to Medicine, National Honors Society, as well as working multiple jobs. He is driven by the challenges throughout his life that helped him to succeed. Malik is pursuing a biology degree at Temple University.



**Keymahna Tyler** Kat is a proud graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice High School. While there she was involved as a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador and AACAS. She also held jobs at McDonald's and Dunkin Donuts. She embodies a strong passion for education and community. With a vision to advance her own opportunities and knowledge, Keymahna attends IUP studying Law.



**Elayna Williams** Elayna is determined to give back to her community. While at Pittsburgh SciTech, she volunteered for the Red Cross Pillowcase Project, the Foster Love Project, and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Elayna was also a member of the BSU, National Honor Society, and a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador. Elayna plans to continue the path of helping others by studying Pre-Allied Health at The University of Pittsburgh.



**HIGHMARK  
WHOLECARE**  
**\$1  
MILLION**

“Highmark Wholecare believes strongly in equity and diversity to improve the health and vitality of our workforce and our region. We support The Pittsburgh Promise for its unique ability to transform lives through greater access to higher education. The investment that we as a business community make today will develop and inform the leaders of tomorrow, paying unlimited dividends in the years ahead for us and future generations. We thank The Promise for making such an impact in the communities we serve in Pittsburgh and beyond.”

**Ellen Duffield**  
President and CEO, Highmark Wholecare

### Howmet Aerospace Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Mariah Cooper** Mariah is a rising leader from Pittsburgh Carrick. As a student, she participated in extracurriculars like the yearbook while working and maintaining good grades. She is inspired by her family and aims to keep them proud of her. Mariah is now studying Interior Design and Art at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



**Elizabeth Friend** Elizabeth is a graduate of Pittsburgh Carrick High School and is driven by helping others and advocating for mental health services. Aligned with her goals, Elizabeth is studying Psychology at Slippery Rock University.



**Mandira Gautam** Mandira is a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania pursuing Early Childhood Education. At Pittsburgh Brashear, she was in Student Council, Senior Steering Committee, and the Big Brother Big Sister program. Mandira is looking forward to making a difference in the lives of young children.



**Diego Portela-Velez** Diego's ambition to unite people to accomplish amazing things makes him a leader. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, he excelled as a well-rounded scholar, participating in athletics, and learning multiple languages. Diego is studying Biomedical Engineering at The University of Pittsburgh to provide medical services and equipment to communities impacted by natural disasters.



**Nischal Shakaya** Nischal is an excelling scholar from Pittsburgh SciTech who is determined to make profound achievements. During his high school career, he participated in the National Honor Society, the CMU Statistics camp, PittU Cyber Camp, and the Pillowcase Project. Following this extraordinary path, Nischal is now studying Astrophysics at the University of Pittsburgh.



**HOWMET  
AEROSPACE**  
**\$1  
MILLION**

“As a company that relies on the technical expertise of our employees to deliver the mission-critical performance our customers demand, Howmet Aerospace knows the jobs of today require advanced training. This is why we are partnering with The Pittsburgh Promise through the Howmet Aerospace Foundation. We are giving students greater access to STEM education, which in turn gives them more opportunity to pursue the high-tech jobs of the future while strengthening our region's technical workforce.”

**Neil Marchuk**  
President, Howmet Aerospace Foundation

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### KeyBank Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Shanelle Banks** As a student at Pittsburgh Milliones, Shanelle worked many jobs including Hello Bistro, Chipotle, and Starbucks. She also attended the PPS CTE Program where she learned critical networking and leadership skills. Shanel attends PennWest California and is majoring in Business.



**Owen Bluman** Owen is driven by the desire to give back to the areas that made him who he is today. This well-rounded scholar from Pittsburgh Allderdice participated in track and field, basketball, and Investment Club. He also volunteered with the University of Pittsburgh research, Dice Friends, and the Boys and Girls Club. Owen is currently studying Computer Science at Haverford College.



**Julian Gass** Julian has an ambition for inclusion and helping others. At Pittsburgh Allderdice, he was the Co-Founder and Vice President of the Anti-Bullying Club and was Co-Founder of an indoor soccer team promoting a competitive environment for all players. Julian attends Penn State and is majoring in Business.



