

HARPER COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP



PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT: SPRING 2017

PROMISE SCHOLAR WILL BE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE

When Diana Guarneros thinks of college, she envisions herself in an art studio surrounded by sketchbooks and sculpting tools, working to bring her ideas to life. With her good grades and long list of co-curricular activities, the Elk Grove High School sophomore is doing everything she can to get there.

There's just one problem. "I've checked out some schools and they're pricey," Diana said. "Attending could be tricky." That's why Diana didn't hesitate to sign up for the Promise Scholarship Program last year as a high school freshman. The idea of earning up to two years of free tuition at Harper College by meeting certain benchmarks — all aimed at promoting life skills and habits that will help students succeed in college and in life — was an opportunity she didn't dare pass up. The 15-year-old from Mount Prospect will be the first in her immediate family



to go to college. "My parents didn't get these kinds of privileges, so they're very excited by a program like this," Diana said.

As part of the first class of Promise Scholars, Diana quickly embraced the program's community service criteria. In addition to playing on Elk Grove's girls' volleyball team, she manages

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the boys' volleyball team, mentors junior high students through the Estudiantes Unidos club and volunteered at a summer camp for kids in a Des Plaines-area mobile home park. She's also becoming familiar with Harper itself through the Harper College Regional High School Art Show, an annual juried event that draws hundreds of submissions from area high school students. In fall 2016, Diana's 2D drawing earned an honorable mention while her 3D sculpture placed third. Associate Professor Stephany Rimland said the show, which dates back more than 30 years, is an excellent opportunity for young artists to have their work recognized and displayed.

Parents Inez Delgado and Alejandro Guarneros described Promise as a very welcome stress relief.

"When we think about Diana attending college, it's hard to think about anything other than how expensive it is. It would be very difficult to handle financially," Alejandro said through an interpreter. "This is a huge opportunity for her. She's a tenacious kid who has high standards for herself. She likes to be challenged, so I know she'll be successful."

David Maya, who works as Elk Grove High School's Latino Family Liaison, agreed Promise can be a game-changer for families like Diana's. "This is such a great opportunity for these kids, especially those who don't have as many options when they graduate," David said. "Promise will allow them to fulfill their dreams."

HARPER COLLEGE PROMISE BUSINESS PARTNERS

One of the key goals of the Harper College Promise Program is to develop a pipeline of talent for our area businesses. In return, Harper College Promise Business Partners work with students enrolled in the Promise Program to offer them experiences in mock interviewing, job shadowing, and providing insights into jobs that students may not be familiar. To date, more than 70 companies have signed up to be Promise Business Partners, and we welcome our latest additions (as of July 2016).

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- Autism Home Support Services
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SUPPORT

HARPER COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM DONORS (AS OF JANUARY 2017)

Philanthropic support and engagement from community members is critical to the success of the Promise Scholarship Program. Since the Program's inception, donors have contributed gifts of all sizes to ensure success. To date, \$8.6 million has been raised for Promise students. We thank our generous donors and partners for their support.

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PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND THEIR IMPACT

Promise Programs are location-based scholarship programs that make college tuition free. While all programs require some type of residency and a high school completion/diploma, some have additional eligibility criteria — such as a minimum GPA, attendance, community service or timeframes.

Promise communities have grown from one in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 2005, to currently over 50 city, college or district programs. In addition, there are two statewide programs in Tennessee and Oregon.

Promise programs service areas range in size from Northport, MI with a population of 526, to Pittsburgh, PA with a population 305,842. The common thread with all the programs is that they are delivering what they promised: more college attendance and completion, plus a talented workforce that helps to grow the economy.

A recent study of “The Impact of Promise Programs: What Do We Know” that featured 10 researchers who have studied Promise programs in Kalamazoo, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, New Haven, Conn. And El Dorado, Ark. said the impacts of the Promise programs so far are:

1. Increased school district enrollment
2. Improved student behavior and grade-point averages
3. Improved K-12 test scores
4. Increased college enrollment and persistence
5. Promise programs make residents with children more reluctant to leave their community, which translates into a slightly higher population, more jobs and stronger housing prices

For a list of Promise Programs across the nation, please visit our website at harpercollege.edu/promise

To review the full study, please visit:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2015/11/12_ways_researchers_say_promis.html

TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the Promise Scholarship Program and how to get involved as a donor or Business Partner, please visit

harpercollege.edu/promise or

email hpromise@harpercollege.edu

PROMISE Q2 UPDATE

Final Promise application comparison counts for initial sign-ups for incoming Freshman

	D211	D214	D220	D155	Total
Class of 2020 apps	2,201 (74%)	2,724 (93%)	654 (83%)	8 (32%)	5,587 (83%)
Class of 2019 apps	2,033 (65%)	2,165 (68%)	420 (58%)	7 (29%)	4,625 (65%)

Current status of Promise enrollment (2020 Freshman and 2019 continuing Sophomore)—As of January 26, 2017.

