

Transforming a Generation



Transforming a Generation



Anne Lewis
Chair



Saleem Ghubril
Executive Director

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.

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.

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
Total	\$ 503,912,198



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:

"When I was 9 or so, my dad took me to my first Pirates game. They were playing the Padres. Andy Van Slyke, Bobby Bonilla, and Barry Bonds all started.

As we sat down, my dad pointed to the man in front of us and said quietly "Ian, I want you to introduce yourself, look him in the eye and shake his hand. His name is Franco Harris."

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

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

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

"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.

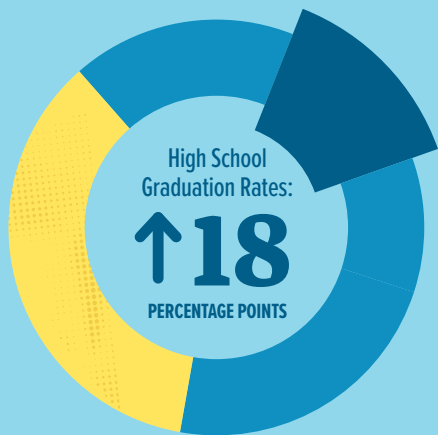


Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

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.



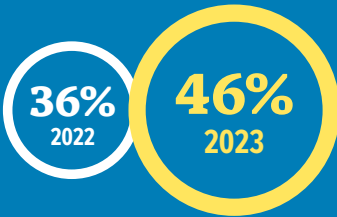
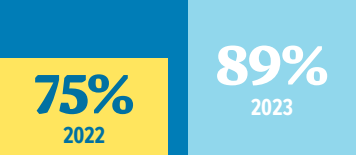
Since the inception of The Promise scholarship, the percentage of students who entered the 9th grade and, four years later, earned a high school diploma grew from 68% in 2011 to 86% in 2023.

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:

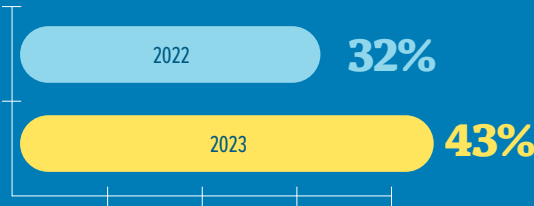
The proportion of graduates meeting GPA eligibility criterion for a Promise scholarship increased from 75% in 2022 to 89% in 2023.



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

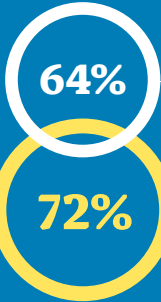


Perry Coaches



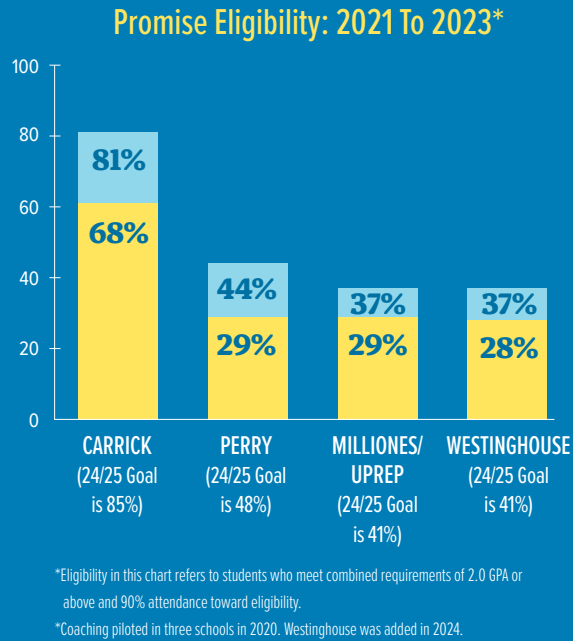
Milliones (Uprep) Coaches

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.



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.