**Gabriel Signore** Gabe is passionate about helping his community and has volunteered his time at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Summer Camp and at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. As a student at Pittsburgh SciTech, he was a member of the National Honor Society. Gabe enjoys adventure and helping others. He is now studying Cybersecurity at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



**Carerra Turner** Helping others and contributing to society have always given Carerra joy. At Pittsburgh Carrick, Carerra enjoyed participating in Carrick Culinary CTE and being a member of Student Voice. She is now a Psychology and Criminology major at Carlow University.



**KEYBANK**  
**\$1**  
**MILLION**

“At KeyBank, we’re committed to helping clients and communities thrive. To us, that means doing business fairly and responsibly, promoting diversity and inclusion, and making meaningful investments in the places where we live and work. For more than a decade, The Pittsburgh Promise has helped transform the lives of thousands of students within the Pittsburgh area. We are so proud to support the ongoing mission of The Pittsburgh Promise and give students across the region hope for a bright future.”

**Victor Laurenza**  
Western Pennsylvania Market President,  
KeyBank

### McGuinn Family Foundation Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



**Lily Affeltranger** At Pittsburgh Obama, Lily balanced being an excellent student with her love for musical theater. She took musical theater classes at Pittsburgh CLO and continues her passion as a Musical Theater major at Seton Hill University.



**Olivia Howell** Pittsburgh SciTech graduate, Olivia, is a well-rounded student. She was involved in track, Chess Club, Feminist Student Union, Black Student Union, Breakthrough Pittsburgh, and was captain of the soccer team. Olivia is now a student at Washington and Jefferson University where she is studying Biology and in a Pre-Professional Program for Veterinarian Medicine.



**Kylie Kunkel** Kylie is a film enthusiast, determined to realize their dreams. As a student at Pittsburgh CAPA, Kylie devoted themselves to their art, participating in operas, receiving honors for performances, and landing a singing role in a Netflix movie. Kylie continues to pursue their passion at Douglas Education Center as a Film major.



**Ziaire Lowery** Ziaire was an exemplary student at Pittsburgh Carrick where he found a love for sports. He was devoted to the football team while maintaining stellar grades. Following his dreams, Ziaire is now a student at Robert Morris University where he is pursuing a degree in Sports Management.



**Victoria Neidermayer** At Pittsburgh CAPA, Victoria found her niche in vocal performance. She devoted her time in and out of school to the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus, CMU’s Pre-College for vocal performance, and the Junior Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. Victoria is now a student at Temple University studying Music Education.



**MCGUINN FAMILY**  
**FOUNDATION**  
**\$1**  
**MILLION**

“We believe The Pittsburgh Promise is the most important thing going on in our community because it has the broadest impact: it encourages families to live in the city, incents kids to stay in school and enables them to get a post-secondary education, and helps prepare skilled workers for our employers.”

**Marty McGuinn**  
McGuinn Family Foundation

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

### PPG Foundation Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Pauline Mouillet-Sammot** Pauline, a Pittsburgh SciTech alum, is embarking on a new chapter in life, studying Child Psychology and Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. In high school, she was a Pittsburgh Promise Ambassador, National Honor Society member, and was actively involved in both Junior and Senior Class Councils. Pauline also pursued Taekwondo for nine years, fostering discipline, respect, and mentorship skills.



**Donald Reid III** Donald is a Pittsburgh CAPA graduate, where he was involved in the National Honor Society, Boy Scouts, and High Honors. His interests include effecting change and striving to be the best. Donald is an Applied Media Art and Animation student at PennWest Edinboro.



**Dylan Schob** Dylan is a Pittsburgh Allderdice High School graduate who held a steadfast belief in the power of hard work to achieve one's goals. His unyielding determination and the unwavering resolve to pursue his aspirations are defining characteristics that propel him toward making a lasting difference in the world. Dylan attends Duquesne University and is majoring in Psychology.



**Charles Thomas** After graduating from Carrick High School, Charles embarked on his academic journey at Slippery Rock University, where he is majoring in early childhood education. During his time at Carrick High, Charles demonstrated exceptional leadership as a Promise Ambassador. With a strong dedication to shaping the future generation, Charles continues to strive to create meaningful change in the lives of children and communities alike.



**Zyannah Zigler** At Pittsburgh CAPA, Zyannah was passionate about making art and finding new ways to express herself. Zyannah attends Carlow University where she aspires to have her own production company. With her love of music and writing there is no doubt Zyannah will reach her goals.



