

2024
2025

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THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE
MAGAZINE

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the pittsburgh promise

The Pittsburgh Promise is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is an affiliate of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

The Pittsburgh Promise is a partnership between Pittsburgh Public Schools, the City of Pittsburgh, UPMC, and other key funders.

1ST WORD

Every human has the potential to do great things, shape their communities in great ways, and thrive in living that unique purpose they choose to embrace. And that, dear high school friend, includes you.

Your next step—whether it’s attending a four-year university, enrolling in a community college, learning a skilled trade, or entering the military or workforce—can shape your future in profound ways. But the right choice for you depends on more than just good grades or external expectations. It begins with knowing yourself.

Take time to reflect on your passions. Understanding what energizes you will help guide you toward a path that doesn’t just lead to success, but also to fulfillment.

Explore your strengths and challenges. Self-awareness will lead you toward a post-secondary experience that aligns with your natural talents and strengths.

Consider your values and goals. Your post-secondary path should reflect not only who you are now, but who you aspire to be. It should help you grow as a person and achieve the future you envision for yourself.

Be open to discovery. As you explore various opportunities, you may find new passions and skills you never expected. Embrace this journey of learning and growth.

The Promise team is here to support you. We exist because we believe in you and your potential. The path you choose today is just the beginning of an exciting adventure. Remember, it’s not just about making the “right” decision—it’s about making the right decision for you.

We can’t wait to see the incredible things you will accomplish. ■



Saleem Ghubril Executive Director | The Pittsburgh Promise



1 GRADUATE
from high school
in, or before,
2028

2 LIVE
In the City of Pittsburgh
90
Neighborhoods
to choose from!

3 ATTEND
Pittsburgh Public Schools
or one of its charters



4 EARN
A Promise scholarship
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= **Your Promise scholarship**

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh believes that every person who comes through their doors is inherently worthy and has the potential to reach and exceed their goals, regardless of their past or present.

They work to provide opportunities for success and lifelong careers to those who work with them. They offer training programs, transitional employment opportunities, apprenticeships, and job placement services that are designed to meet participants where they are and connect them with stable, higher-than-entry-level positions in culinary or adjacent industries that lead to wage progression and professional growth.

1. Why did you choose Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh to do your volunteer work?

I started volunteering with the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh through the Allderdice Community Outreach Club (DCO), which is a group at my school that focuses on serving the Pittsburgh community. I decided to start volunteering with the club at the Community Kitchen to support and work alongside the people in my community while making new friends. In Pittsburgh alone there are so many children and families who do not know when their next meal will be. I believe that the Community Kitchen is the perfect place to address and act against these problems by providing food for those in need. What I like about the Community Kitchen is that they form a connection between neighborhoods and communities to work together to make sure that the people of our city are fed.

2. Can you tell us a little bit about Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh and what you do there?

Throughout the school year, the members of DCO meet at the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh after school and volunteer for a few hours. The staff are all so friendly and they meet with us to discuss what they need help with and what tasks we can complete. Usually, we package food and snacks such as sandwiches. We are each assigned a particular role and work together assembly-line-style, with some people making the sandwiches and others packaging them into boxes. I hope that our work connects the people of Pittsburgh to one another to create a supportive and intertwined environment in our city.

3. How has volunteering at Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh impacted your life?

Volunteering at the Community Kitchen has truly shown me how necessary it is to serve and help others. Even a small action such as making a sandwich can make a difference. As a student, this experience has helped me realize that working as a group can influence change. Overall, volunteering has broadened my perspective in terms of how students can bring about change to confront problems they see in their everyday lives. I hope to continue to volunteer while encouraging others to do so.

4. What skills have you learned through volunteering do you think will be beneficial to your college career and life in general?

Volunteering has taught me teamwork, collaboration, and how vital it is to participate in the community. It has shown me the importance of partnering with members in the community to take action. I believe that volunteering promotes inclusion, empathy, responsibility, and showing kindness to people without expecting anything in return and I hope to take these values with me into the future. ■



LEARN MORE

Find out more about the Community Kitchen at:
www.ckpgh.org



Evangelina Passero is a current senior at Pittsburgh Allderdice. She is considering many colleges but hopes to attend Columbia University and major in Public Health.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



Established in 1931, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh’s programming is designed to foster global mindedness and global connectivity in Pittsburgh. Their approach is centered around creating inclusive and accessible experiences that generate transformed leadership for youth, business and community leaders, and educators – and a greater sense of belonging for all.

For this vision of the future to become a reality, the Council works to create and execute diverse, bold, and engaging programming throughout the Western Pennsylvania region. They work hard to ensure that meaningful, action-oriented global learning opportunities are at the heart of their work. They seek to convene and connect people around global issues to build a thriving, competitive, and inclusive Pittsburgh. They are guided by our vision of a globally minded and globally connected world that is equitable and just for all.

1. Why did you choose the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh to do your volunteer work?

I choose to join the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh (“the Council”) for the 2024-2025 cohort as a Youth Board Member because my values highly align with those of the Council. I learned about the Council through a school communication and was interested in the pay aspect of the position. I choose to join this work because I place high value on the organization’s appreciation of its youth by rewarding them for their commitment.

2.Can you tell us a little bit about “the Council” and what you do there?

The Council is an organization based here in Pittsburgh, PA that seeks to connect people to international issues to shape a Pittsburgh that is inclusive and globally-minded. I serve as a Youth Board Member that helps bring their mission to light in my work with young people while also providing special professional development sessions to adult-leaders. I, alongside youth peers, have held professional learning opportunities for educators, young people (high school and college levels), business leaders, and community members. We’re highly focused on professional learning based on Hart’s Ladder—which is a structural concept of the levels of youth involvement in any organization. The top rung of Hart’s Ladder represents the highest incorporation of youth in the organization and the very bottom represents the least incorporation.