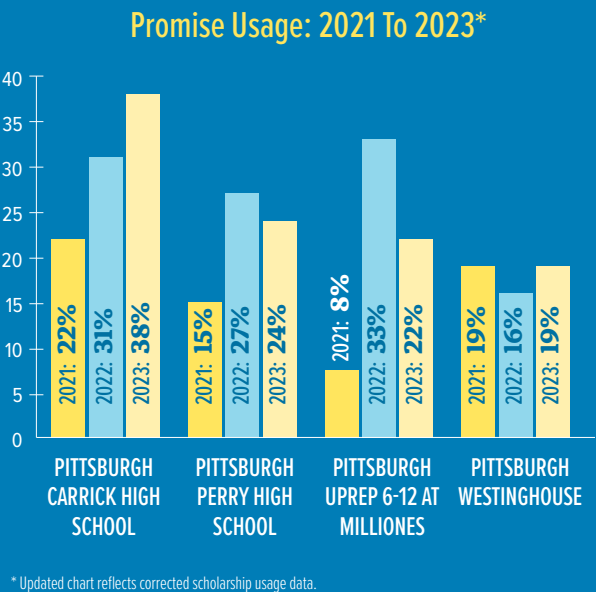
Promise eligibility rates decidedly rose in all three Coaching schools, and Promise usage rates are steadily on the rise in all three schools. Specifically:



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



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

“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

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.

2

Extension Scholarship

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.

3

Compassion Appeals

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**

Allderdice 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:

1

Be Enrolled
in Pittsburgh Public Schools

continuously since the 9th grade

2

Live
in the City of Pittsburgh

continuously since the 9th grade

3

Graduate
in or before 2028

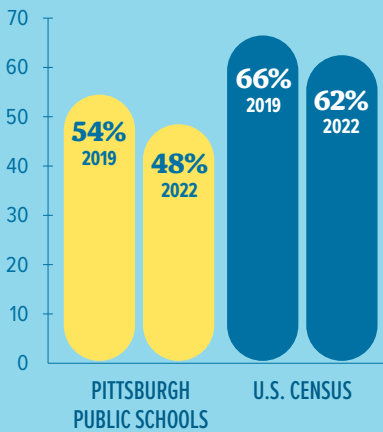
with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 (2.00 for extension scholarship) and an attendance of 90%

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
Total		11,881	\$173,079,932

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



Unlocking Generational Potential

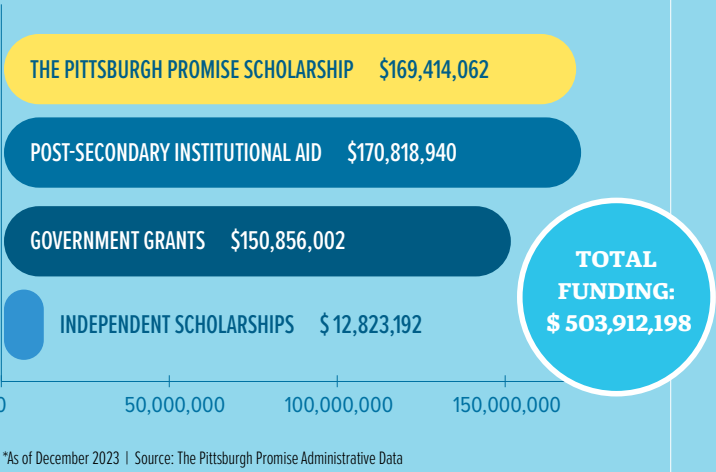
The Promise Scholarship Leverages Critical Funding

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



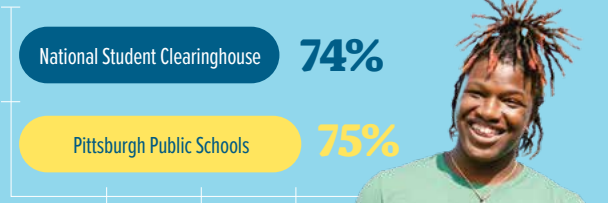
For these students, many of whom are also the first in their family to pursue higher education, The Promise scholarship is an essential source of financial support that leverages other critical funding.

The Promise Scholarship Leverages Critical Funding for Students*



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:



↑15% 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%
Total	11,229	1,964	4,823	60%

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
1Hood Media
84 Lumber
A Second Chance, Inc.
ABC Transit
Abercrombie & Fitch
AbsoluteCare
ACA Engineering
Accenture
Accredo Health
Achieva
ACLU of PA
ADP, LLC
Advance Auto Parts
AECOM
Aéropostale
Aerotek
Aethon
Aetna, A CVS Health Company
Affirm, Inc.
Aflac
African American Center for Advanced Studies
Aires
Alco Parking Corporation
Alcoa
Alcosan
AlixRX
Allegheny Center Alliance Church
Allegheny Conference on Community Development
Allegheny County
Allegheny County Children Youth Services
Allegheny County Controller's Office
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny County Homemakers
Allegheny County Housing Authority
Allegheny County Law Department
Allegheny County Medical Examiner Office
Allegheny General Hospital

