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December 21, 2016

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker  
Maryland House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Report required by State Government Article § 5-112 (MSAR #10884)

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to HB1087/Ch. 647, 2016, the Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship in Prince George's County has studied the feasibility of creating a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or State financial aid for graduates of Prince George's County public high schools who enroll at Prince George's Community College.

The attached report provides the findings and recommendations of the Task Force, and we fervently believe a Promise Program, with the appropriate funding, and structural supports, is feasible. I look forward to discussing the recommendations with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlene M. Dukes".

Charlene M. Dukes, Chair  
Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship in Prince George's County

cc: The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive, Prince George's County  
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

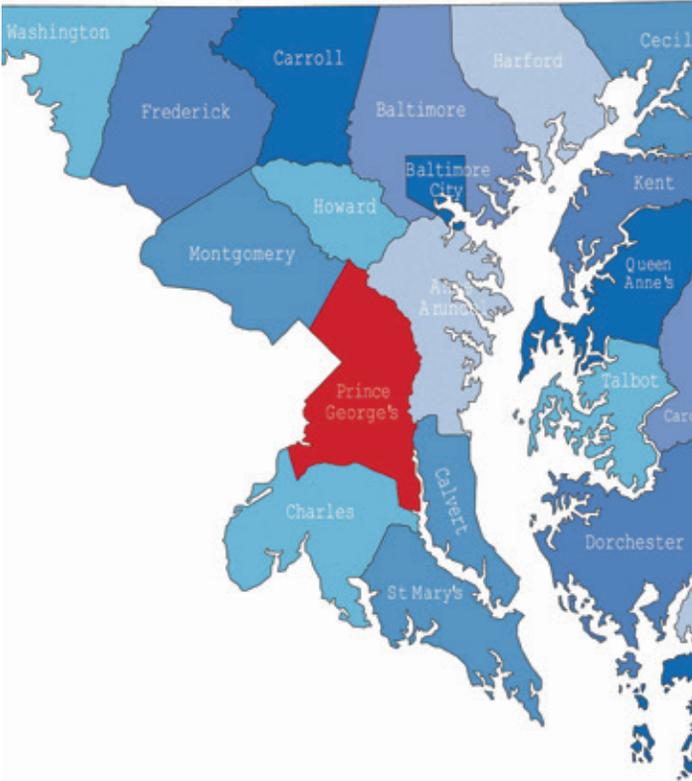
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**PROMISE**  
*Scholarship*

Report of the  
Task Force to Study a  
Promise Scholarship Program  
in Prince George's County  
Submitted to Maryland General Assembly  
and County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III  
December 21, 2016

HB1087/Ch. 647, 2016 (MSAR #10884)







Report  
of  
The Task Force to Study  
a Promise Scholarship Program  
in Prince George's County

Submitted to  
The Maryland General Assembly  
and The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III  
Prince George's County Executive  
December 21, 2016

# Acknowledgements

The Task Force wishes to thank the following associations, institutions of higher education, agencies, and organizations that presented to the Task Force:

**Martha Parham, Ed. D.**, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications, American Association of Community Colleges, and Civic Nation, September 1, 2016

**Greg Murphy**, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Community College of Philadelphia, September 21, 2016

**Donovan McCargo, Ed. D.**, Dean of Students, Community College of Philadelphia, September 21, 2016

**Greg Handel**, Vice President Education and Talent Programs, Detroit Chamber of Commerce, November 14, 2016

**Cynthia Bambara, Ph.D.**, President, Allegany College of Maryland, November 14, 2016

**David Jones**, Vice President for Community Relations and Executive Director of the ACM Foundation, Allegany College of Maryland, November 14, 2016

**James Allen**, Dean of Instructional and Institutional Effectiveness, Garrett College, November 14, 2016

**Cissy Vansickle**, Director of Financial Aid, Garrett College, November 14, 2016

**Ray Hoy**, President, Ed. D., Wor-Wic Community College, November 14, 2016

The Task Force acknowledges the following officials and organizations to whom the members of the Task Force presented:

**The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III**, Prince George's County Executive, and staff

**Jim Estep**, President and CEO, and the Board of Directors of The Business Roundtable of Prince George's County

**Haden Land**, President, and the Board of Directors of The Prince George's Community College Foundation

**Larry Spriggs**, Chair, and the Philanthropy Committee of the Prince George's Community College Foundation

**David Harrington**, President and CEO, and the Board of Directors of The Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce



A special thank you to Dr. Kevin Maxwell and the principals of the Prince George’s County Public Schools for hosting the Community Town Hall meetings at Duval High School and Crossland High School.

Finally, a special thank you to the individuals who attended Task Force meetings and Community Town Halls, voiced their concerns, and provided the Task Force with recommendations that guided the development of this document.

The Task Force owes a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals for serving as Resource Members who gathered information, analyzed data, prepared reports, received and answered questions, supported the meetings and Community Town Halls, and developed drafts of the report and recommendations for consideration and final approval:

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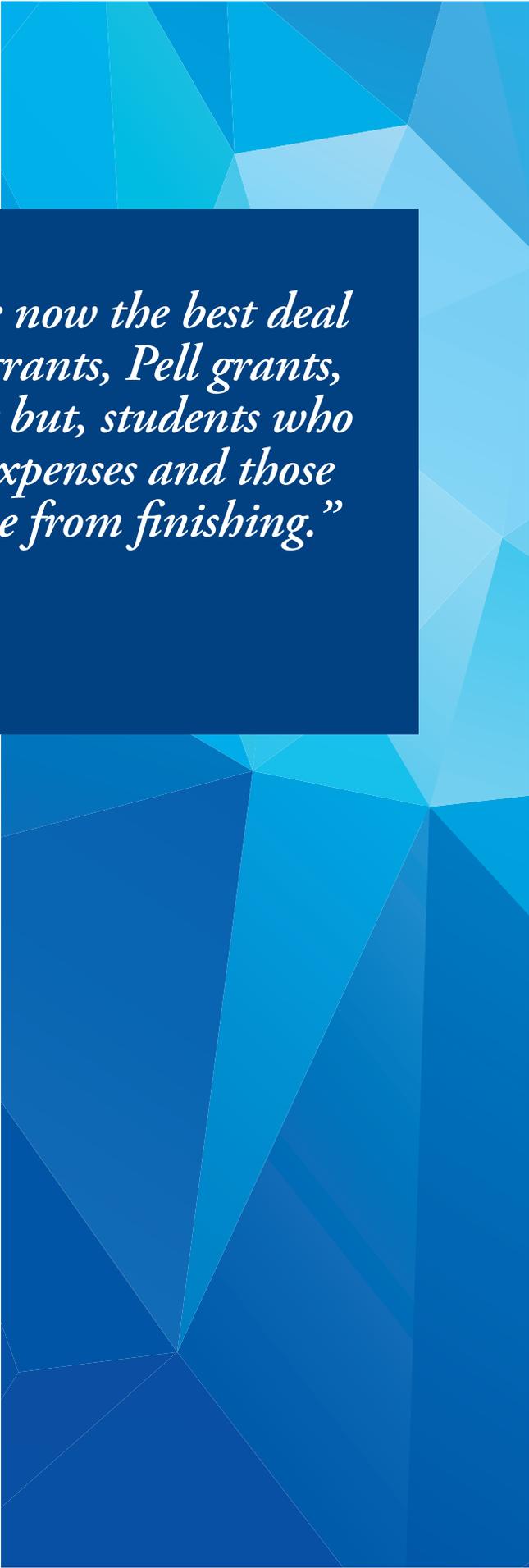


*I would highly support financial access for students seeking higher education.”*

**—Councilwoman Deni Taveras, District 2**

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*“...community colleges are now the best deal in town. There are some grants, Pell grants, loans and things like that but, students who get those still have other expenses and those expenses can keep someone from finishing.”*

**—Samuel J. Parker, Jr.**

# Executive Summary

*The Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County* was created by legislation approved by the Maryland General Assembly and signed in May 2016 by the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., the Governor. The Task Force was directed to “study the feasibility of creating a Prince George’s County Promise Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or state financial aid for graduates of Prince George’s County public high schools who enroll at Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of creating the Program, academic and financial eligibility requirements for the Program, funding sources for the Program, and academic and social supports to help students succeed in the Program.”

To meet this charge, the Task Force held three public meetings where it heard testimony from a national expert on Promise Programs and representatives, including college presidents and senior administrators, of Promise Programs in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; and at three community colleges in Maryland: Allegany College of Maryland, Garrett College and Wor-Wic Community College. Further, the Task Force held three Community Town Hall meetings where the public had the opportunity to present their opinions and recommendations for a Prince George’s County Promise Scholarship Program.

Based on testimony received and consideration of research conducted of Promise Programs, the Task Force believes it is feasible to implement a last-dollar Promise Program in Prince George’s County to provide financial resources to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees remaining after applying all federal and state financial aid for graduates of the Prince George’s County public high schools who enroll at Prince George’s Community College. The Task Force believes the creation of an on-going Work Group to review the options presented in this report and develop a phased in process for specific recommendations will ensure the viability of a

Prince George’s County Promise Scholarship Program. Central to its charge will be a focus on continued sustainability and future expansion of the program to include consideration of the following elements:

- Develop strategies to ensure continued engagement between and among Prince George’s Community College, Prince George’s County Government, Prince George’s County Public Schools, business and industry, four-year public universities located in Prince George’s County, and the philanthropic community to create sustained partnerships and garner financial support.
- Determine how to most effectively provide access and support to students in registered apprenticeships and workforce training programs.
- Examine the feasibility of implementing a program component to cover costs for students who are not-college ready and must enroll in a maximum of two developmental classes.
- Examine the feasibility of providing structured, affordable pathways for Prince George’s County Promise Scholarship completers to public four-year colleges and universities located in Prince George’s County.
- Explore the addition of other populations to be included as part of the program in subsequent years:
  - > GED graduates
  - > Graduates of non-public schools
  - > Home schooled students
  - > Returning Adults

## Academic and Financial Eligibility Requirements for the Program

**The recommended academic criteria shall be as follows:**

- Students must be graduates of Prince George’s County Public Schools.
- Students must be program-ready as determined by current college policy and procedure. There will be no minimum high school Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement.
- Immediate High School graduates must enroll full-time at Prince George’s Community College in an associate degree program or in workforce training /apprenticeship programs leading to industry recognized license or certification.