3.How has volunteering at “the Council” impacted your life?

It has made me more socially aware and globally minded on important issues, and additionally has furthered my advocacy of youth programming and of expanding the idea of letting youth take the lead. The Council’s mission has made me think more in-depth of what we all collectively want out of being globally aware.

4.What skills have you learned through volunteering do you think will be beneficial to your college career and life in general?

The skills I’ve adopted as regular practice in my professional life will be a great benefit to creating productive partnerships. I appreciate what I’ve experienced through e-mail communication, presentation building, and public speaking. With the opportunity brought with the Council, I have greatly improved my public speaking and my overall confidence. ■



LEARN MORE

Find out more about the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh at:

www.worldpittsburgh.org

Pavel Martin is a graduate of Pittsburgh Allderdice, studying Political Science at Penn State Greater Allegheny.



BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES:

How The Pittsburgh Promise Shaped Two Inspiring Careers

I grew up in Pittsburgh and am a product of Pittsburgh Public Schools. Though I lived on the west side of Pittsburgh, I grew up on the Northside. My elementary and middle school were there, my friends were there, my summer camps/afterschool programs were there, and as I got older my job(s) were/are there. The Northside feels like home.

I attended City Charter High School. While I was there, I interned at Manchester Academic Charter School, as I wanted to become a teacher, and I also worked at Carnegie Science Center presenting on exhibit floors and teaching pop-up style programming. My love of both informal and formal education led me to pursue elementary education when applying for colleges.

When I was preparing for high school graduation, I met with my guidance counselors and discussed where I wanted to go to school and what I wanted to study, but we also talked about the cost. Prior to this conversation, I never really thought about the total cost of going to college for four years. Knowing that I would have significant help from The Pittsburgh Promise helped ease my concern.

I graduated high school in 2013 and attended college at Slippery Rock University for early childhood education. Due to family illnesses and mental health struggles, after completing my first semester, I decided to transfer to Robert Morris University to be closer to home.

During the end of my sophomore year, I realized that formal teaching was no longer my end goal, so I switched my major to psychology and kept a minor in education. Over the next two years, I interned in the STEM department at Carnegie Science Center where I created training documents and videos for

educators to use to learn how to better work with early learners. I truly enjoyed that work and upon graduating college in 2017, I was able to move into a full-time position.

Over my 10-year career at Carnegie Science Center, I had many great experiences and opportunities working in many departments and holding many different roles. In 2021, I departed from there and began working at the National Aviary, where I taught environmental education programs and managed volunteers. As a life-long bird lover, working there combined two of my passions: education and birds. Though I loved working at the National Aviary, I had a desire to work more directly with the community I grew up in.

While working at both Carnegie Science Center and the National Aviary I held roles on diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion committees and councils. This work means a lot to me. As a black woman working in museums and informational education organizations, I always noticed that my identities were rarely represented in my colleagues and the visitors we served. However, in the positions I held I didn't have a way to directly change that. Now working at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, I am the Manager of Accessibility and Community Engagement. I get to focus on ensuring that the community of the Northside and the greater Pittsburgh area feel like they belong in our museum by hosting after hours family nights, creating partnerships with community organizations, and going into the community providing activities and programs. ■

Angelica Miller is a Promise Alumna of City Charter High School and Robert Morris University. Angelica currently works at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh as the Manager of Accessibility and Community Engagement.



They say it takes a village and Pittsburgh Public Schools was an integral part of my village, nurturing my upbringing. I spent my early elementary days at Liberty Elementary, and like many of my classmates, had the great opportunity to dive into my talents as a musician and attended Rogers Middle School and eventually CAPA High School.

During my time at both schools, I was given the opportunity to truly explore myself as a musician and discover other talents. I was exposed to the arts of all kinds and had opportunities to share my talents with many audiences, small and large. I was inspired by my peers. They were fearless, curious, and open to being themselves. I was motivated by my teachers. At the time, I did not know that this exposure to the arts would lead me to the work I do today.

While I was not sure what the future held for me at the time, I knew college was up next. The Pittsburgh Promise played an integral role in deciding which schools were best for me. Receiving such a generous scholarship truly felt like a gift that would allow me greater flexibility for my future. While I was able to narrow down to a few schools in Pennsylvania, the decision of which school was still a tough one. College fairs and visits from colleges and universities helped me learn more about the college experience I wanted for myself, and I landed on Penn State University. I considered the school ranking, the programs they offered, and the beautiful campus. I understood that Penn State was a large school and had a huge alumni-base which I knew would be beneficial to my future.

Coming from a creative and performing arts school, staying within the realm of creativity was important to me, which led me to major in Advertising and minor in Sociology. I was fascinated by the collaboration of creativity and business.

My time at Penn State taught me a lot. There were many resources available to me to ensure my success at Penn State including tutors, financial advisors, and career centers. I truly had the opportunity to focus on school, and any time I had concerns about my financial aid, I knew The Pittsburgh Promise had my back.

As I've journeyed into my career, I started in fashion marketing, working for some of the most notable publications and retail brands. I, however, began to notice the challenges of diversity, equity, and inclusion. I wanted to ensure that more people who looked like me or came from similar backgrounds had the opportunity to sit in the rooms I was sitting in. I recognized that

some of the spaces and proverbial 'tables' that I had a seat at were not as accessible and I was determined to make that change.

Finding interest in a possible career pivot, I decided graduate school would be a great start for me. The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship meant that I did not have an overwhelming amount of debt, which made graduate school more feasible. As a current student at Northwestern University, I was able to receive a certificate in Leading Equity and Inclusion in Organizations and am still in pursuit of my Masters in Learning and Organizational Change.