Allegheny Health Network
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Allegheny Land Trust
Allegheny Millwork & Lumber
AllianceRX Walgreens Prime
Alliant Insurance Services
Allied Universal Security Services
Alorica
Alschuler Communications
Alumni Theatre Company
ALUNG Technologies, Inc.
Amachi Pittsburgh
Amazon
Amel's Restaurant
American Eagle Outfitters
American Geotechnical & Environmental Services, Inc.
American Income Life - Arias Agency
American Textile Company
American Water
An Answered Prayer
Anchor Hocking
Anderson Equipment Company
Anixter
Ansys, Inc.
Anti-Aging and Longevity Center of Pittsburgh
APOST
Appalachian Energy Services
Applied Systems Associates, Inc.
Aramark
Arcadia Healthcare
Arconic
Argo AI
ARL Logistics
ARM Group Inc.
Armada Supply Chain Solutions
Artis Senior Living of South Hills
Ascender
ASKO, Inc.
Aspen Dental
Aspirant
Associates in Ophthalmology
AT&T
ATC Healthcare

Auberle
August Research Systems, Inc.
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
The August Wilson African American Cultural Center
Automated Health Systems
Avaler Business Solutions
Axiom Metals Inc.
Baierl Automotive
Baldwin-Whitehall School District
Banfield Pet Hospital
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon
BASF
Bayada Home Health Care
Bayer
Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management
Bayer Material Sciences
Bayer Pharmaceuticals
Beacon Hill Staffing Group
Bellevue Police Department
Bender Consulting Services, Inc.
Benefits Coordinators Corporation
Berger and Green
Berolina Management
The Better Institute
Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory
Bhayana Brothers LLC
Big Burrito Restaurant Group
Black Women's Policy Center
Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP
Blacksmith Applications
Blink Health
Bloom Engineering Company
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
BNM Accounting Services LLC
Bob Casey for Senate
Bobby Rahal Motorcar Company
Bombardier Transportation
Bossa Nova Robotics

Bounteous
Brandgage
Branding Brand
Braskem USA
Bridgeville Police Department
Bridgeway Capital
Brightstar Care
Broadcom Corporation
Bronder Tech Services
Brookline Teen Outreach
Bruce & Merrilees Electric Company
Brunnerworks
Burns Scalo Real Estate Services
Burns White LLC
Butler Gas Products Company
CACI International Inc.
California University of Pennsylvania
The Callos Companies
Cardworks Servicing
Care at Home
Carmeuse Americas
Carnegie Learning, Inc.
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Carnegie Mellon University
Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Carnegie Science Center/Highmark Sports Works
Carriage House
Children's Center
CASCO USA
Cathedral of Deliverance Ministries
Catholic Charities
Catholic Youth Association
CBS Radio
CBS Sports
CDS Administrators, Inc.
Center for Community Resources Inc.
Center for Victims
Central Outreach
Wellness Center
CENTRIA
Change Healthcare
Chartiers Center
Chartiers Country Club

Chartiers Valley High School
Chartwell Pennsylvania, LP
Chase
Chatham University
Chemimage Corporation
Chevron Corporation
Child & Adolescent Clinical Associates, Inc.
Children's Home of Pittsburgh
The Children's Institute
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.
Cigna Corporation
CIMA Technology Inc.
Cintas Corporation
Citizens Bank
Citron Alex
City Charter High School
City of Pittsburgh
City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
City of Pittsburgh Public Works
City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning
City of Pittsburgh, Department of Law
City Theatre
CivicMapper
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Cognition Therapeutics
Cohen & Grace, LLC
Comcast Business
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
Community College of Allegheny County
Community Empowerment Association
Community Human Services
Community Life
Community Options, Inc.