- Immediate High School graduates enrolled in credit programs must maintain a 2.0 GPA and maintain full-time enrollment (at least 12 credits per semester) to preserve their award.
- Students have up to six continuous terms to complete the associate degree (including summer terms).
- Students who need to complete one or two developmental classes to become program-ready should have the opportunity to complete these requirements the summer prior to enrollment at Prince George's Community College.
- Students in workforce training and apprenticeship programs must maintain progress toward completion of all required courses.

#### **The recommended financial criteria shall be as follows:**

- Students must be a Prince George's County resident for at least two years.
- There will be no income eligibility requirement.
- Students wishing to participate in programs that qualify for Federal aid must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for and accept all other Federal and state grants for which they are eligible.

### **Potential Funding Sources for the Program**

- Prince George's County Government
- Prince George's County Business Community
- Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.
- The Philanthropic community and private donors

### **Academic and Social Supports to Help Students Succeed in the Program**

- Students must meet regularly with an academic and career advisor.
- Students must engage with support or intervention services readily available at the college.
- Students must engage in community service based on the amount of Promise dollars awarded (a minimum of five hours up to a maximum of twenty hours per semester).



# Introduction

On May 19, 2016, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. approved Maryland House Bill 1087 (Chapter 647 – MSAR 10884). Introduced by the Honorable Alonzo Washington, Delegate, District 22, this legislation established the *Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George’s County*. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from public institutions of higher education, local and state government, K–12 education, and business leaders. The Task Force was directed to “study the feasibility of creating a Prince George’s County Promise Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or State financial aid for graduates of Prince George’s County public high schools who enroll at Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of creating the Program, academic and financial eligibility requirements for the Program, funding sources for the Program, and academic and social supports to help students succeed in the Program” (House Bill 1087, Chapter 647, 2016).

The membership of the Task Force was specified in the legislation and is comprised of the following individuals:

- Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D., President, Prince George’s Community College and appointed Chair of the Task Force
- The Honorable James C. Rosapepe, District 21, Senator and member of the Prince George’s County Senate Delegation, Maryland
- The Honorable Alonzo T. Washington, District 22, Delegate and member of the Prince George’s County House Delegation
- The Honorable Dannielle Glaros, Vice Chairwoman, District 3, *designee of the Chair of the Prince George’s County Council*
- Eric C. Brown, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Theresa M. Dudley, President, Board of Directors, Prince George’s County Educators’ Association, *appointed by the Prince George’s County Executive*
- James R. Estep, Director of Operations, *designee of the President of The Greater Prince George’s Business Roundtable*
- The Honorable David C. Harrington, President and CEO, Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce
- Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Prince George’s County Public Schools
- Antonio Morrell, President, Student Governance Association, Prince George’s Community College, *appointed by the Prince George’s County Executive*
- Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D., Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Colleges
- Karen Johnson Shaheed, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel, *designee of the President of Bowie State University*
- Nancy Shapiro, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, *designee of the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland*
- Donna Thomas, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *designee of the Secretary of Higher Education*
- Britta Vander Linden, Chief of Staff, *designee of the President of the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation*
- C. Michael Walls, Esq., Board of Trustees, Prince George’s Community College, *appointed by the Prince George’s County Executive*

On September 21, 2016, the Task Force held the first of four (4) meetings at Prince George’s Community College in Largo, Maryland. The agenda for each Task Force meeting is included in Appendix A. The Task Force held three (3) Community Town Hall meetings to receive community input on this subject which are summarized later in this report. The questions that guided these discussions are included in Appendix B.



*“A program like this one will allow individuals to actually get the education they need to advance their career aspirations in order to properly provide for their families. Many students feel as though they have an ultimatum where they either are making a living or paying for their education.”*

**—Antonio Morrell, President, Student Governance Association, Prince George’s Community College.**

# Overview of Free Community College Programs

The America's College Promise Act of 2015 reflects President Barack Obama's vision to make two years of college as universal as high school, helping students earn the first half of a bachelor's degree and receive skills needed in the workforce at no cost. The Campaign for Free College Tuition website states the following concerning the benefits of a Promise Program in a community:

Promise Programs have proven to be the single most effective education reform initiative communities or states can undertake to simultaneously improve high school and college performance for their students, families, and economy. By making a promise or guarantee that college tuition will be free for all qualified residents, making a family's finances irrelevant to their children's ability to attend college, the concept has proven to change the conversation, and therefore the culture, about college attendance at both the individual and institutional level. When properly designed and implemented, Promise Programs create a challenge that unifies the community in pursuit of a common goal—the future success of their youth (Campaign for Free College Tuition, 2016).

Promise Programs have emerged in communities of all types and sizes and are designed to uniquely suit these individual communities. Currently, there are 150 Promise Programs in existence. Of these 150 programs, 85 are community-based as opposed to being created and funded by a single institution or the state (Dembicki, 2016). According to the College Promise Campaign, Tennessee, Oregon, and Minnesota have legislated state-wide Promise initiatives with 37 other states working through the legislative process. From the beginning, in 2005, local communities have been leading this grass-roots effort to meet educational challenges and produce economic renewal.

The “promise” of these programs is focused beyond just college access and academic improvement measures; they have the potential to transform entire communities. Research compiled by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research has shown that Promise Programs increase enrollment in public school systems and higher education institutions and bridge the existing education and wage gaps for minority, low-income, and first generation students. Persistence, retention, and completion rates have improved in both high schools and colleges (W.E. Upjohn, 2016).

Promise Programs share some important similarities. In *Promise Nation: Transforming Communities through Place-Based Scholarships* (2015), Miller-Adams purports a definition that acknowledges shared concepts but allows for unique variations:

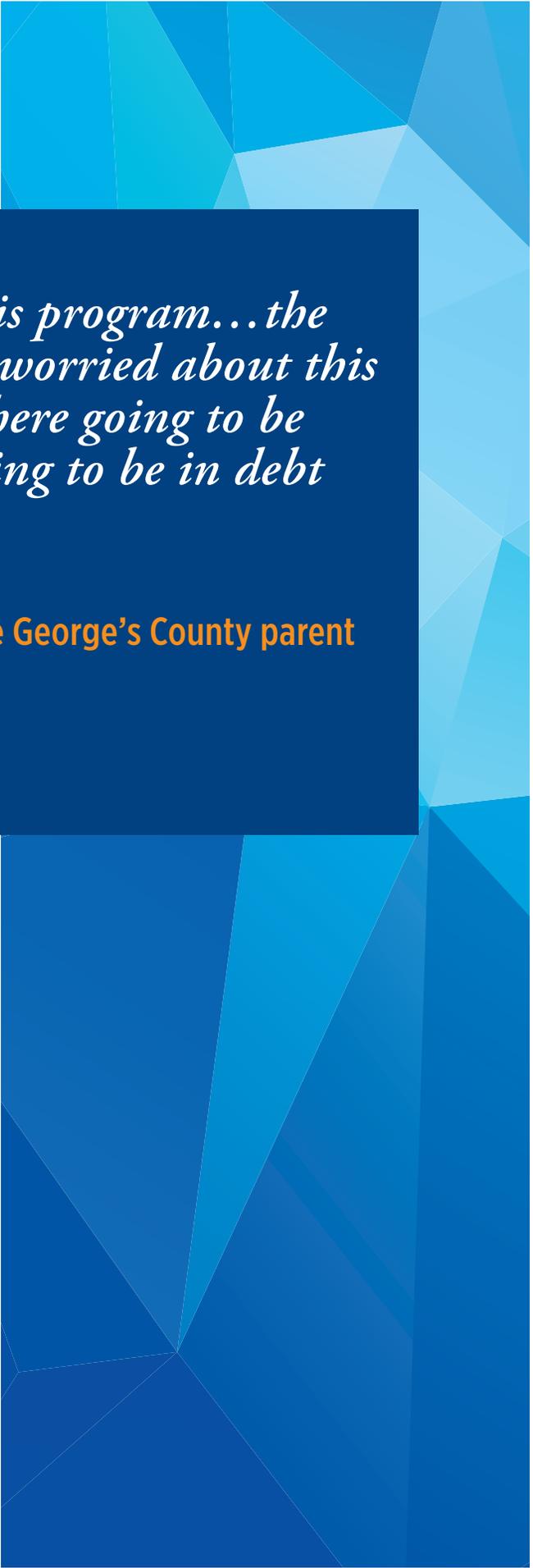
Promise Programs seek to transform their communities by making a long-term investment in education through place-based scholarships. They all seek to expand access to and ensure success in higher education, deepen the college-going culture in both the K–12 system and community as a whole, and support local economic development (Miller-Adams, p. 11, 2015).