**PPG  
FOUNDATION**  
**\$1  
MILLION**

“Education plays a powerful role in creating stronger, more sustainable communities. We invest in The Pittsburgh Promise and the students they serve to enable possibilities and progress that lead to brighter futures and a better world for all. We are proud to join The Pittsburgh Promise to support local STEM scholars and know these students will be vital to producing the diverse, innovative, and creative solutions of tomorrow.”

**Tim Knavish**  
PPG Chairman and CEO

### Thermo Fisher Scientific Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Madison Maxwell** In 2020, Madison had knee surgery that reconstructed her MPFL ligament and ACL. This experience sparked her interest in medicine, and she became a Carlow University Science Nation researcher at Pittsburgh CAPA. Madison is now studying Biology at Slippery Rock University.



**Tationna Pack** Tationna is a leader from Pittsburgh Allderdice who enjoys giving back and helping others. During her time at Allderdice, she engaged in the Black Student Union, Senior Class Council, and National Honors Society. With her excitement to gain the tools necessary to evoke change, Tationna is pursuing a degree in Psychology at Seton Hill University.



**Zander Reppe** During his time at Pittsburgh Allderdice, Zander was actively involved in his school community. He participated in golf, swimming, Anti-Bully Club, Youth Group, and was an Eagle Scout. Being inspired by family, Zander found a passion for the business world. He is now a Business major at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Uziel Rodriguez-Caba** Uzi is a well-rounded scholar from Pittsburgh Allderdice. He was involved in football, Jui-jitsu, and CTE for engineering. Uzi's goal is to give back to the Pittsburgh community. Uziel is now a student at CCAC studying Engineering.



**Sevinch Rozmukhamedova** Sevinch is a natural leader from Brashear High School, where she was involved in numerous activities including captain of the tennis team, track, Student Council, and the Big Brothers & Big Sisters program. Her passion in life is to bridge communities and cultures to effect global change. Sevinch is pursuing Health & Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.



**THERMO FISHER  
SCIENTIFIC**  
**\$1  
MILLION**

“Albert Einstein said, ‘It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.’ Once that passion has been discovered, there should be no barriers, real or imagined, that hold us back. The Pittsburgh Promise is freeing the hearts and minds of our best and brightest students to dream big and be unencumbered in their pursuits. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers, in particular, are in growing demand as Pittsburgh becomes one of the country’s premier high-tech centers. The Pittsburgh Promise is helping to prepare the next generation of our workforce for these rewarding and highly skilled opportunities. This is not just an investment in our youth; it is an investment in our region’s future.”

**Lisa Witte**  
Senior Vice President, and President, Customer Channels Group, Thermo Fisher Scientific

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# 2023 Executive Scholars

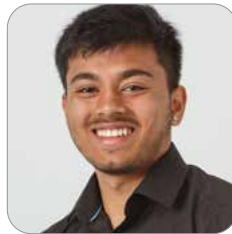
### Viatrix Scholars *of The Pittsburgh Promise*



**Deshaun Blackwell** Deshaun is a natural leader from Pittsburgh Westinghouse. He enthusiastically joined the football and track teams and managed the school store. Deshaun takes pride in bringing school spirit to everything he’s involved in. He is pursuing a degree in Business at PennWest Clarion.



**Silas Davidson** Silas is a devoted leader from Pittsburgh CAPA. He takes pride in excelling academically and being an engaged member of his school and social community. Silas is intrigued by the field of medicine and hopes to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps. Silas is studying Biochemistry at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Nishan Pariyar** Nishan is a Brashear alum who found an interest in architectural engineering, thanks to his father who introduced it to him at a young age. During his time at Brashear, Nishan participated in sports like soccer and volleyball while maintaining good grades. Nishan is now studying Biotechnology at CCAC.



**Rayvin Threet** Rayvin is a leader from Pittsburgh CAPA who enjoys giving back. During her high school career, she was involved in national honors for dance and academics, cheerleading, Black Student Union, and dance at the Hill Dance Academy Theatre. Rayvin is now a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania studying Psychology.



**Nina Williams** Nina is a graduate of Pittsburgh Carrick who takes pride in her academic achievements. During her time at Carrick, Nina participated in cheerleading and the National Honor Society. She is excited to be a role model and achieve great things. Nina is now studying Human Biology at Chatham University.



**VIATRIS**  
**\$1**  
**MILLION**

“Viatrix is a global pharmaceutical company focused on seeing healthcare, not as it is, but as it should be. Our support for The Pittsburgh Promise follows the same premise – supporting better and more equitable access to education for more students. We believe in the work of The Pittsburgh Promise as an opportunity to enhance our region’s talent pipeline through support for an increasingly diverse student body. We all benefit when more young people from many different backgrounds can pursue their dreams, and Viatrix is proud to be a part of this growth.”

