



NEWS RELEASE

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At Senior Celebration, Buhl Foundation Announces \$750,000 Gift to The Pittsburgh Promise, Surpasses \$5 Million in Total Giving

Foundation urges peers in the philanthropic community to join in supporting scholarships and post-secondary access for Pittsburgh students

PITTSBURGH, May 1, 2025 – Today, The Buhl Foundation announced a \$750,000 gift to The Pittsburgh Promise at *Senior Celebration Day*, an annual event held by The Promise to honor graduating seniors from Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) and celebrate their post-secondary plans. This brings Buhl’s investment in the scholarship fund to a remarkable \$5.3 million.

The students gathered at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall to declare their post-secondary attendance at more than 150 institutions of higher learning. Officials from The Pittsburgh Promise, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and The Buhl Foundation attended the event and offered words of encouragement to the high school seniors as they prepare for post-secondary success.

The Pittsburgh Promise has awarded scholarships to more than 12,500 students, helping to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable. In addition to scholarships, The Promise currently provides direct, hands-on support to students in Pittsburgh Public Schools through its post-secondary preparatory coaching program. This year alone, with their guidance, more than 320 students attended the Senior Celebration event with a personalized post-secondary plan in-hand.

As the organization fulfills its scholarship commitments through the high school graduation class of 2028 (paying scholarships through 2033), The Promise is preparing to expand its role even further—growing from a scholarship provider to a broader post-secondary access organization, ensuring students have the tools, support, and guidance they need to thrive beyond high school.

Commenting on the major gift, Promise Executive Director Saleem Ghubril said, “The Buhl Foundation has long been a leader in Pittsburgh’s funding community, and this continued investment reflects their exceptional commitment to our city’s students and our region’s workforce. We are deeply grateful for their partnership.”

Mr. Ghubril continued, “As we work to fulfill our scholarship commitments, The Promise is not winding down—we are evolving. In addition to scholarships, we’re expanding access to post-

secondary education through essential programs like student coaching and support. We look forward to building a future where every Pittsburgh student has the tools and guidance to thrive.”

Ms. Diana Bucco, President of The Buhl Foundation, commented, “The Pittsburgh Promise continues to be a catalyst for our region’s future — a powerful reminder that by investing in our children, we secure a brighter tomorrow for all of Pittsburgh. We are deeply grateful to our fellow foundations and corporate leaders whose extraordinary generosity has already changed the lives of more than 12,500 students. As we work toward fully funding the scholarship program, The Buhl Foundation is honored to stand alongside so many partners across the region. Together, we have the opportunity to ensure that The Promise continues to uplift generations of students and strengthen the future of our community.”

The Pittsburgh Promise hosts Senior Celebration Day annually to honor Pittsburgh Public Schools students for being college and career ready. Senior Celebration Day is modeled after former First Lady Michelle Obama’s “College Signing Day” idea, started in 2014. Pittsburgh Promise Executive Director, Saleem Ghubril, Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Walters, and President of The Buhl Foundation, Diana Bucco, provided remarks. A DJ and applause accompanied the announcement of post-secondary schools.

About The Buhl Foundation

The Buhl Foundation, the first multi-purpose foundation in Pittsburgh, is dedicated to creating community legacies by leveraging its resources to encourage people and organizations to dream, to innovate and to take action. Since its founding in 1927, the Buhl Foundation has focused its resources on quality of life improvements, thought leadership and innovation, and systems change with scalable solutions. Deepening its work in 2014, the Buhl Foundation established One Northside, a strategic, long-term initiative to invest substantially in the reinvigoration of Henry Buhl, Jr.’s beloved Northside, where he lived and worked. For more information, visit www.buhlfoundation.org.

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 \$183 million in scholarships to send more than 12,500 urban youth to a post-secondary institution. Promise Coaches work within four Pittsburgh Public Schools to provide intentional post-secondary planning and support to underserved high school students. The Pittsburgh Promise is committed to raising the required resources to fund scholarships through the high school graduating class of 2028 (paid through 2033.) Over 4,400 Promise Scholars have graduated, and many are now working, and giving back, in the Pittsburgh region. Promise Alumni have added value to the region's workforce at over 750 companies. Pittsburgh has the largest Promise program in the United States. For more information visit www.pittsburghpromise.org.

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