Each of the Promise Programs differ in their scope and eligibility criteria. Most Promise Programs have a specific residency requirement and may provide more funding depending how long one has lived in the jurisdiction. Approximately half of the 150 existing Promise Programs have some type of merit component which normally includes Grade Point Average (GPA). The other half of these program models have opted for universal eligibility, which does not dictate criteria related to academic achievement or financial need. Programs can be developed by what are known as first-dollar or last-dollar programs (Miller-Adams, 2015).

In a “first-dollar program,” the amount of College Promise funding awarded to an eligible student does not take into account any additional funding or grants that the student is eligible for, like a federal Pell Grant. Therefore, a “first-dollar” College Promise Program covers the direct costs of being a student, and has the potential to reduce the associated costs that come with being a student, such as transportation, childcare, school materials, and other costs [because a student can use the federal funding for which he or she is eligible to cover these associated costs of college attendance].

In a “last-dollar program,” the amount of College Promise funding awarded to an eligible student takes into account any additional public funding or grants the student is eligible for, like a federal Pell Grant. The total amount of last-dollar College Promise funding a student receives to cover the direct costs of being a student varies depending on other public funding for which the student is eligible. Unlike “first-dollar programs,” “last-dollar programs” do not have the potential of reducing the associated costs that come with being a student, such as transportation, childcare, school materials, and other costs. (American Association of Community Colleges/Association of Community College Trustees, 2015)





*“I would fully support this program...the high school students are worried about this [paying for college]. Is there going to be money for me? Am I going to be in debt for the rest of my life?”*

**—Kimberly Barnes Ohanwe, Prince George’s County parent**

# Background on Select Promise Programs

Promise Programs are administered at the state, or city/local levels. The Task Force heard testimony from the three Maryland community colleges, as well as representatives of existing programs in Detroit, Michigan and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Supporting materials from the programs from which the Task Force heard testimony are included in Appendix C. The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research has done significant study of Promise Programs. Their extensive research can be accessed at <http://www.upjohn.org/promise-research-consortium>.

**Following are highlights of some prominent state and locally based programs.**

## Tennessee

**Tennessee Promise**, a statewide scholarship and mentoring program, focuses on increasing the number of students who attend college in Tennessee. Funding for the scholarship is drawn from state lottery funds. This is a last-dollar scholarship, which means that the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or state student assistance funds. Seniors may apply for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, which will provide two years of tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college in the state. Students may use the scholarship at any of the state's 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology, or other eligible institutions offering an associate degree program. They must maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA) at their institution. Although removing a student's financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor who will assist the student as he or she navigates the college admissions process. In addition, Tennessee Promise participants must complete eight hours of community service per term enrolled. The program was announced in January 2015.

## Oregon

Created by the Oregon Legislature in 2015, the purpose of the **Oregon Promise Grant** is to encourage Oregon residents who are graduating high school students and recent GED graduates to immediately continue their education by providing funding to attend a community college in the state. More than \$10 million dollars was appropriated for the first year of the program by the Oregon Legislature. Oregon Promise is a last-dollar state grant program that covers some or all of the tuition at an Oregon community college. Participants must be able to document a 2.5 cumulative high school GPA or higher or a GED score of 145 or higher on each test. Participants must also enroll at least half-time at an Oregon community college within 6 months of high school graduation or GED completion. The first awards were available during fall 2016.

## City/Local Programs

### Long Beach, California

The **Long Beach College Promise** (The Promise) extends the promise of a college education to every student in the Long Beach Unified School District. The Promise is a partnership between Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College, California State University, Long Beach and the City of Long Beach—all of which provide funding. The program is a last-dollar program. The Long Beach College Promise Program offers local high school graduates, who immediately enroll in Long Beach City College (LBCC) after graduation, a Promise Scholarship through the LBCC Foundation. The Promise offers guidance and continuous support along every stage of the student experience, from pre-K through college and into career and life. To date, the program has provided a free semester for more than 7,000 local students. The Promise was implemented with the Class of 2011.

## Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The **50th Anniversary Scholars Program** is open to all Philadelphia high school students who meet certain criteria. The program's initial funding comes from the Community College of Philadelphia Foundation, however, its members are working with the business community and other philanthropic organizations to secure long-term resources. The 50th Anniversary Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship that helps to alleviate the personal costs of tuition and course fees unmet by other non-loan financial aid sources. An eligible student must be a recent graduate of a School District of Philadelphia public, charter, archdiocese, or private high school and must be planning to pursue an associate or bachelor's degree at a participating college or university. Applicants must enroll in the Community College of Philadelphia the fall semester immediately following their high school graduation. They must also file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by June 1<sup>st</sup> and qualify as Pell-eligible. Students in the program must enroll full-time in a degree program, maintain a 2.5 GPA while in college, and participate in other career readiness and counseling programs at the college. The program was implemented with the Class of 2016.

## Detroit, Michigan

The **Detroit College Promise** is open to students who graduate from public, private, parochial or charter schools in the city of Detroit and will cover the cost of tuition not covered by state and federal financial aid. The program receives private funding from the Michigan Education Excellence Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Van Dusen Endowments, and the Promise Zone (Tax Incremental Financing which will be available in 2019). It is a last-dollar scholarship, and students have their choice of attending one of five Detroit area community colleges. Students must register for at least 12 credit hours per semester. There is no grade point average requirement to enroll, but students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain in the program. Implementation for this program began with the Class of 2009.

## Maryland Community Colleges

### Garrett College

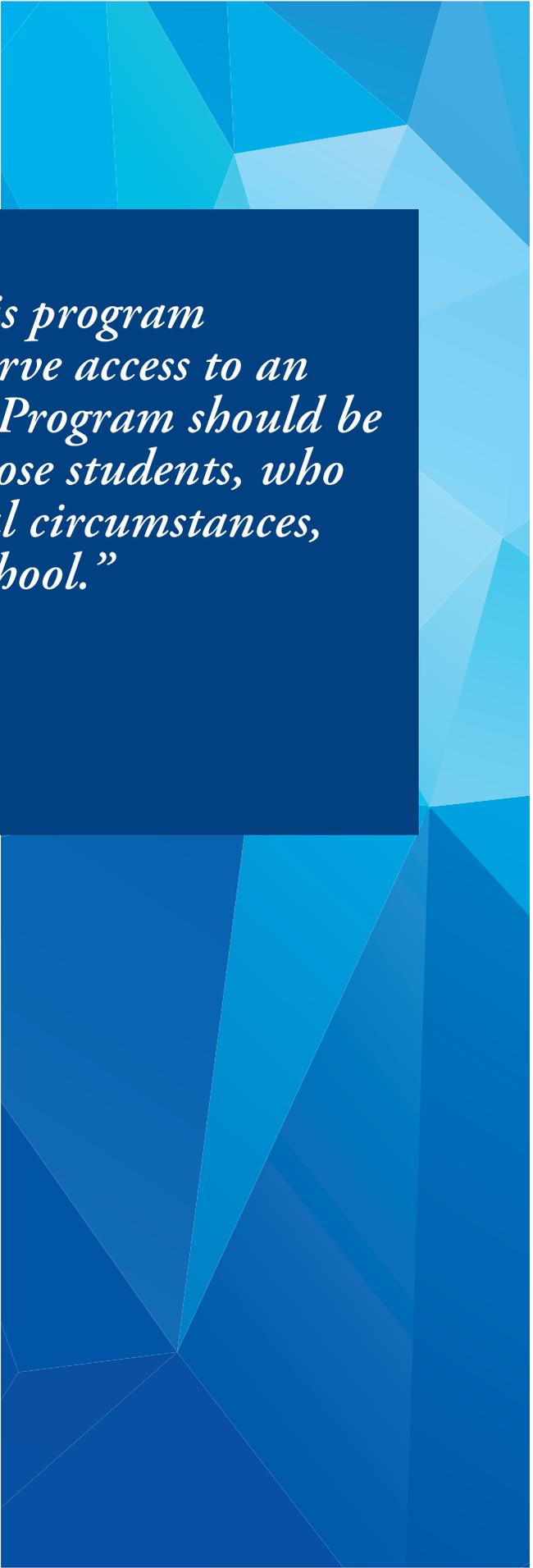
The Garrett County Scholarship Program provides a full tuition scholarship for students pursuing a full time academic degree or certificate program at Garrett College. The program is funded by Garrett County government and is a last-dollar program. Students must have graduated from the county's Northern or Southern High School within the past year, or have received their GED. Home-schooled students and high school students who are dual enrolled with Garrett College may also participate. Participants must also have been a legally documented resident of Garrett County for a full two years before enrolling in the program. The program serves both low and middle income students. The program provides an opportunity for Garrett County residents to attend the community college tuition-free for two years. The program was established in 2006.

### Allegany College of Maryland

The **Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship** is open to students from public and private schools in Allegany County as well as home schooled students. The program is funded by county government via the Allegany County Commissioners and is a last-dollar program. There are four award types for this program. The Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students is designed to help students who still have financial need after qualifying for federal aid and college scholarships. It is expected that the award will cover up to one half of the cost per credit hour for students. The Merit Scholarship award is made in the amount of \$1,000 or more to students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average, with special consideration given to students who intend to transfer to Frostburg State University. The Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship is targeted to students pursuing professional and workforce training. The Jump Start Early College Scholarship is directed to students who are on free and reduced meals to assist them in paying the student portion of early college courses up to \$100 per course. Awards began with the 2014–2015 academic year.