**Robert J. Coury**  
Chairman Emeritus, Viatrix

## Harris Family Scholars

The Franco and Dana Harris Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise is a named scholarship to honor the incredible impact that Franco and Dana Harris have on The Pittsburgh Promise.

Franco and Dana Harris have given more to The Promise than we can put into words. When Franco unexpectedly passed, we were humbled when his family selected The Pittsburgh Promise to receive memorial contributions and were overjoyed when we received more than \$100,000 in gifts to honor him. We knew that with these gifts we must establish a scholarship in their name. Many from our community continued to give, totaling \$500,000, to ensure that this named scholarship can continue until 2028 and represent the lasting legacy of the Harris family.

Congratulations to the inaugural 2023 class of Franco and Dana Harris Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise: Justin, Niya, Evan, Roz, and Ronald!



## Advancing Educators of Color (Demchak Scholars)

It is well-documented that the presence of Black teachers in the education of Black students has transformative impacts on students’ vision for their futures as well as academic outcomes.



These include higher educational attainment, lower dropout rates, and reduced disciplinary actions. Unfortunately, many students move through their K-12 education without being taught by a Black educator.

Thanks to the breathtaking generosity of the Demchak family, The AEC program provides a full-ride scholarship on top of the Promise Scholarship to eligible Pittsburgh Public Schools students who pursue education and jobs within PPS after graduation. Students chosen for the scholarship are deemed Demchak Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise. This scholarship, in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, eliminates financial burdens and provides mentorship, networking, and professional development to students that are dedicated to the profession of education, along with the guarantee of employment once they gain certification.

## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# Our Gratitude to UPMC

**UPMC provided the founding gift of \$100 million to establish The Pittsburgh Promise in 2007.**

At the time, the idea for The Promise was visionary, but unproven. Today, it is the largest program of its kind in the country with a proven track record of success. In April 2023, UPMC announced an additional \$10 million gift to The Pittsburgh Promise with an audience of Pittsburgh Public Schools seventh graders at Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8. The exceptionally generous gift pushed our fundraising over the \$250 million milestone and puts us on a path to achieving our goal of funding a generation of Pittsburgh's youth.

**Thank you, UPMC.**



**“OUR INVESTMENT IN THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INVESTMENT IN THE YOUTH OF PITTSBURGH AND IN THE FUTURE OF THE PITTSBURGH REGION.** As the region’s largest employer and health care system, we know the value of education in creating a diverse, skilled workforce and a strong, sustainable Pittsburgh community for years to come. Supporting a generation of students and helping them access higher education has been our absolute honor.”  
**Leslie Davis, President and CEO of UPMC**



Additional Gift of \$10 million  
 in 2023 brings UPMC’s  
 total giving to

**\$110**  
 MILLION

# KeyBank Presents: A Night of Promise

**On Saturday April 15th, 2023, 900 supporters, friends and scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise gathered for a gala honoring Franco and Dana Harris and featuring a concert by the legendary Temptations.**

At the event, we announced approximately \$3 million raised through event sponsorships and ticket sales as well as \$10 million from UPMC, \$2 million from The Richard King Mellon Foundation, \$500,000 from the McElhattan family, and \$500,000 from The Heinz Endowments.

In addition to the fundraising news, Dana Harris, Joe Green, and Art Rooney provided beautiful tributes to the life of our founding board chair, Franco Harris. We were also incredibly honored to announce five graduating high school seniors as the inaugural Franco and Dana Harris Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise. The named scholarship was established to honor the incredible impact Franco and Dana Harris had, and continue to have, on The Pittsburgh Promise.



**\$3M**  
 raised through  
 event sponsorships  
 and ticket sales

**\$10M**  
 from UPMC

**5**  
 GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ANNOUNCED  
 AS THE FRANCO AND DANA HARRIS SCHOLARS  
 OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE



## Your Impact, Our Tomorrow

# Public Policy Action is Critical to Securing Pennsylvania's Future

Pennsylvania is on the brink of a critical challenge: by 2035, the state is projected to face a shortfall of 770,000 skilled workers. With over a million members of today's workforce set to retire and many others migrating out, the jobs of tomorrow—largely driven by new technologies—will demand a workforce with post-secondary credentials.