Compass Group
Compati Home Healthcare
COMPUCOM, Inc.
Computer Enterprises Inc.
Concepts Management Group
Concordia
Confluence
ConnectiveRx
Conturo Prototyping, LLC
Covestro
Crafton Children's Corner
Creative Products International
Crossroads Foundation
Crothall Healthcare
Crowne Plaza Hotel
CVS Health
CVS Specialty
Dbaza Health
Dedicated Nursing Associates
Deloitte
Department of Veterans Affairs
Dermatology Associates of Western PA
Dewberry
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.
Diehl Automotive
Diocese of Pittsburgh
DLA+ Architecture & Interior Design
Dollar Bank
Dominion Energy
Donnelly-Boland and Associates
FedEx Ground
FedEx Office
FedEx Services
Ferro Corporation
First Commonwealth Bank
Fisher Services LLC
fivestar®
Foothold Studios
Duquesne Light Company
Duquesne University
E. Holdings, Inc.
E. R. Munro and Company
East Suburban OB/GYN
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
Eaton Corporation
Edgar Snyder & Associates

Edinboro University
Edward Jones
Electronic Merchant Systems
Elfinwild Presbyterian Church
Eminent Hospitality Solutions Company
Encompass Health
Confluence
ConnectiveRx
Conturo Prototyping, LLC
Covestro
The Enterprise Center
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Environmental Charter School
Environmental Data Validation Inc.
EQT Corporation
Equipment & Controls, Inc.
Erie Insurance
Ernst & Young
Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club
Ethical Farming Fund
Evoqua Water Technologies LLC
Express Employment Professionals
F.N.B. Corporation
Facebook
Facebook Reality Labs
Family Behavioral Services
Family Resources of Pennsylvania
Familylinks, Inc.
Federated Hermes Investors
FedEx Ground
FedEx Office
FedEx Services
Ferro Corporation
First Commonwealth Bank
Fisher Services LLC
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Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Club
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Duquesne University
E. Holdings, Inc.
E. R. Munro and Company
East Suburban OB/GYN
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
Eaton Corporation
Edgar Snyder & Associates

Freedom Now Home Care LLC
The Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh
Fund for the Advancement of Minorities through Education
Gabriel Fera, PC
GAI-Tronics
Gatesman
Gateway Clipper Fleet
Gateway Health Plan LP
GE
Gecko Robotics Inc.
General Dynamics Information Technology
General Motors
Genesis Medical Staffing, Inc.
Giant Eagle
Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania
Global Minds Initiative
Glymour Law Offices, PLLC
GMA USA
GNC Corporation
Goff Backa Alfera & Company, LLC
Goodfellow Corporation
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Google
Goosehead Insurance Agency
Grant Thornton LLP
Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute
Greenfield Veterinary Hospital
Greycourt
Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP
Gwen's Girls
Hall Industries, Inc.
Hampton Technical Associates, Inc.
HarbisonWalker International, Inc.
Harbour Senior Living of The South Hills
Harmelin Media
Harsco Metals & Minerals
Hazelwood Family Health Center
Hazelwood Initiative
HCR Manorcare
HDR, Inc.
Hedin Environmental
Hefren-Tillotson, Inc.
Heritage Valley Health System
Heritage Wealth Advisors
Hertz
Higher Achievement
Highland Elementary School
Highland Park Care Center
Highmark Stadium
Highmark, Inc.
Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh
The Hillman Company
Hitachi Rail STS
HM Health Solutions
HM Insurance Group
Home Instead Senior Care
Homewood Children's Village
The Hope Learning Center
Horhut Tree Experts
Hosanna House, Inc.
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
Hub Group

Human Services Center Corporation
Humane Animal Rescue
IBEW Local 5
IBEX
IBM
Ideal Integrations
Idelic
Ikos Holdings, Inc.
Incline Consulting Group
Incline Equity Partners
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Industrial Scientific
InfoBATE
Ingmar Medical
Innovation Works
innovu, LLC
Inpleo, Inc.
Intel Corporation
Intervala LLC
InventHelp
IT Security, Inc.
J.A. Sauer Company
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Inc.
Jackson Kelly PLLC
Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.
Jefferson Hospital
Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh
Jewish Family Services
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
Jim Shorkey North Hills Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Johnson Controls
Joint Jewish Education Program
Jones Day
Jones Gregg Creehan & Gerace
Jones Lang LaSalle
JP Enterprises Unlimited Inc.
JPMorgan Chase & Company
Jumpstart
Junior Achievement
K&L Gates LLP
Kaarta
Kadmon Holdings, Inc.
Kane Scott Regional Care Center
Kayak Pittsburgh
KDKA-TV
Keller Williams Realty
Kenan Advantage Group
Kerotest Manufacturing Corporation
KeyBank
KEYS AmeriCorps
Keystone Staffing Solutions
KGC Solutions
Kids Plus Pediatrics
Kidsville
KidsVoice
Kimicata Brothers Inc.
Kimley-Horn
The King Family Law Group
Kingsley Association
KML Carpenters
Knichel Logistics Inc.
KPMG Advisory Services
The Kraft Heinz Company
Kroff, Inc.
Krystal Biotech, Inc.
L.B. Foster Company
La Escuelita Arcoiris
La Roche University
Lally & Company