## Wor-Wic Community College

The **Wicomico County Free Tuition** program allows graduates of Wicomico County high schools to get free tuition to Wor-Wic Community College as part of a plan promoted by the County Executive. Funding for the scholarships is derived from the county budget. This is a last-dollar program. Participants must be residents of Wicomico County for at least the past two years, be a Wicomico high school graduate or a county resident graduating from Delmar High School, enroll in a degree or certificate program at Wor-Wic, apply for and accept all other financial aid, and register for 12 or more credit hours in the fall immediately after high school graduation. Once enrolled, students would be required to maintain a 2.0 GPA, maintain full-time attendance, and earn at least 24 credit hours each academic year. The scholarships would be available to students entering the community college right out of high school, not to older students. In order to begin the program, the county investment is \$252,000 in the first year, \$540,000 in the second year, and \$665,000 for the third year. This program began in 2016.



*“I’m in full support of this program because all students deserve access to an education. The Promise Program should be implemented here for those students, who because of their financial circumstances, cannot afford to go to school.”*

**—Stephany Opara, PGCC student**

# Prince George's County Demographics

In Prince George's County, of individuals aged 25 and above, 85.6% have a high school diploma, while only 6% hold an associate degree, 17% have a bachelor's degree, and 12% boast a professional or graduate degree (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). The median household income in Prince George's County is \$73,856. Per capita income stands at \$32,637 (US Census Bureau, 2016). The county unemployment rate is 4.1% and 10.3% of the population lives in poverty (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016). Prince George's County residents carry \$12 million in student debt, 79% of PGCCPS students graduate in 4 years, 58% enroll in college courses.

Prince George's County Public Schools had a 79% graduation rate in 2015, a record for the school district (Prince George's County Public Schools Moving Towards Greatness, 2016). According to the Maryland Department of Planning, total enrollments in Prince George's County Public Schools in 2015 were 123,074. The Department has conducted enrollment projections for the ten year period from 2015–2025. According to those projections, high school enrollments in the county are projected to increase by 4,837 students in the next ten years (Maryland Department of Planning, 2016).

## Prince George's Community College Demographics for Academic Year July, 2015–June 30, 2016

Ninety-three percent (93%) of the college's students are county residents. Close to 70% of students who attend Prince George's Community College require financial aid to meet the cost of education. A Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program has the potential to provide college access and affordability to hundreds of Prince George's County residents who might otherwise be unable to afford to attend college.

### Student Characteristics

- 58% are working twenty or more hours per week
- 35% receive Pell Grants
- 43% receive scholarships, need based financial aid, and/or loans
- 74% of enrollees require at least one developmental course
- 56% are first-generation students

The college reports a 10% graduation rate, and a 36.7% graduation plus transfer rate for the cohort that began in fall 2010.

In the fall of 2016, 72% of students attended part-time; 28% full-time. During this same time period, 2,500 students were full-time and under 25 years of age and 4,400 students were part-time and under 25 years of age. 56% of PGCC students were under the age of 25.

### FY 2015–2016 (FY16) Financial Aid Data

Financial aid is utilized by significant numbers of students who attend PGCC. The largest amount of aid received by PGCC students are grants. For the 2015 academic year, 7,943 students received grants totaling \$18,413,940, with the largest number of these being in the form of federal Pell grants. For the entire academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer), the Federal Pell Grant supported 6,060 students, with an average award of \$2,754. Looking just at fall 2015, 1,778 were full-time in the fall 2015 with an average award of \$3,947. During this same time, 3,451 were part-time with an average award of \$2,414.

A smaller number of PGCC students receive scholarships. For the 2015 academic year, 567 students received scholarships totaling \$1,053,073, with an average amount of \$1,857. Of these students, 347 were full-time in fall 2015 with an average aid award of \$2,233. Of these students 177 were full-time in fall 2015, with an average aid award of \$1,250.

Students receiving aid are generally from low-income households. Forty-four percent (44%) of students receiving financial aid are in households earning less than \$30,000 annually and 57% are in households earning less than \$40,000 annually. To help supplement their educational expenses, many PGCC student have to turn to loans. For the 2015 academic year, 5,216 students took out loans totaling \$16,973,703. The average loan amount was \$3,254. Of the students taking out loans, 1,792 were full-time in fall 2015 with an average loan of \$3,405 and 2,784 were part-time with an average loan of \$3,404.

## Prince George's Community College (PGCC) Payment Plan

Another way for students with financial challenges to afford college is to participate in the PGCC payment plan. PGCC offers a deferred tuition payment plan for credit students through Nelnet Business Solutions (NBS; formerly known as FACTS). This is a tuition management service that is used by colleges and universities nationwide to help families meet their tuition obligation through monthly payments resulting in an affordable and convenient method of payment. The plan offers a variety of payment options to help make education more affordable. For fall 2016 5,025 students participated in the payment plan for a total contracted amount of \$6,182,976.

## Dual Enrollment

PGCC and PGCCPS engage in dual enrollment collaborations, with both entities contributing to cover the cost of tuition for enrolled students. Since the summer of 2014, the college has waived \$895,877 in student tuition and fees for the dual enrolled program through a memorandum of understanding and board policy that supports a 50% tuition only reduction. The college has waived another \$485,408 in tuition for the Academy of Health Sciences through the end of FY2016. This brings a total tuition waiver for dual enrollment activities to nearly \$1.4 million.



# Economic Impact

Attending PGCC has proven to have a profound impact on earnings. According to research conducted by the college's Office of Planning, Assessment and Institutional Research, the median income for students one-year prior to graduation is \$19,515. PGCC student median income three years after graduation from PGCC is \$50,340. Further, according to a recent economic impact study, it is not just students who benefit from a PGCC education. State and local taxpayers earn a 7.8% rate of return on their investment in PGCC. For every dollar appropriated, taxpayers will see a return with a cumulative added value of \$2.10 in the form of higher tax revenues and avoided social costs. The social benefits of having a higher educated population fall primarily within three categories of savings: 1) health, 2) crime, and 3) welfare/unemployment. Health savings include avoided medical costs associated with tobacco and alcohol abuse. Crime savings consist of avoided police, incarceration, prosecution, and victim costs, as well as benefits stemming from the added productivity of individuals who would have otherwise been incarcerated. Welfare and unemployment benefits comprise avoided costs due to the reduced number of social assistance and unemployment insurance claims. (EMSI, 2012).



*“I think a Program like this one would be a great one, not just for me, but for those who will come behind me. It could help so many people.”*

**—Tariq Abdullah, PGCC student**

# Input from the County and Community Town Hall Meetings

## Meetings with Community Leaders

Members of the Task Force held a series of interactive meetings with the Prince George's County Executive, the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, the Prince George's County Business Roundtable, and the Prince George's Community College Foundation. At these meetings, representatives of the Task Force outlined the charge of the Task Force and the time table and process for developing the report. Additionally, information was shared about state-wide and local Promise Programs, avenues of financial support, and success data.

A series of questions and responses centered around:

- Local Support of a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program
- Promise Program benefits for participating students, local government, and local business and industry
- Potential partnerships to pursue development, implementation, and sustainability of a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program

## Community Town Hall Meetings

To gather further community input, the Task Force held three Community Town Hall meetings regarding the feasibility of a Prince George's Promise Scholarship Program. The first community meeting was held October 10, 2016 at Duvall High School, the second on October 20, 2016 at Crossland High School and the third on November 2, 2016 at Prince George's Community College. Each meeting centered on seeking input by posing the following four questions:

- To what degree would you support financial access for students seeking higher education?
- What are your thoughts on how to fund and sustain the Program?
- What are your thoughts on the eligibility requirements to participate in this Program?
- What are your thoughts on the academic and social supports that students will need to be successful?

The responses to these questions are included later in this section, organized by the testimony received for each meeting.

Prior to hearing testimony from the public at each meeting, Task Force Chair Dr. Charlene M. Dukes and Delegate Alonzo Washington explained the charge of the Task Force and shared other information and statistics germane to its deliberations. Delegate Washington shared a series of slides with data related to income, educational attainment, student loan debt, and household income for Prince George's, Howard, Montgomery and Arlington Counties. These slides are contained in Appendix D. Delegate Washington emphasized that this effort is not just about providing free tuition, but also the positive impact free tuition will have on the entire community. It will provide not just access to college, but lift people out of poverty, improve economic development in the county, and close the achievement and economic opportunity gaps.

Prior to the meeting at Crossland High School, Dr. Dukes shared that Tennessee's statewide program has produced a large increase in community college enrollments since its inception. The state has seen a 10 percent increase in first time students and a 24.7% increase in community college enrollments.

At the third Community Town Hall, a video clip was shown of the Daily Show interview with Temple University Professor Sara Goldrik-Rab discussing her book *Paying The Price*, which focused on the burden student debt and affordability places on students and graduates. A key finding of her study of 3,000 students was that many students have affordability challenges even though they qualify for Pell Grants. The study also revealed that many students do not have enough to eat while attending college, which negatively impacts their academic performance.

## Responses to Questions from First Community Town Hall

Fifty-four members of the community attended the first meeting at Duval High School on October 10, 2016. Eleven of those community members rose to address some or all of these questions. This included members of the Prince George's County Board of Education, high school students, a community college student, parents, and local elected officials. The responses are summarized below per each question posed.

### **To what degree would you support financial access for students seeking higher education?**

Speakers were unanimous in their support for a program to make community college tuition-free. Several speakers expressed their belief that having tuition covered will eliminate a high degree of stress for the students which will allow them to better focus on their studies. Another shared that based on the experience of other free tuition programs across the country, it will improve and accelerate time to degree completion for two year and four year colleges and universities. The issue of accountability was raised by one speaker who asked that a focus be kept on directing funds to student support and keeping administrative costs low.

### **What are your thoughts on how to fund and sustain the Program?**

While there was dialogue focusing on how local government could be supportive of such a Program, many encouraged the Task Force to consider the role of businesses in the funding of the program, since they will benefit from having access to the educated population of students the program will help produce. Speakers also felt that a financial contribution by businesses would encourage businesses to be actively engaged in the program.