Currently, I am utilizing my experience and learnings as the Director of JEDAI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) & Community Engagement at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. At this point in my journey, I have successfully been able to combine my love for art and creativity with my desire to inspire future creatives, the way my peers and teachers did for me. I also get to ensure that creative spaces are diverse, inclusive, and foster a sense of belonging, because in my eyes, everyone deserves to be in spaces that inspire them to dream big.

The Pittsburgh Promise made my big dreams attainable by making my education accessible and attainable. As the President of Promise Legacy (the Alumni leadership group of The Promise), I am grateful to have the opportunity to give back and support the students that The Promise serves with the hope to stand as a model for those students coming up behind me. ■

Teona Ringgold is a Promise Alumna of CAPA High School and a Penn State University graduate. She is currently the Director of JEDAI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) & Community Engagement at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.





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Values We Live By

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- **Teamwork:** We believe in working together to achieve great things.
- **Service:** We're dedicated to serving our customers and communities.
- **Humor:** We keep a sense of humor and enjoy our work.

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- **Sewing Machine Operators:** Use sewing machines to create our products.
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- **Mechanics:** Keep our machines running smoothly.

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- **HR, Finance, and IT:** Help manage our people, money, and technology.
- **Product Development:** Design new and exciting bedding products.
- **Marketing and Sales:** Promote our products and work with stores.
- **Supply Chain Management:** Ensure our products get to customers smoothly.

Job Opportunities for Everyone

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- **College Graduates:** Use your degree in specialized roles and career development programs. ■



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What is a Promise Coach?



The Promise Coaching Initiative focuses on providing personal career and higher education exploration and mental strengthening to every high school student attending Carrick, Perry Traditional Academy, UPrep/Milliones and Westinghouse, starting in the 9th grade.

The Coach's aim is to support the initiatives that already exist in the school. Through in-class presentations, group, and individual meetings, coaches help students become the best they can be. The main goal of Promise College and Career Success Coaches is that by the time a student graduates, they not only have a post-secondary plan— they have the plan that is right for them!

Promise College and Career Success Coaches help students:

- Identify their skills and interests
- Know their available financial & psychosocial resources
- Understand their educational and career options
- Receive post-secondary planning and financial aid guidance
- Navigate the marketplace and its opportunities
- Build essential soft skills

Topics covered by Promise Coach programming include:

- Promise Scholarship overview and support
- FAFSA and PHEAA (state grant) application overview and completion assistance
- Self-care and well-being support
- Class workshops (Strengths Finder, Goal Writing, Personal Development, Time Management, etc.) ■

**LEARN
MORE**

To connect with The Promise Coaches please email
promisecoaches@pittsburghpromise.org

*The coaching office is open during school hours.
Students may stop by when permitted by school staff.*



Questions for Our Westinghouse Coaches

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

1

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

2

What was the best part of College & Career Success Coaching in 2023/2024?

3

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

4

What are you looking forward to most for the 2024/2025 academic year? What plans do you have in place for Westinghouse students in the Fall?

Bishop



1

My name is Bishop Getters, I'm a Promise Coach at Westinghouse high school. Faith, family & football is what I have lived for over the last 20 years of my life, while also having a good time. I have two children: my daughter, Mila and my son, Saint. In about 9 months, I'm set to marry my fiancé, Aria!

2

I joined the staff in April, so I didn't get to experience a full year. However, in the last few months, the best part was building a relationship with the kids and staff.

3

Since I joined later in the school year, I initially faced challenges in getting to know the students and becoming familiar with the culture at Westinghouse. To overcome this, I dedicated extra time to learning about the students, their needs, and the academic content, allowing me to catch up and contribute effectively.

4

I'm looking forward to everything! The financial literacy project that we have planned for the students, FASFA days, meet and greets, etc. One of my main focuses this fall will be a financial literacy project which allowed me to partner with PNC Bank to help our students better understand how to use their money and open bank accounts. I'm also looking forward to pushing FASFA ID sign-ups for our juniors. ■

Tashawn



- 1 My educational background is Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The Pennsylvania State University and Master of Science in Education focused on School Counseling from Duquesne University. Prior to coming to The Pittsburgh Promise, my experience as a School Counselor, School Based Therapist as well as Manager of School Based Mental Health Services has amplified my passion for both education and mental health. Involvement with an education organization like The Pittsburgh Promise which is committed to students in the City of Pittsburgh is incredible.
- 2 The absolute best part of last school year was getting to work with the students at Westinghouse. Being able to support students in meeting their dreams after high school was very rewarding. The seniors were accepted to many higher education institutions as well as some going directly into the workforce. The College & Career Success Coaching Program was able to provide intensive services to assist the students toward achieving their goals.
- 3 Effectively launching the College & Career Success Coaching Program at a new school was a challenge to make sure program development was effective. Listening to students' interests, collaborating with school staff members, connecting with parents/ guardians made it possible to create services that not only met the needs but moved the academic pendulum for students. It is our hope that we can continue along this journey going into this upcoming school year with a full staff team energized and ready to help more Westinghouse Scholars.
- 4 This year is very exciting with the official launch of College & Career Success Coaching at Westinghouse. The plans for this upcoming school year are implementing a comprehensive program featuring classroom presentations to help students learn more about college and career expectations, small student groups targeting academic interventions, individual student meetings to develop a solid career transition plan, and planning college tours and career field trips for students to explore the vast opportunities that await them after high school. ■

