

"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.