### **What are your thoughts on the eligibility requirements to participate in this Program?**

Several speakers expressed their desire that the particular programs supported by free tuition be strongly linked to local and regional employment demands. Cyber, information technology, and health care jobs were specifically noted. The value of teaching entrepreneurial skills to students was also raised.

### **What are your thoughts on the academic and social supports that students will need to be successful?**

Several speakers enforced the importance of mentorship opportunities that help students remain focused on their studies and enhance their understanding of the world around them. In addition, several speakers addressed the need for students to learn life skills while they are in college, so they will be better equipped to live independently and function in the workplace.

## Responses to Questions from Second Community Town Hall

Five students and one PGCC staff member spoke at the meeting held at Crossland High School on October 10, 2016. The students shared the challenges they face in attending college and offered some suggestions about the potential components of a Promise Program. Speakers addressed the following Task Force developed questions:

### **To what degree would you support financial access for students seeking higher education?**

All speakers were in favor of a free tuition program. Students conveyed the competing pressures they have while attending college: paying for college and expenses, taking care of family, and maintaining good grades. Having access to a tuition-free education would eliminate the financial stress. This would allow students to concentrate more on their classes, take advantage of support and intervention services, and be more focused on their role in civic engagement at the college and in the community. Students who qualify for Pell Grants still have unmet financial need. A free tuition program would eliminate or drastically reduce post-college debt.

### **What are your thoughts on the eligibility requirements to participate in this Program?**

Students communicated that it was important for participants to maintain academic progress to stay eligible for the Program. If a GPA were required, the students believe a 2.0 or 2.5 GPA would be manageable for students. It was also suggested that requiring community service would be reasonable given how much students would benefit from a Promise Program. The PGCC staff member spoke of the importance of making GED or Maryland High School Diploma graduates eligible for the Program. In addition, it was suggested that students could be allowed to retake a class if they fail, but they would have to pay for the retake out of their own funds.

### **What are your thoughts on the academic and social supports that students will need to be successful?**

Child care support would be a great benefit. Knowing their child was in a safe, affordable place would give students peace of mind and allow them to relax and focus on classes. In addition, a mentorship component would help the students feel connected to the program and give them an avenue of support.

## Responses to Questions from Third Community Town Hall

The Task Force held its third and final Community Town Hall at Prince George's Community College on November 2, 2016. The responses to the questions received from the 32 community members, PGCC staff, and students who spoke is summarized below per each question posed.

### **To what degree would you support financial access for students seeking higher education?**

There was unanimous support for financial access to higher education. Many students expressed the high degree of stress they experience when trying to figure out how to pay for their classes, and this stress dominates their minds and impacts their ability to focus on their studies. They also shared the toll that having to work one or more jobs takes on their ability to balance time between working to afford college and the time they can spend studying.

Several students also mentioned the challenges of being eligible for a Pell Grant and the likelihood that it would not fully cover the cost of college attendance. These expenses include health insurance, transportation, and housing. More than one student mentioned the impact of not having enough money for food and how being hungry negatively impacts a student's academic performance. Students also pointed out that working influences their ability to take a full course load resulting in a longer time to graduate. As a result of this community meeting, a petition was organized by Prince George's Community College students to demonstrate support of a Promise Program. This petition was signed by over 600 students. A copy of this petition is included in Appendix E.

### **What are your thoughts on how to fund and sustain the program?**

A selection of options was suggested as funding sources for the program. These include: business contributions coupled with the possibility of future employment, a sales tax with the assurance that it would not be regressive, direct government appropriation, contributions from students, the use of existing tax revenues without raising new taxes, donations from philanthropic organizations that currently have a mission to support college students, individual community donations, and a fundraising drive to initially fund the program.

### **What are your thoughts on the eligibility requirements to participate in this Program?**

The vast majority of speakers argued for broad eligibility requirements. A plurality of speakers on this topic argued for universal eligibility regardless of grade point average. One student stated that a low high school GPA would not necessarily mean they could not be excellent college students. Perhaps an application process with a reference from a counselor could demonstrate how students with comparatively low GPAs could succeed in college. Others in support of universal eligibility shared that as long as a student showed drive and commitment they should be eligible to participate. Several speakers concurred that students would need to remain in good academic standing to remain in the program rather than requiring a specific GPA. One speaker suggested including a mandatory community service component once enrolled. One student suggested requiring a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. More specifically, one speaker urged eligibility for undocumented students. Another speaker urged eligibility for GED students and those who earn external high school diplomas. A contingent of 14 GED students and their instructor attended the meeting, with seven of them taking the time to speak. Overall, their concerns mirrored those of all PGCC students who commented before the Task Force.

### **What are your thoughts on the academic and social supports that students will need to be successful?**

Those who addressed this question agreed that academic and social supports would be critical in helping students complete the program in a timely manner. Many students spoke of their challenges with transportation to and from the main campus and/or the degree and extension centers located throughout Prince George's County. Students continued to offer testimony regarding their ability to have enough to eat to maintain their energy and focus. One student spoke of spending over two hours on public transportation to get from his home to the Largo Campus to take his culinary course. Shuttle services from the metro stations could be one method of limiting commute times or support to pay for public transportation would help a great deal. Several students mentioned the benefit of current PGCC programs: Women of Wisdom, Diverse Male Student Initiatives, PGCC Cares, and TRIO; they suggested that supports offered in those programs could be made available to Promise Scholarship students. These services include but are not limited to tutoring, disability support services, access to open computer labs, counseling, and academic and career advising. The students expressed the importance of knowing that someone at PGCC cares about them and how uplifting a caring presence can be as a factor of success. Examples of this caring could be in the form of mentorships, one on one counseling, tutoring, and the existing college wrap-around services.



*“My situation is a real life scenario. I have two kids,...unless somebody is going to give us academic scholarships, we can't go, so it is very important for us to be part of this program.”*

**—Donna Nelson, Prince George's County parent**

# Options Considered by Task Force

Based on information garnered through testimony, public meetings, research, and Task Force deliberations, it was determined that the following questions would have to be considered to make recommendations on the elements of a Promise Scholarship Program for Prince George's County.

## **How will the Program be funded?**

The suggested funding sources considered by the Task Force included donations from individual businesses, a direct county appropriation, a donation from the Prince George's Community College Foundation, or some combination of these sources. A business contribution was considered a serious option because of the impact free tuition will have on college completion and how that will lead to the development of an educated workforce. The Economic Development Corporation has gone on record to express support for the Promise Scholarship and their desire to help raise funds to support the program. The Task Force also discussed the viability of using funding as articulated in CB-33-2015, that speaks to the use of gaming revenues to support education. Discussion also centered on whether students would have to pay at least some small amount toward their education as part of this program to reinforce their individual commitment to completion and success.

## **Should there be an income eligibility cap?**

The precedent for including some type of eligibility cap stems from the America's College Promise proposal emanating from the Obama administration which caps eligibility for a free tuition program at \$200,000 of adjusted gross income. The Task Force expressed strong support for not including an eligibility cap. Task Force members felt that the program should be as straightforward as possible and that the more complex it is, the more difficult it will be for students and families to navigate. Excluding an eligibility cap makes the program available to a broad swath of Prince George's County residents.

## **Must students be college-ready?**

Most Promise Programs examined by the Task Force require students to be college-ready; the programs do not cover costs associated with enrolling in developmental courses. The Task Force is concerned that only making the program eligible for college-ready students will be an enormously limiting factor since so many of PGCC's students require developmental

course work. The Task Force discussed several options to help developmental students:

- Could the Program pay for online courses to help students become college ready before they enroll?
- Could Promise funds be available retroactively to pay back students once they complete their degree?
- Could an online third party such as Straighter Line (an on-line provider of college level courses which can be transferred to specific colleges for academic credit), or some other online source, be used by students to help provide access to courses to help them address their math and English requirements?
- If returning adults are eligible for Promise, could developmental programs be included for only this population?

## **Must students be recent graduates of Prince George's County Public Schools?**

The Task Force considered whether the program should be limited only to those students just recently graduated from PGCPS. The Task Force considered the merits of including returning adult learners, completers from the college's GED program, and home schooled or private school students who live in Prince George's County. The Task Force was divided in their consideration of this topic. Several members of the Task Force, again, argued for broad eligibility, opening the Promise Program to all Prince George's County residents.

Conversely, others were concerned that opening up the program to all populations would make it too complex to be easily navigated by people who would seek eligibility. The concern was also raised that it should be limited to only PGCPS students because those students could require more support if funding for the public school system is reduced in the future due to changes driven by federal policy.

It was suggested that different populations of students could be eligible for the program, with total numbers of students from each category being determined based on funding availability or by designating a certain number of students be accepted into the program from various categories. While there was some appeal to this approach, questions arose regarding complexity of navigation and administration.

The possibility of phasing in populations over time was discussed. For example, initially making the program available to only recent PGCPs graduates and allowing other populations to be eligible in ensuing years of the program. Task Force members expressed their belief that it is important for the program to get off to a strong start and that initially having a strongly defined and bounded population would give the program the best chance to be successful.

#### **Must students maintain a certain grade point average to be initially eligible or to remain eligible?**

The Task Force discussed the research that shows that high school GPA is the best indicator of college success, which lends evidence to requiring some minimum level of high school GPA to be eligible for the program. It was also pointed out that the requirement of some minimum GPA will encourage students to work harder and be more focused in high school and that access to a free tuition program would be an incentive to justify that hard work. There was strong agreement among Task Force members that there should be a minimum GPA requirement to maintain eligibility once enrolled in the program.