Emoni



- 1 I'm a proud PPS and Pittsburgh Promise alum. I attended Point Park University, where I earned my BA in Psychology and my MA in Community Psychology. Before my current position, I served with KEYS AmeriCorps in various education roles. I've been working in the education sphere for a while, and my passion for supporting students has led me to find my home in this position.
- 2 The best part of coaching in the 2023/2024 academic year was witnessing the growth and achievements of my students. Whether it was a breakthrough in understanding and securing a college acceptance, or simply gaining confidence, these moments were incredibly rewarding.
- 3 One of the significant challenges this past year was getting acclimated to my new position and environment. Additionally, I struggled with meeting students who were chronically absent. My colleagues and I created small groups, which helped us to engage with students more effectively and foster a sense of belonging and accountability among them.
- 4 For 2024/2025, I'm excited to introduce Coffee & Conversations to stimulate engagement with parents. I will also be engaging with sophomores and other students via classroom visits and workshops. I'm looking forward to seeing our students thrive and achieve their goals with the enhanced support and resources we're putting in place. ■

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CHOOSING *the* **RIGHT**
★ SCHOOL *for* YOU ★

WRITING
RACHEL GOGOS

ILLUSTRATION
KATE BINGAMAN-BURT

Your college years will be some of the most exciting and influential of your life. The skills you learn, the experiences you have, and the people you meet during these formative years can have a profound and lasting effect on your career and your future.

But with so many options, how do you choose the right college for you? According to the National Center for Education Statistics, there are well over 4,000 to choose from in the U.S. alone. Given so many options, the pressure to make such an important decision can be staggering.

But where you go may not matter quite as much as you—or your parents—think it does.

In his recent *New York Times* article, “How to Survive the College Admissions Madness” (March 2015), Frank Bruni insists that what a student does in college is more important than where he or she goes, writing, it’s “the nature of a student’s college experience—the work that he or she puts into it, the self-examination that’s undertaken, the resourcefulness that’s honed—that matters more than the name of the institution attended.”

“The best way to approach the college search process is to start by looking inward.”

This seems to be backed up by the inaugural Gallup-Purdue Index, which determined that the level of support a student receives and the experiences he or she has in college have a bigger impact on post-collegiate success than the school itself. The poll, which surveyed 30,000 graduates, found that so-called elite schools “fared no better than less selective private and public schools in ensuring graduates’ well-being.”

What matters, according to the poll, is that students have the support of a professor or mentor enabling them to have “deep learning experiences.” Of the graduates surveyed, the ones who were twice as likely to feel engaged and, therefore, more satisfied with their work, were those who:

- had at least one professor who made them excited about learning.
- felt their professors cared about them.
- had a mentor who encouraged them.
- worked on a long-term project while in school.
- had an internship or job that allowed them to apply what they learned in the classroom.
- actively took part in extracurricular activities while attending college.

The good news is, you should be able to experience all of the above no matter what college you choose. Still, you’ll be happier and more successful if you land at a college that better matches your unique personality and goals.

The best way to approach the college search process is to start by looking inward. Taking some time to understand yourself better will help you better understand the type of learning environment that is best for you.

Ask yourself:

- What are your long-term goals?
- What are your beliefs and values?
- How do you best learn?
- Are you more comfortable in a rural or urban setting?
- Are you sure of your career aspirations or are you still trying to figure it all out?
- How do you thrive?

Once you feel confident that you know yourself, then you can start considering other important factors, including:

- Academic rigor
- Distance from home
- Campus career services
- Climate
- Extracurricular activities
- Athletic programs
- Financial aid/scholarships
- Student support services
- School size
- Majors offered
- Type of housing
- Campus atmosphere

If you’re still feeling overwhelmed, don’t forget there are tons of college search websites out there that can help you whittle down your college options. Check out sites like The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, Accredited Schools Online, Peterson’s, and Noodle—each of which offers some great resources and online tools to help you narrow your focus and make your list of options more manageable.

There may not be such a thing as the absolute PERFECT college for you. But as long as you take some time to understand yourself before picking a school, and then focus on making the most of college once you get there, you’re likely to reap long-term rewards, in college, your career and beyond. ■

Rachel Gogos is the founder and CEO of MyPath101.com, a proprietary, web-based membership site dedicated to helping students use their vital college years to develop their identity, learn how to present their best selves to the world, and embark on a path to a fulfilling career.



Sources:

- “How to Survive the College Admissions Madness” by Frank Bruni (March 13, 2015)
- “Life in College Matters for Life After College” by Julie Ray and Stephanie Kafka (May 6, 2014)

CHOOSING *the* **RIGHT** SCHOOL *for* YOU

Andrea Edwards



1. What resources did you utilize in high school to explore post-secondary options?

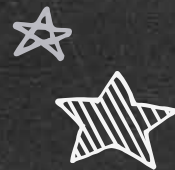
I utilized The Pittsburgh Promise, which provided invaluable guidance. I also turned to TikTok to hear from current students. This gave me a fresh, real-time perspective on different schools. My teachers were another great resource; offering advice and support as I navigated the application process. Each of these played a role in helping me make informed decisions about my future.

2. What were the most important factors to you when applying to schools?

The most important factors to me when applying to schools were size, affordability, location, and whether I felt comfortable and welcomed on campus. I wanted to find a school that was not only affordable but also had the right atmosphere and a location that suited my needs. Feeling like I belonged and could thrive was key to my decision.

3. How did the Promise Coaches in your school guide you through the post-secondary process?

My school didn't have a Promise Coach until I was almost done with the college selection process, but once we got one, she was really helpful. She would send us various scholarship opportunities each week, which was a great resource for finding ways to help pay for school. Even though it was later in my journey, her support made a big difference.