Landmark Event Staffing Services Inc.
Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
LANXESS
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Law Offices of Paul McElrath
Lawrence Merchandising Services
Lawrenceville Corporation
Lawrenceville United
Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.
Leidos
Lekins LLC
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Lighthouse Project (YMCA)
Limbach Holdings Inc.
Litigation Solutions LLC
LivaNova
Lobos Management
Local 373
Lois Johnson Learning and Child Care Center
Loving Kindness Healthcare Systems
Loyalty Home Health Care
Lunova Group
Lutheran Senior Services
Luv & Care Home Care
M&J Electrical Contracting
M&T Bank
Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia
Management Sciences Associates
Manchester Academic Charter School
Manchester Youth Development Center
March of Dimes
Marcus & Shapira LLP
Margolis Edelstein
Market Source Network, LLC
Mars Home For Youth
Matrix Solutions
Matthews International Corporation
Maxim Healthcare Services
McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc.
McGervey Electric
McGraw Kokosing
MedExpress
Medical Staffing Network
MedSpeed
Merakey
Mercy Behavior Health
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Metropolitan Preschool & Nursery
Mezes Foods
Microbac Laboratories, Inc.
Microsoft
Mid Atlantic Capital Group, Inc.
Minuteman Press
Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.
Mobile Aspects
MobiWeb Technologies
Mon Valley Initiative
Montour School District
Moon Area School District
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Mortgage Connect LP
MS Consultants
MSA, The Safety Company
Mt. Lebanon School District

Mt. Washington Children's Center
Multimedia Training Systems, Inc.
Mylan
National Robotics Engineering Center
NCI Building Systems, Inc.
Neighborhood Learning Alliance
Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program
Net Xperts LLC
NetApp
Neville Chemical Company
New Horizon Care Services
NHS Human Services Inc.
Niche
The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
Noble Energy Inc.
North Way Christian Community
Northwest Bank
Northwest EMS
Northwestern Mutual
NovaCare Rehabilitation
Novum Pharmaceutical Research Services Inc.
NRG Energy, Inc.
Oakland Sunshine Daycare
Oasis Farm & Fishery
Ogletree Deakins
Ohio Valley Hospital
Olympus Energy LLC
Omni Hotels & Resorts
Open Systems
Operation Better Block Inc.
Orbital Engineering Inc.
P.O.O.R.L.A.W.
P3R
PA Cyber Charter School
Pair Networks, Inc.
Panopto
Paragon Foods
Passavant Memorial Homes
PCG Capital Group
PCN Network LLC
Peak Technical
Penn Hills School District
Penn State Center
Pittsburgh
Penn State University
Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Pennsylvania Auditor General
Pennsylvania Culinary Institute
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
Pennsylvania One Call System Inc.
Pennsylvania Soil & Rock, Inc.
Peoples Gas Company LLC
Petrocelli & Company
Pharmacy Quality Solutions, Inc.
The Philadelphia Group
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
PITT OHIO
Pitt Society of Aeronautics and Rocketry
Pittsburgh Airport Marriott
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Pittsburgh Board of Education
Pittsburgh Career Institute
Pittsburgh City Council
7th District

Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Pittsburgh Flight Training Center
The Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation
Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse
Pittsburgh Magazine
Pittsburgh Parking Authority
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Pirates
Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
The Pittsburgh Project
The Pittsburgh Promise
Pittsburgh Public School District
Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities
Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
Pittsburgh Technology Council
Pittsburgh Theater Company
The Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
PJ Dick Inc.
Planned Parenthood in Pittsburgh
PLS Logistics Services
PNC
Point Park University
Port Authority of Allegheny County
Potomac Mineral Group
PPG Industries
Pressley Ridge
PricewaterhouseCoopers
ProMedica
Proofpoint Inc.
Propel Schools
Prospera Hospitality
Protiviti
PVSEC
Pyramid Healthcare, Inc.
Qinetiq North America
qkArchitecture
Quadrel LLC
Quaker Valley School District
Quality Quick Printing
Quest Diagnostics
Quick Med Claims, LLC
R&R Express Inc.
RAM Acoustical
Range Resources
RBC Wealth Management
Reading Ready Pittsburgh
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
Reed Smith LLP
Relativity Plumbing
Renaissance Home Health Care Services Inc.
United States Postal Service
United States Senate
United Steelworkers
Resposnival
RickJohn Roofing
Ricoh USA, Inc.
Rite Aid Pharmacy
Rivers Club
RoadBotics
Roadrunner Recycling