#### **Will the program require a mentorship, financial literacy, or community service component?**

While these requirements would help students be more engaged in their education, the Task Force was concerned about making these elements mandatory requirements. There was concern about students finding the time to fully engage in these activities and how it could detract from their academic focus. The ability to solicit and maintain a pool of mentors was also thought to be a challenge. If any requirements were included outside of enrollment, the Task Force discussed the viability and efficacy of requiring students to meet with academic and career advisors on a regular basis, either in person or virtually. In addition, it was suggested that requiring a minimal amount of community service would be appropriate given how much benefit a student would get as a result of Promise Program assistance. Requiring some community service may also be worthwhile because students who participate in community service are more likely to be engaged in college (Lizzul, I., Bradley, M., Di Giorgio, L., Äikäs, R. M., Murolo, S., & Zinger, L., 2015).

#### **Will eligibility for students in non-credit, short-term training programs that lead to a certificate be included or is eligibility limited to credit students?**

The Task Force discussed the possibility that eligibility could be extended to students enrolled in specific courses that lead to a professional license or certification in high employment sectors in the County or region. Examples of such programs are: health care, information technology, or hospitality/culinary. It was

also argued that broad eligibility for workforce development programs be included because of the impact skilled workers will have for businesses and the fact that minimal federal or state financial aid is currently available for workforce development programs. Since the cost of non-credit workforce development programs differ widely based on the content, support for these programs could be a fixed dollar amount rather than covering the full cost of a program.

#### **Will the program support students in apprenticeship programs?**

The Task Force considered the feasibility of including students enrolled in apprenticeship programs as an eligible population for the Promise Program. Including apprenticeship opportunities provides a strong incentive for businesses to financially support the program since it will guarantee businesses skilled workers; it will enhance economic development by providing a skilled workforce for local industry; and it will jump start the expansion of traditional and non-traditional apprenticeship programs in the county.

#### **How much will this program cost?**

The Task Force recognizes that the cost of this program will depend on the number of students enrolled, which can be controlled based on student eligibility criteria, as discussed previously in this report. It can also be determined by the adoption of a first-dollar or last-dollar approach. In a first-dollar approach, the dollar amount would be a fixed amount for each student regardless of how much aid they receive. This means that students with higher incomes would qualify for the same amount of support from Promise dollars as those from very low income circumstances. In a last-dollar approach, the amount of support from Promise dollars varies based on state and federal aid received; therefore, students from lower income circumstances would receive less Promise dollars while students from higher income circumstances would receive significantly more Promise dollars. While the Task Force understands that it was charged with studying a last-dollar approach, it wanted to provide a full analysis of the various opportunities available to create and sustain a free tuition program.

The Task Force endorses a last-dollar approach. Table I provides a cost scenario for a last-dollar approach which covers college costs after accounting for federal and state grants received. This covers tuition and fees only, thus guaranteeing students up to \$3,600 annually. Students with Pell would receive on average \$3,100 leaving a balance of \$500 needed from Promise funds, while those without Pell would receive \$3,600 (the full cost of tuition and fees) from Promise funds.

## Table 1: Last-dollar Covering Tuition and Fees

	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>
<b>Entrance Criteria</b>	2-year county resident, PGCPs graduated in May, 2.25 High School GPA. Enrolled in Associate Program	2-year county resident. For May PGCPs graduates 2.25 High School GPA. For prior graduates demonstrate "Program-readiness." Enrolled in Associate Program	2-year county resident. For May PGCPs graduates 2.25 High School GPA. For prior graduates demonstrate "Program-readiness." <b>(This includes an associate degree or workforce development program)</b>
<b>Continued Eligibility Criteria</b>	Good academic standing, 2.0 GPA, stays enrolled full time (complete 30 credits before next Fall)	Good academic standing, 2.0 GPA, stays enrolled full time (complete 30 credits before next Fall)	Good academic standing, 2.0 GPA, stays enrolled full time (complete 30 credits or equivalent before next Fall)
<b>Estimated # of students 1st year</b>	300	700	1,000
<b>Estimated # of students 2nd year+</b>	600	1,400	2,000
<b>Annual Cost year 2 and beyond</b>	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$5,000,000

# Final Recommendations

Based on testimony received and consideration of research conducted of Promise Programs, the Task Force believes it is feasible to implement a last-dollar Promise Program in Prince George's County to provide financial resources to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees remaining after applying all federal and state financial aid for graduates of the Prince George's County public high schools who enroll at Prince George's Community College. The Task Force believes the creation of an on-going Work Group to review the options presented in this report and develop a phased in process for specific recommendations will ensure the viability of a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program. Central to its charge will be a focus on continued sustainability and future expansion of the program to include consideration of the following elements:

- Develop strategies to ensure continued engagement between and among Prince George's Community College, Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Public Schools, business and industry, four-year public universities located in Prince George's County, and the philanthropic community to create sustained partnerships and garner financial support.
- Determine how to most effectively provide access and support to students in registered apprenticeships and workforce training programs.
- Examine the feasibility of implementing a program component to cover costs for students who are not-college ready and must enroll in a maximum of two developmental classes.
- Examine the feasibility of providing structured, affordable pathways for Prince George's County Promise Scholarship completers to public four-year colleges and universities located in Prince George's County.
- Explore the addition of other populations to be included as part of the program in subsequent years:
  - > GED graduates
  - > Graduates of non-public schools
  - > Home schooled students
  - > Returning Adults

## Academic and Financial Eligibility Requirements for the Program

### The recommended academic criteria shall be as follows:

- Students must be graduates of Prince George's County Public Schools.
- Students must be program-ready as determined by current college policy and procedure. There will be no minimum high school Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement.
- Immediate High School graduates must enroll full-time at Prince George's Community College in an associate degree program or in workforce training /apprenticeship programs leading to industry recognized license or certification.
- Immediate High School graduates enrolled in credit programs must maintain a 2.0 GPA and maintain full-time enrollment (at least 12 credits per semester) to preserve their award.
- Students have up to six continuous terms to complete the associate degree (including summer terms).
- Students who need to complete one or two developmental classes to become program-ready should have the opportunity to complete these requirements the summer prior to enrollment at Prince George's Community College.
- Students in workforce training and apprenticeship programs must maintain progress toward completion of all required courses.

### The recommended financial criteria shall be as follows:

- Students must be a Prince George's County resident for at least two years.
- There will be no income eligibility requirement.
- Students wishing to participate in programs that qualify for Federal aid must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for and accept all other Federal and state grants for which they are eligible.

## Potential Funding Sources for the Program

- Prince George's County Government
- Prince George's County Business Community
- Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.
- The Philanthropic community and private donors

## Academic and Social Supports to Help Students Succeed in the Program

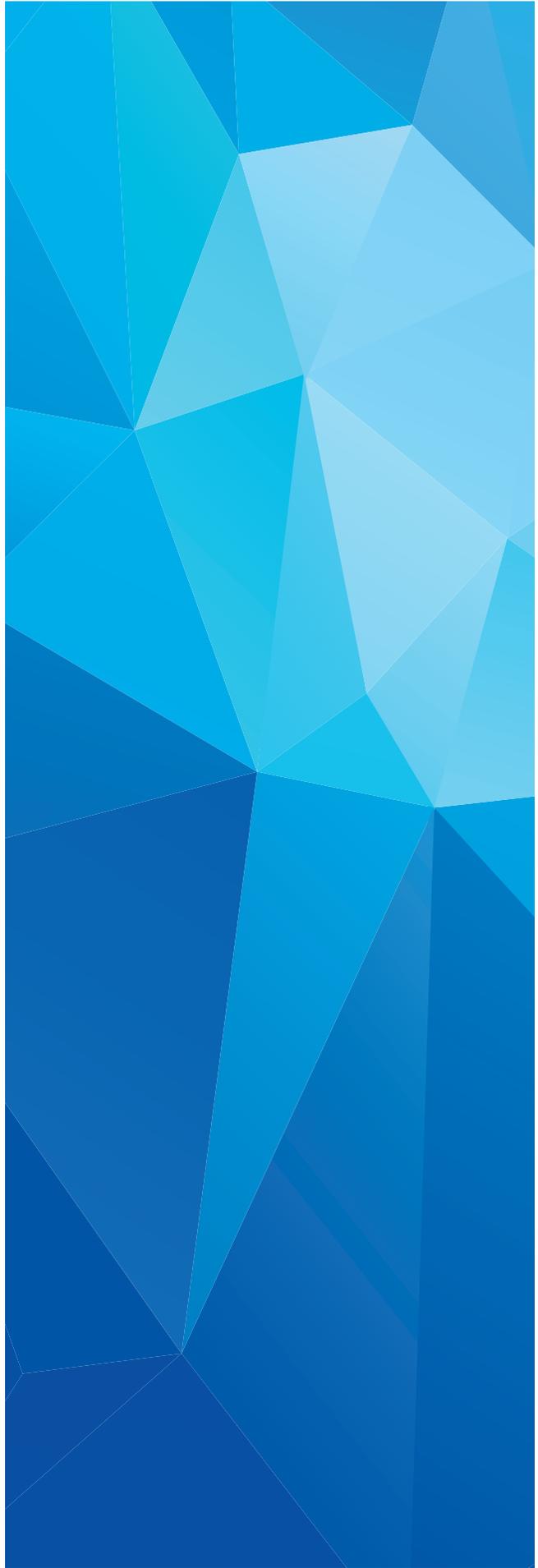
- Students must meet regularly with an academic and career advisor.
- Students must engage with support or intervention services readily available at the college.
- Students must engage in community service based on the amount of Promise dollars awarded (a minimum of five hours up to a maximum of twenty hours per semester).