4. After all your research, how did you make your decision?

I made my decision primarily based on how I envisioned feeling at my chosen school. I knew that by selecting this particular institution, I would always have engaging experiences and never feel bored. Talking to current students was a pivotal part of my decision. They offered me reassurance that there would always be support available if I ever faced challenges. This feeling of community was essential in solidifying my choice.

5. Words of advice for students starting the post-secondary process?

My advice is to avoid procrastination. This period can be one of the most stressful times during your senior year, so it's best to get things done early, provided you have all the necessary information. Don't forget to enjoy the experience as well! Take the time to explore your options and make the most of this significant step toward your future. ■



Andrea Edwards, 2024 Pittsburgh Westinghouse graduate (and two-year Promise Ambassador), current first-year student at North Carolina A&T studying Nursing



Jacob Grimm



Jacob Grimm, 2024 Pittsburgh Carrick graduate (and two-year Promise Ambassador), current first-year student at Slippery Rock University studying Cybersecurity.

1. What resources did you utilize in high school to explore post-secondary options?

In high school, I took full advantage of the resources available to explore my post-secondary options. I made it a priority to attend as many college tours as possible, which allowed me to experience first-hand the diversity of campus environments and academic offerings. These tours were invaluable in helping me visualize what life at different institutions would be like and provided me with a clearer picture of which schools might be the best fit for me personally and academically.

Additionally, I relied on guidance from The Pittsburgh Promise, a program that played a significant role in my college exploration process. The Pittsburgh Promise provided crucial information about financial aid opportunities, scholarship options, and the overall college admissions process. Their support helped me navigate the often-overwhelming journey of applying to college, ensuring I understood all the important steps and requirements.

Together, these experiences—immersing myself in the college tours and gaining insights from The Pittsburgh Promise—equipped me with the knowledge and confidence to make well-informed decisions about my future education.

2. What were the most important factors to you when applying to schools?

The most important factors for me were cost and the overall feel of the campus. I wanted to ensure that I could afford my education without being overwhelmed by financial strain, so affordability played a major role in my decision-making process. Equally important was how comfortable and welcoming the campus felt. I needed to picture myself thriving in that environment, both socially and academically. After weighing these factors, I chose Slippery Rock University because it offered the perfect balance for me, combining an affordable tuition with a campus atmosphere where I felt right at home.



3. How did the Promise Coaches in your school guide you through the post-secondary process?

The Promise Coaches and other Promise staff were incredibly supportive throughout the post-secondary process. They provided me with valuable advice that aligned with my main academic focuses and personal goals. Their guidance helped me reflect on what I truly wanted from a college experience and led me to consider schools that would be the best fit for me. By helping me identify my priorities, such as cost and campus feel, they played a key role in steering me toward making a decision that suited both my educational and personal needs.



4. After all your research, how did you make your decision?

After all my research, I made my decision by carefully weighing the factors that mattered most to me, like cost and campus feel, and considering which school would offer the most long-term benefits. Ultimately, I chose Slippery Rock because it provided the right balance of affordability and a campus environment where I felt comfortable. I also see it as an excellent place to grow personally and academically while advancing my career interests, making it the best choice for my future.

5. Words of advice for students starting the post-secondary process?

Don't wait to apply to college like I did! Starting the process early is so important because it gives you more time to explore your options and avoid the stress of last-minute deadlines. Also, don't hesitate to ask for support from Promise Coaches or other mentors. The process can feel overwhelming, but having people to guide you makes a huge difference. Remember, you've got this! Take your time, seek help, and trust the journey. ■



Cherry Aye



Cherry Aye, 2024 Pittsburgh Carrick graduate, current first-year student at Duquesne University studying Business Analytics.

1. What resources did you utilize in high school to explore post-secondary options?

In high school, I explored post-secondary options through a few key resources. We learned about the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Program, which focused on various trades. I was also aware of The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship, but I didn't find out about the Promise Coaches at Carrick until they met with me in my junior year. After that, I made sure to go to them whenever I had questions about my future career interests. They were a great support!

2. What were the most important factors to you when applying to schools?

I really wanted a campus that mixed nature with the city vibe. It just makes the whole experience feel more exciting and inspiring. Class size was also super important to me; I think smaller classes help you connect with teachers and make friends more easily.

3. How did the Promise Coaches in your school guide you through the post-secondary process?

The Promise Coaches at my school were helpful in guiding me through the process. They were always there to answer any questions I had about the schools I was interested in. They also helped me research what each school offered, which made it easier to compare my options. Plus, they set deadlines for me, which kept me on track and helped me avoid procrastination. Their support made a big difference!

4. After all your research, how did you make your decision?

My decision really came down to finances. I chose Duquesne because they offered me a great financial aid package, which made it much more affordable. Plus, I loved that it's located in the city but still has some nature integrated into the campus. It felt like the perfect fit for me!

5. Words of advice for students starting the post-secondary process?

Start your research early! It will save you a lot of stress during your senior year, letting you focus on enjoying that time instead of worrying about where to go next. Senior year goes by fast, so make the most of it while you can! ■



Trinity Manison



Trinity Manison, 2024
Pittsburgh UPrep Millionaire
graduate, current first-year
student at Penn State
University studying Criminology.



1. What resources did you utilize in high school to explore post-secondary options?

During my high school years, I benefited greatly from the support provided by Promise Coaches and my school counselor. The Promise Coaches played a crucial role in guiding me through various educational and career opportunities, helping me navigate the often-complex college process. They provided insights that were instrumental in shaping my decisions. My school counselor offered valuable advice and resources that contributed to my academic and personal development, ensuring I was well-prepared for the challenges ahead. This support system was essential for my overall success and well-being during such an important time in my life.