Robert Morris University
Rodef Shalom
Rohrich Cadillac Inc.
The Rubinoff Company
Ruth Kolb Law, LLC
SAC Manufacturing Company
SAG-AFTRA
Salsa Labs
Sarcos Robotics
Sargent Electric Company
Scalo Solar Solutions
Schneider Downs
Sci-Tek Consultants, Inc.
Sewickley Academy
Sheet Metal Workers Local 12
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Siemens Industry
Sierra Club
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.
SisterSON & Company LLP
SKC Inc.
Slippery Rock University
Smith and Nephew Robotics
Smith Brothers Agency
SoftWriters Inc.
Sogeti
Spartan Pharmacy
SPHS Behavioral Health
Sprint
St. Clair Hospital
St. Irenaeus School
State Farm Insurance
Steel City Interpreters
Steeltown Entertainment Project
Steiner Realty, Inc.
STV
Surgical Product Solutions
SYLA Pgh
Systems 123
Tailored Marketing Inc.
Taktl LLC
Teksystems
Tender Care Learning Center
Tenova Inc.
Tetra Tech
The Heinz Endowments
Thermo Fisher
Thompson-Gusic Insurance Group, Inc.
Thread International PBC Inc.
T-Mobile
Total Quality Logistics LLC
TowerMetriX, Inc.
Tradesource, Inc.
Trib Total Media
Trinity Industries-McConway & Torley
TriState Capital Holdings, Inc.
Tudi Mechanical Systems, Inc.
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
U.S. Steel Corporation
Unimin Corporation
United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America
United States Postal Service
United States Senate
United Steelworkers
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
UnitedHealth Group
Unity Family Services
Universal Stainless & Alloy Products Inc.
University of Pittsburgh
UPMC

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
UPMC Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care
UPMC Enterprises
UPMC Family Hospice
UPMC Health Plan
UPMC Magee Women's Hospital
UPMC Mercy Hospital
UPMC Pinnacle Hospitals
UPMC Presbyterian Hospital
UPMC Shadyside Hospital
UPMC Sports Performance Complex
UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
UPS
Urban Impact Foundation, Pittsburgh
Urban Innovation21
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Urban Outfitters
Urban Pathways K-5 Charter School
Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
The Utility Workers Union of America
VA Hospital Pittsburgh
Vector Marketing
Verizon
Victorian Finance LLC
Victory Media, Inc.
Vincentian Collaborative System
Vitro Architectural Glass
Voci Technologies, Inc.
Wabtec Corporation
Waldron Private Wealth
Watson Institute
Wecht Pathology & Associates
Wendy L. Williams & Associates
WESCO Distribution
Wesley Family Services
West Allegheny Health System
West Penn Allegheny Health System
Western PA School for Blind Children
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
Westmoreland Case Management and Supports, Inc.
Wexford Health Sources
Wigle Whiskey
Wilke & Associates
Willis Towers Watson
The Wilson Group, LLC
Wizard IT LLC
Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
Woodland Hills School District
WPXI
WTAE
Yeshiva Schools of Pittsburgh
YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Zenith American Solutions Inc.
Zimmer Biomet
Zoll Medical Corporation

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



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 Ferrisl 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 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.



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 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.



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 Millionaires, 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.



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-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.



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

Viатris 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

“Viатris 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 Viатris is proud to be a part of this growth.”

Robert J. Coury
Chairman Emeritus, Viатris

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.

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*indicates deceased



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

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“We have always been interested in supporting educational opportunities for those in our region. The Pittsburgh Promise has given us the tool to do just that and to also help our city and county grow and prosper. We love supporting The Pittsburgh Promise because we are supporting our region’s kids while also supporting our region’s economy. The Keepers of The Pittsburgh Promise is how we initially became involved; this dynamic group, started by Mardi Royston and Debbie Dick, has been instrumental in outreach into the Greater Pittsburgh area to garner financial and networking support for The Promise. It has been an honor to lead this group and an honor to continue to be a member.”

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“We began supporting The Pittsburgh Promise because we wanted to be part of a community that shows up for Pittsburgh kids. Jason is an Allderdice (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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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

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