# Conclusion

It is clear that having a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship will provide county residents the opportunity to obtain a debt free education, particularly those residents who come from challenging financial backgrounds. Such a program will remove an economic barrier so that students can earn an associate degree or credential to embark on a career or pursue further education that will allow participation in the economic growth of the county. The Task Force believes that a Promise Scholarship Program will provide Prince Georgians with access to an affordable education and should be implemented as soon as practicable.





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# Appendix—A

## Task Force Meeting Agendas



DR. CHARLENE M. DUKES  
PRESIDENT

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**Task Force for Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County  
September 1, 2016  
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Kent Hall, Room 262**

**AGENDA**

Welcome	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Chair and President, Prince George's Community College
Introductions	Task Force and Resource Members
Purpose of House Bill 1087: To Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County PG 438-16	The Honorable Alonzo T. Washington, Maryland House Delegate, District 22
America's College Promise	Dr. Martha Parham, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications, American Association for Community Colleges, Washington, DC Task Force
Discussion of Key Questions	Dr. Tyjaun Lee
Review of Resource Binder Schedule and Timeline	Ms. Alonia C. Sharps
Electronic Communications (Dropbox)	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Next Steps	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



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**PRINCE GEORGE'S**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Task Force for a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County**  
**September 21, 2016**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Kent Hall, Room 262**

**AGENDA**

Welcome	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Task Force Chair and	President Prince George's Community College
Community College of Philadelphia's 50th Anniversary Scholarship Program	Mr. Greg Murphy Vice President for Institutional Advancement  Dr. Donovan McCargo Dean of Students Community College of Philadelphia, PA
Review of PGCC Data	Dr. William Allen Richman Interim Dean Office of Planning, Assessment and Institutional Research Prince George's Community College, MD
Review of Outline of Report	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Schedule and Timeline	Ms. Alonia C. Sharps
Questions/Review of Binder	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Next Steps	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



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# PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Task Force for a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County

November 14, 2016

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Kent Hall, Room 262**

## AGENDA

Welcome	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Task Force Chair and President	Prince George's Community College
Detroit College Promise Program	Mr. Greg Handel Vice President, Education and
Talent Programs Detroit Chamber of Commerce	
Maryland Community College Programs	Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara President Allegany College of Maryland
	Mr. David Jones Vice President of Community Relations and Executive Director of the ACM Foundation Allegany College of Maryland
	Ms. Cissy Vansickle Director of Financial Aid Garrett College
	Mr. James Allen Dean of Instructional and Institutional Effectiveness Garrett College
President	Dr. Ray Hoy
Comments from Listening Sessions	Wor-Wic Community College Dr. David Buonora Assistant to the Vice President/WDCE Prince George's Community College
Review of Outline of Report and Status	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes and Dr. David Buonora
Task Force Dialogue	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Next Steps	Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



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**PRINCE GEORGE'S**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Task Force for a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Kent Hall, Room 262**

**AGENDA**

Welcome

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes

Task Force Chair and

President

Prince George's Community College

Discussion of Draft Recommendations

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes and Resource Team

Next Steps

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



# Appendix—B

## Community Town Hall Discussion Questions



### Task Force to Study a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship County-Wide Meeting

Introduction and Opening Remarks - Charlene M. Dukes, Task Force Chair and President, Prince George's Community College

Remarks - The Honorable Alonzo Washington, Maryland House of Delegates

Community Open Forum

To what degree would you support financial access for students seeking higher education?

What are your thoughts on how to fund and then sustain this program?

What are your thoughts on the eligibility requirements to participate in this program?

What are your thoughts on the academic and social supports that students will need to be successful?





# Appendix—C

## Materials from Promise Program Representatives Who Testified

Community College of Philadelphia

Detroit Chamber of Commerce

Allegany College of Maryland

Garrett College Community College

Wor-Wic Community College

# Community College of Philadelphia: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholars Program Overview

Presented to Prince George's County Promise Scholarship  
Task Force

Mr. Gregory Murphy

*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

Mr. Donovan McCargo

*Dean of Students*

*The Path to Possibilities.*

Community College *of* Philadelphia

[www.ccp.edu](http://www.ccp.edu)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Playbook: Key Elements

- Roles & Responsibilities
- Eligibility Criteria
- Enrollment Process
- Student Life Involvement (Work-Group)
- Terms of Agreement

*The Path to Possibilities.*

Community College *of* Philadelphia

[www.ccp.edu](http://www.ccp.edu)

# Cohort 1 Data: Enrollment & Persistence

## Enrollment Data & Persistence

- Fall 2015 – Enrollment - 221; Spring Enrollment - 194 (27 or approximately 12% of scholars decided not to return to the College); Retention from the Fall to the Spring semester was approximately 88%.

# Cohort 1 Data: Credits Attempted

## Spring Credits Attempted Data:

- Spring 2016, the average credits attempted for all scholars enrolled Spring 2016 was 12 credits, compared to 13 credits attempted in the Fall 2015 semester by these same scholars (excluding those no longer enrolled); 61 scholars were enrolled for 13 credits or more

## Cohort 1 Data: Grade Point Average & Credits Earned/Passed

- **Fall Grade Point Average Data**
  - Fall 2015, the average grade point average for all scholars was 2.2.
  - Fall 2015, 112 students (or approximately 51%) earned a grade point average of 2.5 or above;
  - Fall 2015, 78 students (or approximately 35%) earned a grade point average of 3.0 or above;
  - Fall 2015, 92 students (or approximately 43%) earned an average grade point average of 3.07, and earned an average of 13 credits
- **Fall Credits Earned & Passed Data**
  - Fall 2015, on average, the scholars *attempted* 13 credits, *earned* 9 credits, and *passed* 9 credits (approximately 69% of the credits they attempted were earned).

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## Cohort 1 Data: Post-Spring Semester Outcomes

Of All Cohort 1 Scholars, Enrolled Fall 2015,  
on *Average*:

- Credits Attempted: 26
- Credits Completed: 22
- Credits Earned: 16
- GPA: 2.14
- 25% Enrolled and Completed a Summer Course

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# Cohort 1 Data: Fall 2016 Status

Of All Cohort 1 Scholars, Returning Fall 2016,  
on *Average*:

- Attempted Credits: 27
- Credits Completed: 25
- Credits Earned: 25
- Grade Point Average: 3.1

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## Cohort 2: Brief Snapshot & Fall 2016 Activities

### Cohort 2 Brief Snapshot:

- 330 Students; Registered for 12 or more credits;
- Total Enrollment of Cohorts 1 & 2= 396

### Fall 2016 Activities:

- Welcome & Welcome Back Reception
- Scholar Orientation Sessions
  - Introduction to Support Staff
  - Review Terms of Agreement
  - Review Forms & Documents
  - Reinforce Opportunities for Student Involvement & Engagement
- Educational Workshops, Civic Engagement & Volunteer Opportunities, FAFSA Workshops

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# Challenges & Opportunities: For Scholars & College

- **Challenges- For Scholars:**
  - Terms of Agreement
  - Competing Interest/Demands
  - Demands of Program Requirements
  - Completing FAFSA
  - Communication
- **Challenges- For College**
  - Terms of Agreement
  - Competing Interest/Demands
  - Demands of Program Requirements
  - Completing FAFSA
  - Communication
- **Opportunities- For Scholars:**
  - Scholarship Funds (Tuition & Fees)
  - Access to Campus Resources & Support
  - Opportunities for Increased Engagement
  - Sense of Belonging, Validation
- **Opportunities- For College:**
  - Support City of Philadelphia & National Education Initiatives
  - Guided Pathways
  - Brand; Marketing; Funding; FT Enrollment

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## Detroit Promise

- Place-based, last-dollar scholarship, first proposed by Governor Snyder in 2011
- Two Broad Goals:
  - Retain and attract residents by offering an increased value proposition to living in Detroit
  - Increase education attainment and economic opportunity for Detroiters

## Overview

- Began offering a guaranteed, tuition-free path to an associates degree for Detroit residents/high school graduates, in 2013
- No academic requirement
- Open to students in all Detroit high schools, regardless of governance
- Students can attend any of five metro community colleges, with the Promise covering the increased cost of non-resident tuition, if needed

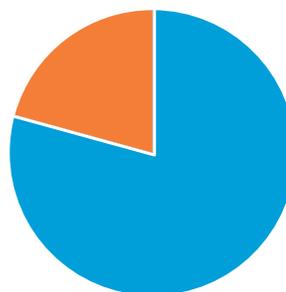
## Outreach

- Four full-time staff coordinating outreach to high school students and follow-up service to those who are in college
- Staff make multiple visits to every high school to explain the program and enroll students
- Once enrolled, students receive on-going communication via text, social media and e-mail
- Consistently registering around 75% of eligible high school seniors in Detroit

## Community College Funding Model

Last Dollar Community College Funding Model

Tuition - \$3,280  
Pell \$2,600 – D.P. \$680



■ Pell ■ Detroit Promise

## C.C. Enrollment / Success

- Averaging just over 500 new students/ year for the first four years
- Persistence/graduation rates for our c.c. students are at the national average for low-income, first generation students, which are very low
- Existing student supports haven't been effective in improving graduation/ persistence rates

## Detroit Promise Path

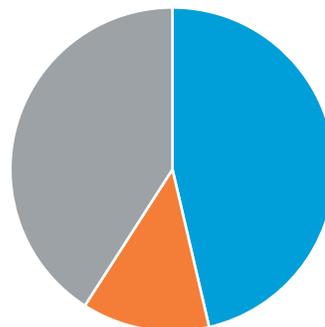
- Partnership with MDRC to replicate successful community college student support model in the CUNY system
- Program Components
  - “Intrusive” Coaching around specific protocols
  - Student incentives
  - Group sessions with coaches
  - Connections to campus resources