2. What were the most important factors to you when applying to schools?

When applying to schools, I prioritized institutions that created environments where Black students felt comfortable and secure. It was essential for me to choose a school that fostered inclusivity and provided a strong sense of belonging. I also looked for schools with a positive school spirit, as I believe that contributes significantly to the overall college experience.

Being rigorously challenged academically was important for my personal growth and preparation for future academic and professional pursuits. Additionally, my career aspirations played a crucial role in my decision-making process; I ultimately chose Penn State primarily because of its strong alumni network, which I see as a valuable resource for future opportunities.

3. How did the Promise Coaches in your school guide you through the post-secondary process?

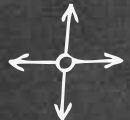
The Pittsburgh Promise truly excels in promoting their scholarship program and actively supporting students in their post-secondary plans. They organized numerous college tours, which provided us with invaluable first-hand experiences of different campuses. Additionally, the personalized one-on-one consultations offered by Promise Coaches were incredibly helpful, allowing me to discuss my goals and concerns in a focused setting. Their open-door policy was also a significant asset; I always felt comfortable reaching out with any questions or concerns I had throughout the process. This comprehensive support made a substantial difference in my college journey.

4. After all your research, how did you make your decision?

I ultimately chose Penn State for a combination of financial considerations and the valuable insights I gained from visiting the campus three times. Although making this decision was challenging, especially since I had another dream school in mind, I realized the importance of aligning my choice with practical realities and future prospects. This pragmatic approach helped me feel more confident in my decision, knowing that I was considering both my immediate needs and long-term goals.

5. Words of advice for students starting the post-secondary process?

Apply to as many schools as you can, whenever you can, and don't hesitate to ask for help along the way! Senioritis is a real struggle, but it's important to stay focused and not give up. Remember, this is a significant step toward your future, and every bit of effort counts. Keep pushing through, and you'll find the right path for you! ■





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Preferred College Partners

The **Preferred College Partners** program is intended to strengthen relationships between The Pittsburgh Promise and certain post-secondary institutions that provide additional financial aid and robust support services for Promise Scholars. **Preferred College Partners** will provide grants for room and board to Promise-eligible students who are accepted to the institution and live in on-campus housing.

These **Preferred College Partners** will extend program benefits to Promise Scholars who enter as freshmen in fall 2024:



Allegheny College
Carlow University
Carnegie Mellon University
Chatham University
Cheyney University
Duquesne University
Geneva College
Grove City College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Juniata College
Kutztown University
LaRoche University
Lincoln University
Mercyhurst University
Messiah College
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



Our thanks to these Preferred College Partners, who share The Pittsburgh Promise's commitment to helping make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable.

NEXT STEPS FOR FUTURE PROMISE SCHOLARS:

- 1 Consider Preferred College Partners during your post-secondary school search.
- 2 Visit the schools and ask about financial aid and support services for Promise Scholars.
- 3 Apply to all schools of your choice.
- 4 Complete the FAFSA (FAFSA.gov) and PA State Grant Form (Pheaa.org) as early as possible (Dec. 1st) and no later than May 1st.
- 5 Once accepted to a Preferred College Partner school, reach out to the school's financial aid office to learn more about your individual financial aid package. Financial aid packages will vary by school and by student.

The Pittsburgh Promise

Executive Scholars

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR
2023 CLASS OF
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS.

THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM BUILDS A PIPELINE BETWEEN HIGH-PERFORMING STUDENTS AND OUR MAJOR CORPORATE DONORS.

The program provides students with the chance to connect with the prestigious company with which they are matched and pursue professional development opportunities and relationships during their college years. High school seniors with a strong academic performance, a commitment to community service, and leadership skills are encouraged to apply. The Executive Scholars Program is one of the ways that The Promise can help students transition not only from high school to college, but also from college to a career. We are very proud of our 2023 Executive Scholar Class. Congratulations!

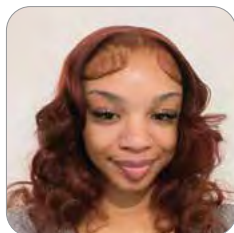
UPMC Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Raemire Boyd At Brashear High School, Raemire participated in football and basketball, as well as community service through the Big Brothers Big Sisters 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.

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.

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 Ullis 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.

BNY 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.



Jamiaka Tabb Due to many challenges, Jamiaka 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. Jamiaka 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.

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PROMISE SCHOLARS TO DATE

HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS 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 Allerdice, 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.

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 Allerdice, 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 Allerdice 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.

"THIS PROGRAM HAS PRESENTED ME WITH UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO AN EXCLUSIVE NETWORK OF LOCAL LEADERS AND INNOVATORS."

MATTHEW, 2014 BNY MELLON SCHOLAR

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 impassioned by 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.

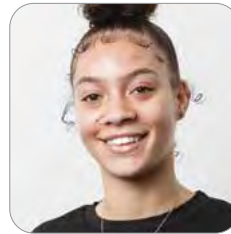


Mason Peck At Pittsburgh Allderdice, Mason was an excellent student. While maintaining great grades, he participated in football, baseball, track and field, National Honor Society, and worked as a lifeguard. Determined to reach above and beyond, Mason is now pursuing Mechanical Engineering at The University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

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.

"THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR PROGRAM HELPED ME LEARN HOW TO CONDUCT MYSELF IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER. I'VE DEVELOPED NEW AND EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MAINTAIN A PROFESSIONAL MINDSET AND APPEARANCE THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL IN MY FUTURE CAREER."

ANAI'YA JONES, 2018 KEYBANK SCHOLAR

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.

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 Brothers Big Sisters 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 excellent 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.

EXECUTIVE
SCHOLAR
COMPANIES

CURRENTLY, **FIFTEEN ORGANIZATIONS** ARE
MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE
EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

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. Shanell 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.