Of course, this does not mean that we will have that many vacant jobs. Instead, we will have that many fewer jobs because employers will leave the Commonwealth.

This impending workforce shortage isn't just a statistic; it's a potential economic crisis. Pennsylvania's public university system is one of the most expensive in the nation. Declining enrollment numbers reflect the financial burdens on families. More and more students are opting for out-of-state institutions or forgoing higher education altogether, leading to a shrinking pool of talent for Pennsylvania industries.

To ensure PA can capture the benefits of its projected future job growth, 65% of our residents must have a post-secondary credential by 2035. Today, we are at only 53%. Meeting this goal will require bold public policy action to expand access to affordable education, align workforce training with the needs of high-growth industries, and create opportunities for both traditional students and adult learners to obtain the skills necessary for the jobs of the future.

**Programs like The Pittsburgh Promise have shown the transformative impact of investing in education. Scaling such efforts statewide can help close the skills gap and secure Pennsylvania's economic future.**

We must act now. Public policy that prioritizes education and workforce development is critical to ensuring Pennsylvania's competitiveness and economic vitality in the years to come. We at The Pittsburgh Promise pledge to continue to work with elected officials, and business, civic, and educational leaders to design transformational efforts that are worthy of our people and up to the challenge that is in front of us now.

**Our Commonwealth is ready for a Pennsylvania Promise!**



BY 2035, PENNSYLVANIA IS  
PROJECTED TO FACE A SHORTFALL OF  
**770,000**  
SKILLED WORKERS

## keepers of the pittsburgh promise

Because of their commitment to the vitality of our region and the strength of our city, Keepers of The Promise operate exclusively to support and promote the work of The Pittsburgh Promise by increasing visibility and awareness, developing or deepening friendships with donors, and assisting in supporting fundraising efforts through community outreach.

### Founding Members

Jeanne Berdik  
Ann and Paul Bridges  
Gretchen and Bill Generett  
Janet and Bill Hunt  
Mardi and Jim Royston  
Pat and Alan Siger  
Debbie Dick and Art Stroyd

### Charter Members

Robin Joan Bernstein  
Lynda and Joel Coslov  
Ellen and John Eichleay, Jr.  
Sara and Alan Guttman  
Erin and James Isler  
Betsy and Stephen Magley  
Susan and Marty McGuinn  
Gail and Tom Murphy  
Judy Roscow  
Cris and Alex Scott  
Gayle and Bill Simpson  
Kathy and Lou Testoni

### Keepers

Dede and Ken Acer  
Donna and Ben Allen  
Jennifer and Michael Annichine  
Jeanne and Nick Antonuccio  
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Roberta and David Brody  
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Amanda Godley and Ken Fisher  
Susan Greenspan and Neil Resnick  
Lori and Richard Guttman  
Lilla and David Hillman  
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Patty and Jeff Kendall  
Ellen and Jack Kessler  
Cameron Knight  
Marsha Kolbe  
David Kozloff and Mark Meaders

Valentina and Justin Krauss  
Cynthia and Steve Lackey  
Mollie and Tom Lang  
Moriah and Wade Lipscomb  
Wendy and Peter Mars  
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Kathy and Ray Paschke  
Hilary Tyson Porter and Charles Porter  
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Ree and Joe Reschini  
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Jolie Schroeder  
Emily and Jonathan Shimko  
Carli Siger and Scott Backus  
Cynthia Skrzycki  
Peggy and Steve Snavely  
Alice Snyder  
Jim Spencer and Michael Lin  
Sukanya Srinivasan and Henry Willis  
Mary Margaret and Lloyd Stamy  
Charles Stewart III  
Kathy and Ian Stewart  
Carol and Paul Stockman  
Nancy and Saad Tabbara  
Linda and Jay Thier  
Vanessa Thompson  
Maya and Christopher Tuttle  
Gary Verkleeren  
Signe and Winthrop Watson  
Susie and John Wean  
Carol Wentworth  
Lynda and Ed Wrenn

Members as of 12/31/2023  
\*indicates deceased



# The Promise Thanks Our Donors

We are profoundly grateful to our many supporters. Your generous investments are the catalyst for transforming lives and revitalizing our region.

