



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Pittsburgh Promise Announces Nearly \$4 Million in Gifts at Senior Signing Day for The Class of 2022**

**Henry L. Hillman Foundation and an Anonymous Donor Among Gifts Announced at Event Honoring Graduating Seniors**

PITTSBURGH, April 21, 2022 -- Today, Pittsburgh Public Schools seniors declared their post-secondary intentions at The Pittsburgh Promise's *Senior Signing Day*. Gifts totaling over \$4 million were announced. Senior Signing Day is an event honoring graduating seniors from Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). The students gathered at PNC Park to declare their post-secondary plans, which include enrollment at more than 200 institutions of higher learning, enlistment in various branches of the military, as well as joining labor unions or the marketplace. Officials from The Pittsburgh Promise and PPS attended the event and offered words of encouragement to the high school seniors as they prepare for post-secondary success.

**A \$2.5 Million Grant from Henry L. Hillman Foundation, \$1 Million Gift from an Anonymous Donor and a \$450,000 Memorial Gift Announced**

The \$2.5 million commitment from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation joins a previous gift of \$2.7 million from the Hillman Foundation for a total of \$5.2 million in support for The Pittsburgh Promise. The Promise also announced a \$1 million gift from an anonymous individual donor, and a \$450,000 gift given in memory of beloved Pittsburgher who spent his final years in Colorado. Commenting on the new major gifts, Promise Executive Director Saleem Ghubril said, "It is an exceptional privilege to announce such generous gifts from a foundation, an individual, and a family who see the promise in our children and invest in supporting them to reach it. Their trust is a blessing, and our kids are ready to soar."

**Pittsburgh Public Schools Seniors Declare Their Intentions at Signing Day at PNC Park**

The Pittsburgh Promise hosts Signing Day annually to honor Pittsburgh Public Schools students for being college and career ready. For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, students from all schools were invited to gather in person at PNC Park. Pittsburgh Promise Board Chair, Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Promise Executive Director, Saleem Ghubril, and Pittsburgh Public Schools Interim Superintendent, Wayne Walters, provided remarks. A DJ and applause accompanied the announcement of post-secondary schools and organizations where students plan to attend, enlist, or work.

**About The Pittsburgh Promise**

The Pittsburgh Promise promotes high educational aspirations among urban youth, funds scholarships for post-secondary access, and fuels a prepared and diverse regional workforce. To date, The Promise has invested more than \$161 million in scholarships to send more than 10,600 urban youth to a post-secondary institution. Over 3,700 Promise Scholars have graduated, and many are now working, and giving back, in the Pittsburgh region. Pittsburgh has the largest Promise program in the United States. For more information visit [www.pittsburghpromise.org](http://www.pittsburghpromise.org).

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