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.

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McGuinn Family Foundation | PPG | Thermo Fisher Scientific | Viatris

PPG Foundation Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



Pauline Mouillet-Sammut 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.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Scholars of The Pittsburgh Promise



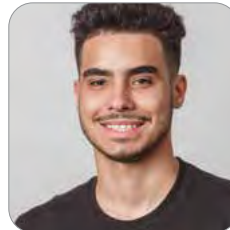
Madison Maxwell In 2020, Madison had knee surgery that reconstructed her MPFL ligament and ACL. This experience sparked her interest in medicine, and she became a Carlow University Science Nation researcher at Pittsburgh CAPA. Madison is now studying Biology at Slippery Rock University.



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.

THE EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE WAYS THAT THE PROMISE CAN HELP STUDENTS TRANSITION NOT ONLY FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE, BUT ALSO FROM COLLEGE TO A CAREER. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR 2023 EXECUTIVE SCHOLAR CLASS.

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.

CCAC

GET A HEAD START ON COLLEGE OR YOUR CAREER!

By taking classes through CCAC's **Dual Enrollment program** while in high school, you can **earn college credits** toward a degree at CCAC, or you can transfer them to another college or university.

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EMAIL executivescholars@pittsburghpromise.org.

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we're focused on
human impact
and the pursuit of
change for good.**

With diverse and interesting majors and customized individual learning, supportive mentorships that help you succeed, and a wide variety of student organizations and groups to choose from, it's an opportunity for a better you and a greater good. And, with five unique campuses in Western Pennsylvania, we have you covered.

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



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Pittsburgh®

Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, Pittsburgh and Titusville

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THE WORLD NEEDS MOORE.

Turn your creative passions into a paycheck.

Moore College of Art & Design is a historic women's college and the only independent art and design college in Philadelphia. Located in the heart of the city, our vibrant campus offers cutting-edge technology, spacious studio spaces and small classes for personalized attention.

Majors:

- Animation & Game Arts
- Art Education
- Entertainment Design
- Fashion Design
- Film & Digital Cinema
- Fine Arts
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Interior Design
- Photography

Minors:

- Animation & Game Arts
- Art History
- Art Therapy
- Business
- Comics
- Creative Writing
- Fashion Design
- Fashion Merchandising
- Film & Digital Cinema
- Fine Arts
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Interior Design
- Photography
- Textile Design

Tania Crowell '24,
Fashion Design



97%
OF 2022
GRADUATES ARE
WORKING OR
IN GRADUATE
SCHOOL JUST ONE
YEAR OUT FROM
GRADUATION*

100%
OF BFA
STUDENTS
RECEIVE
\$1,000 PAID
INTERNSHIPS

7:1
STUDENT
TO FACULTY
RATIO



Catherine Epps '23, Illustration



DOES MOORE SOUND LIKE THE PLACE FOR YOU? WE THINK SO, TOO!

Connect with Kendyl Boyd, Admissions Counselor for Pittsburgh students at kboyd@moore.edu



LEARN ABOUT OUR MAJORS AND **GET IN TOUCH!**



Ask The
PRESIDENT

WE ASKED PRESIDENTS
OF PROMISE-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
A QUESTION

When selecting a school, how should a student explore their options to ensure that the school they choose will allow them to fulfill their dreams?



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

I encourage students to reflect on their core interests, skills and learning styles. By conducting a self-inventory, they can better identify college attributes that will align with their needs and allow them not only to grow but thrive. For example, a student determines they excel best in high school classes that offer more hands-on learning and small group discussion. This student should explore colleges that prioritize experiential learning opportunities, small classes, mentorship and strong advising.

At Allegheny College, every student will work one-on-one with a professor to complete at least one research or creative project within their academic

major. Our alumni attribute this experience to continued success in their careers and beyond.

During the college search, it is also important to connect with students currently enrolled at your college options. The campus visit is the best way to engage with students and immerse yourself in the college experience. Prior to a visit, though, I encourage students to learn more about campus life by taking advantage of virtual programming such as a student panel discussion or one-on-one conversation with a student ambassador. Check out the admissions web page for options. Be certain to gather multiple perspectives to inform your decision.



Kim S. Phipps, Ph.D. *President, Messiah University*

Selecting a university is a major decision and I always encourage young adults to consider the **3 P's** during the process – the **promise** an institution makes to its students, the **programs** offered by an institution and the **people** who comprise your community at the institution.

Ask yourself: what do I want as the overall outcome of my education? Beyond excellent preparation for a fulfilling career, your educational goals should include a commitment to helping you become your very best self. Personal growth and spiritual formation are essential elements of realizing your dreams. Does a prospective university have a solid commitment to educating the whole person?

Second, research whether the university has the academic programs which most interest you. In addition to majors, do they emphasize experiential learning including internships, study abroad, guided research, volunteer service and leadership development?

Third, visit the university and meet with faculty, staff and students. The people who will be your mentors and lifelong friends are lasting gifts that result from your university selection – you should feel warmly welcomed!

I wish you all the best during this process – take time to check out Messiah University and see if it fulfills your 3P's!



Ken Gormley *President, Duquesne University*

"Many high school students look at colleges with some idea of a path they want to follow. To reach for your own bigger goals, consider how a particular university's academic programs, financial support, location and student clubs and organizations can help you maximize your ability to thrive in your academic pursuits and have the impact you want to make.

Duquesne's Bridges Curriculum provides a great way to develop what you're good at and learn why it's good for the world. Bridges classes overlap with every major, so you can maximize progress toward your degree while uncovering exciting new interests.