## Companies and Foundations

### \$100 MILLION & ABOVE

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

### \$10 MILLION TO \$99.9 MILLION

The Grable Foundation  
The Heinz Endowments  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Richard King Mellon Foundation

### \$5 MILLION TO \$9.9 MILLION

Eden Hall Foundation  
Highmark

### \$1 MILLION TO \$4.9 MILLION

American Eagle Outfitters  
Benter Foundation  
BNY Mellon  
The Buhl Foundation  
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation  
Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co.  
Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust  
First National Bank  
Giant Eagle  
Henry L. Hillman Foundation  
Highmark Healthcare  
Hillman Foundation  
Howmet Aerospace  
KeyBank  
Massey Charitable Trust  
The McElhattan Foundation  
McGuinn Family Foundation  
PNC  
PPG Foundation  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Viatrix  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
Bayer USA Foundation  
The Birmingham Foundation

The Fine Foundation  
The University Club of Pittsburgh Charitable and Educational Trust

### \$100,000 TO \$499,999

Anonymous (1)  
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Alcoa Foundation  
Allen H. & Selma W. Berkman Charitable Trust  
American Textile  
Art Rooney Scholarship Fund  
AT&T  
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\*Deceased  
Cumulative giving as of 12/31/2023



“We began supporting The Pittsburgh Promise because we wanted to be part of a community that shows up for Pittsburgh kids. Jason is an Allerdice (1989) graduate, and our kids are Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) students too. Matteo just graduated from CAPA as a valedictorian and Sebastian is a rising junior at CAPA. We keep supporting The Promise because of how effective it is in providing support for graduates in their educational pursuits and professional development. In addition to the scholarships, Promise Coaches and college support really help students. We hope more kids will feel supported and see opportunities and possibilities for their futures.”

**Annabelle Javier and Jason Wilburn**

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# The Promise Staff

## Staff

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Promise Coach

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Communications Manager

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Development and  
Engagement Manager

**Katina Lee**  
Senior Manager of Operations  
and Donor Relations

**Tashawn Nichols**  
Promise Coach Manager

**Marna Owens-Bailey**  
Scholarship Program Manager

**Rob Park**  
Promise Coach

**Kent Poole**  
Promise Coach

**Heather Rourke**  
Post-Secondary Success  
Manager

**Lyndsey Rozzi**  
Associate Director of  
College and Career Success

**Billy Rutherford**  
Promise Coach Manager

**Braná Sesay**  
Promise Coach

**Julie Shepard**  
Senior Manager of  
Development and Events

**Keysha Taylor**  
Human Resources Manager

**Chan-Elle Vassell**  
Director of Development

**Emmanuel Walker**  
Promise Coach

**Angela Weaver**  
Promise Coach Manager

**Amy Yearwood**  
Director of College  
and Career Success

# Selected Financial Highlights

Sisterson & Co. LLP completed our independent financial audit as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

The selected financial highlights below were derived from audited financial statements. For a full copy of our audited financial statements, please visit our website or contact 412-281-7605 to request a copy.

## Statement of Financial Position Highlights

	June 30	
	2023	2022
Total assets	\$ 61,809,062	\$ 59,585,111
Total liabilities	\$ 275,571	\$ 703,256
Without donor restrictions	54,362,268	49,073,460
With donor restrictions	7,171,223	9,808,395
	61,533,491	58,881,855
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 61,809,062	\$ 59,585,111

## Statement of Activities Highlights

	Year ended June 30	
	2023	2022
Contributions, gains, and other support	\$ 15,010,536*	\$ 4,045,529
Scholarships approved, net	7,429,854	7,761,194
Expenses		
Educational Outreach	3,483,365	2,072,405
Fundraising, Management, and General	1,445,681	1,331,242
	12,358,900	11,164,841
Change in net assets	\$ 2,651,636	\$ (7,119,312)

\* Includes contributions made through Night of Promise Gala

# Be Part of the Transformation

We make giving easy through several convenient options!



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Mail your check to:  
1901 Centre Avenue  
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## STOCK, DONOR ADVISED FUNDS AND PLANNED GIFTS

Your contributions ignite lasting impact for generations to come.



## EITC

The Promise is a PA Educational Improvement Organization, offering companies a chance to earn a 90% tax credit through the PA EITC program.



## ONLINE

[pittsburghpromise.org](http://pittsburghpromise.org)



## UNITED WAY

Use our agency code number 9576075 when donating



To make a gift, please contact Chan-Elle Vassell at 412-745-2241 or [Chanelle@pittsburghpromise.org](mailto:Chanelle@pittsburghpromise.org)

# the pittsburgh promise

1901 Centre Avenue  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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