

For Immediate Release

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District Celebrates Grand Opening of Heyward House Craig's Closet with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Closet Installations Scheduled for 10 Schools

PITTSBURGH, September 27, 2022 – Superintendent Wayne N. Walters Ed.D. and Pittsburgh Obama students joined Steelers' defensive tackle and team captain Cameron Heyward for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Craig's Closet at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12. As part of Cam's foundation, The Heyward House, Craig's Closet provides high school boys access to new and gently used dress clothes at no cost for interviews, internships, banquets and special occasions. In addition to the Craig's Closet at Pittsburgh Obama, students will have access to closets at nine other schools, including Pittsburgh Allderdice, Brashear, CAPA, Carrick, Milliones, Perry, Sci-Tech, Student Achievement Center and Westinghouse, by 2023.

"Thanks to the Heyward House and Sport Clips, 'what to wear' will not be a barrier for our high school boys seeking to pursue their goals and interests," said Dr. Walters. "We are truly thankful for this gift that honors the legacy of Cam's father by giving students the confidence they need to walk into the spaces where they belong."

Coming to the University of Pittsburgh from a single-parent home with six siblings, Craig "Ironhead" Heyward arrived with one suit to this name for the formal wear required of Pitt Panther football team players on game days. The Heyward House and Sport Clips developed Craig's Closet to ensure students have what they need to obtain their goals and walk proudly into any situation. Thanks to the collaboration, students at 10 PPS schools will soon be able "shop" for clothes, such as dress shirts, suits, clothes, and ties, to help them achieve their goals right at school.

"Many young people in our community face the same plight as my father, and I want them to know that they are seen, heard, and through this program, we are here to support them as they push forward in their future goals," said Cameron Heyward. "Yesterday would have been my father's 56th birthday. He was a man that took great joy and pride in his family and his community. I am proud to continue his legacy of giving back and helping move our community forward."

Community members interested in volunteering or donating to Craig's Closet may reach out to Nicole Williams at nwilliams@theheywardhouse.org. Monetary and in-kind donations of new and gently used items accepted.