If you're still figuring out your aspirations and developing a plan—which is common—our

Discover Program gives you flexibility to explore different areas in Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Science, Music, Health Professions, etc.—and adapt as you move forward.

Duquesne's Admissions Team sits down with you and your family for personalized financial planning discussions to map out paying for college. I encourage you to have this family conversation early—before you apply. We are a proud, preferred partner of the Pittsburgh Promise and we have a PA State Grant Match program—and much more.

An education is about the moments that move you to new, exciting perspectives and goals. Consider Duquesne University—we trust in your potential, and we're excited about your future!"

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

First, spend time thinking about your dreams for your future, about your life's impact. This does not mean what job you will seek: it's what you want to accomplish with your time and talents. Your dream may change over your lifetime, and that's okay, but finding it is the place to start. Next, figure out what you need to learn to achieve that dream. High-level mathematics? Teaching and "people" skills? How to build things? Then, seek out the place to learn those things. If your dream is hands-on work or the arts, go to a university that offers those types

of experiences to its students. If your life's goal is to discover a cure for cancer, then look for a college that offers opportunities for research and gets you into a lab, learning the sciences you need. Talk to people there, including students. Does what you hear match what you've read on the university website? Are the people there as excited about your dream as you are, and can they deliver the things that you want and need? Finally, ask yourself: can I see myself here, do I fit? And, above all, through the process, don't give up on your dream. It will be your guide.



Cathy Young *President, Moore College of Art & Design*

The search for the right college or university to attend starts within you. I encourage students to reflect on what sparks their interest, fuels their passions or makes them feel over-the-moon excited for their future.

Once students understand their own dreams and aspirations, they can start asking questions to refine their search. What type of environment best supports your success? What resources do you need to achieve your goals? Are you interested in internships, career counseling and co-op opportunities? Find answers to these questions by talking with admissions counselors, alumni, staff and faculty.

Students deserve time and space to ensure they're making the best decision for them. I encourage students to visit college campuses and look at their social media accounts. If you feel like a college is talking directly to you, that's a sign you're on a great path.

I've learned so much about the college selection process from our students at Moore College of Art & Design. Many of them chose Moore because they found a sense of belonging here—a place that celebrated each student's unique identity and their dreams for their future. Let those dreams guide you, and you'll be thrilled by the possibilities!



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

Selecting a college is more than choosing a path to a particular career. It's about finding a place where you can grow into the person you are striving to become. Some students might not even know what occupation they want to enter -- and with advances in technology, many jobs that will be available in the coming decades don't even exist yet. That's one of the reasons why SRU's commitment to students is about advancing human development -- to join people at all stages in their lives and facilitate their growth. In a rapidly changing world, you must prepare to be a lifelong learner and habitual innovator. With that in mind, I

recommend that you choose a school that will support and nurture your sustained growth so that you will be able to embrace change and not just obtain a degree or credential. That often comes through strong social connections and access to shared expertise and resources that campus communities offer in different ways. And because all schools are different, find a school that is inclusive to your growth potential and what makes you unique: where you've been and where you want to go.

 **LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY**

The Pittsburgh Promise
Preferred College Partners

The Pittsburgh Promise and La Roche University made an investment in me because they believed I am worth it. Because of The Promise, in addition to the welcoming, encouraging and positive atmosphere of La Roche, I can proudly say that I am a college graduate.

- NICOLE LINKES '16



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IUP is welcoming, affordable, and has endless hands-on learning opportunities to prepare you for your career.

89%

of freshmen received renewable merit-based scholarships in 2023-24.

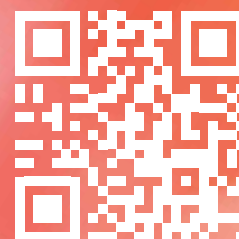
10+

student support offices on campus are here to help in all aspects of college life.

100%

of students are assigned a navigator, a dedicated person to help you with anything.

Programs like **Promising Scholars** and **Crimson Scholars Circle** are ways to get even more scholarship money.



IUP.edu/promise

Preferred  College Partners

Students in the Pittsburgh Promise program get an additional housing scholarship!



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Promises change our lives.
Promises are fulfilled at**



PennState



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We will support, guide, and empower you to turn your dreams into reality for a better, more inclusive future.

That's our promise to you.

Penn State Admissions-Pittsburgh is your local Penn State resource.

Contact us at **412-263-2900** or **pittsburgh.psu.edu**.

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TE NEW KENSINGTON PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL PENN STATE SCRANTON PENN STATE SHENANGO
KES-BARRE PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PARK PENN STATE WILKES-BARRE PENN STATE YORK
N STATE BRANDYWINE PENN STATE DUBOIS PENN STATE FAYETTE PENN STATE
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LAST LOOK

Senior Signing Celebration Day
 Members of Pittsburgh Public Schools' Class of 2024 were lauded on April 3, 2024, at The Pittsburgh Promise's Senior Celebration Day. More than 800 seniors gathered at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall for a giant pep rally with motivational speakers, collaborative games, DJ Femi, raffle prizes, and a reading of the hundreds of post-secondary educational, workforce, and military organizations the students will enter upon graduation. Donta Green, state championship coach of the Pittsburgh Westinghouse Bulldogs' football team and the Executive Director of the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, inspired all students to dream big and follow the career path that best suits their passion and skills. More motivation came from PPS Superintendent Dr. Wayne Walters, and Pittsburgh Promise Executive Director Saleem Ghubril. This annual event is the only time every member of the PPS Class of 2024 gathers together at the culmination of their high school journey.

the pittsburgh promise

1901 Centre Avenue
Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.pittsburghpromise.org



The Pittsburgh Promise is committed to raising the required resources to fund students through the high school graduating class of 2028, this year's 9th graders.

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