## Four-Year University Program

- Built out from a smaller existing Chamber run scholarship
- Launched two cohort pilot this year
- Academic requirement of 3.0 GPA and ACT score of 21
- Most public and several private universities participating
- 263 students enrolled this fall

## Four-Year Funding Model

Full Tuition \$11,000  
Pell \$5,100 - Institutional Aid \$4,500-D.P.  
\$1,400



■ Pell ■ D.P. ■ Institutional ■

## Enrollment

Enrollment Projections	2017	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23
Community College	774	929	1,109	1,235	1,277	1,277	1,277
Four-Year	300	655	1,032	1,376	1,537	1,622	1,656

## Detroit Promise Funding

- Annual budget is currently \$2.7 million
- Expect a maximum annual budget of approximately \$5 million assuming four cohorts of four-year students
- Funding sources:
  - Michigan Education Excellence Foundation
  - Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Van Dusen Endowments
  - Promise Zone – Tax Incremental Financing (available 2019)

## Expenses

Program Expenses	2017	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	Total
C.C. Tuition	\$581K	\$697K	\$832K	\$926K	\$958K	\$958K	\$958K	
Four-Year Tuition	\$420K	\$917K	\$1445K	\$1,926K	\$2,151K	\$2,270K	\$2,318K	
Staff/ Program Admin	\$845K	\$920K	\$967K	\$1,015K	\$1,066K	\$1,119K	\$1,175K	
Student Success	\$625K	\$689K	\$723K	\$760K	\$798K	\$837K	\$879K	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,534K</b>	<b>\$3,223K</b>	<b>\$3,967K</b>	<b>\$4,627K</b>	<b>\$4,973K</b>	<b>\$5,184K</b>	<b>\$5,330K</b>	<b>\$29.8M</b>

## Revenue

Revenue	2017	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	Total
CFSEM	\$296K	\$414K	\$414K	\$414K	\$414K	\$414K	\$414K	
MDRC	\$175K	\$175K	\$175K					
Detroit Promise Zone				\$300K	\$800K	\$1,300K	\$1,800K	
MEEF	\$2,063K	\$2,634K	\$3,378K	\$3,813K	\$3,759K	\$3,470K	\$3,116K	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,534K</b>	<b>\$3,223K</b>	<b>\$3,967K</b>	<b>\$4,627K</b>	<b>\$4,973K</b>	<b>\$5,184K</b>	<b>\$5,330K</b>	<b>\$29.8M</b>

## Celebration / Orientation



## Priorities / Next Steps

- Transition four-year pilot into permanent program
- Increased marketing
- Create a tuition-free transfer pathway between community college and four-year universities
- Coordinate the Detroit Promise more fully with other youth/educational initiatives in the City

## Program Strengths

- Extremely cost effective compared to other Promise programs
- Pathway to sustainability through Detroit Promise Zone tax capture
- Detroit is the largest city in the country to guarantee all high school graduates a tuition-free path through college

# Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship

Presented by: Dr. Cynthia Bambara  
and David Jones



ALLEGANY COLLEGE  
of MARYLAND  
ENGAGE YOUR FUTURE

## Program Overview

The Allegany County Commissioners understand the impact of Allegany College of Maryland and the education and job training provided to the community.

Funds will be provided to eligible community residents to receive education and job training, bettering themselves and the community.

# AWARD TYPES

- Allegany County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students
- Allegany County Opportunity Merit Scholarship
- Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship
- Allegany County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship

## Allegany County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students Scholarship

- ▶ Scholarships will be provided to help support the cost of tuition that is not covered by federal or state aid and scholarship support. Applicants must complete the FAFSA to determine federal and state awards and apply for ACM Foundation Scholarships. After these considerations, it is expected that up to ½ the Allegany County cost per credit hour will be provided.



ALLEGANY COLLEGE  
of MARYLAND

# Allegany County Opportunity Merit Scholarship

- ▶ Allegany County Merit Scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 or more, will be awarded each academic year to students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average and meet all other eligibility criteria. Special consideration will be given to students who plan to transfer to Frostburg State University upon graduation from Allegany College of Maryland.



# Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship

- ▶ Funding will be utilized by the Center for Continuing Education to support Allegany County residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training.



# Allegany County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship

- ▶ Early College students currently pay ½ of the regular tuition rate for early college courses. These funds will support FARM (Free and Reduced Meals) students who have resided in Allegany County for a minimum of three years by paying 100% of the student/family cost of \$100 per course.



## FY16 Fast Facts

- ▶ Recipients represent every community in our County
- ▶ Students from every public and private high school, as well as homeschooled and GED students have been awarded funding
- ▶ Recipients have included students from nearly every major/curriculum
- ▶ The age range of recipients is from 17-58, with an average age of 24



# GARRETT COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



DEVELOPED IN 2006 BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS &  
GARRETT COLLEGE

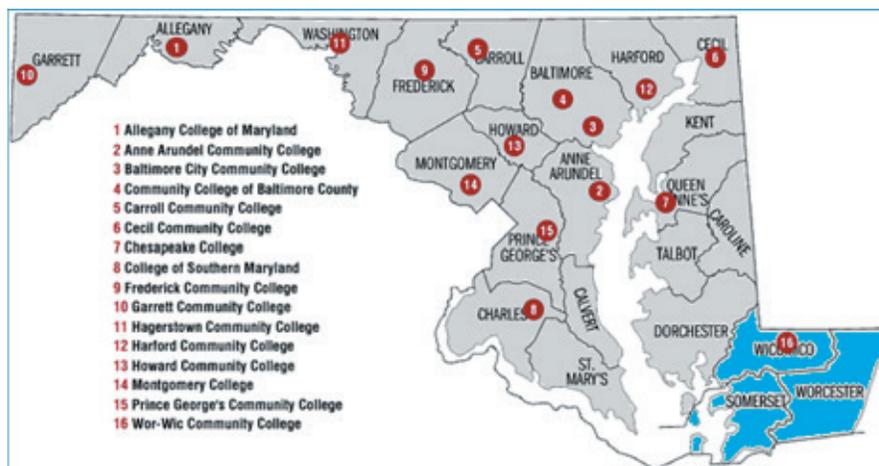
ORIGINALLY TITLED "GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Scholarship for every approved 2007 high school graduate who has resided in Garrett County for two years prior to High School graduation
- Garrett College to determine if residency requirement is met
- Each student must fill out an application available at Northern and Southern High Schools as well as Garrett College.
- The scholarship is also available to students graduating from non-public high schools and recognized home school programs
- Students who are eligible for dual enrollment in their senior year of high school will receive 50% tuition from this scholarship and 50% tuition waiver from Garrett College
- Students who have graduated from high school and applying for the scholarship must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year.
- Any awarded federal or state aid will take precedent over the scholarship funds. Any scholarship specifically for books will not affect the Garrett County Scholarship.
- 2008 The Garrett County Commissioner requested the name of the scholarship be changed to Garrett County Scholarship Program
- 2011 The Garrett County Scholarship was expanded to include students who followed a non-credit, certificate program offered by Garrett College Continuing Education and Workforce Development such as welding, CNA, etc.
- Persons who receive a GED and have resided in Garrett County for two years may receive the Garrett County Scholarship as well.
- All students receiving the scholarship must maintain a 2.0 grade point average. If a student falls below a 2.0, he/she must self pay subsequent semesters until g.p.a. improves to the required average. The student must appeal reinstatement in writing.
- The Garrett County Scholarship will not pay for a student to repeat any course. A report is run each semester to identify repeated course registration.
- Students must maintain full-time enrollment (at least 12 credit hours) each semester with the exception of Summer and Intersession semesters.
- Students are limited to a total of 64 college level credit hours not including remedial coursework.
- At the end of each semester, the Business Office will bill the Garrett County Commissioners for the expense of the scholarship program.
- The Commissioners are also sent a report each year on the scholarship and the numbers of students taking advantage of it.

## Economic Impact Scholarship Program



## Maryland's Community Colleges



Three County  
Regional  
Community  
College

## Wicomico County Economic Impact Scholarship

---

An opportunity to provide more Wicomico County residents with a postsecondary education to advance economic growth and strengthen the community

## Need to Support Business in Wicomico

- We need to raise the level of education in our community – so businesses are competitive.
  - Currently 35% of the population has a college degree.
- If we want to keep existing and recruit new businesses, we need an educated workforce.
  - The most important resource is the human resource.

## The Solution: Education and Training

- Prepare a more educated and trained workforce to support local business by helping more residents earn a college degree.
- Reduce the “brain drain.”
- Educate and train more residents to enter the workforce in good-paying jobs -- in order to sustain our quality of life and economic vitality.

## Community Benefits



Jamie Merisotis  
President and CEO  
Lumina Foundation

“Research shows a direct correlation between thriving cities and high levels of college-level learning. Regions with robust levels of educational attainment have stronger economies, greater individual earning power and better quality of life.”

## Community Benefits

“Community colleges are where higher education credentials align with local workforce needs.”

Lumina Foundation



## Community Benefits

Educated populations are healthier, more stable, more engaged in their civic institutions -- leading to lower social costs, due to:

- Fewer welfare and unemployment claims
- Less alcohol and drug abuse
- Less smoking and related illnesses
- Lower probability of committing crime
- Reduced incidences of absenteeism

Source: “Economic Contribution of Wor-Wic Community College,” Economic Modeling Specialists, Intl., January 2013, pp. 27-29.

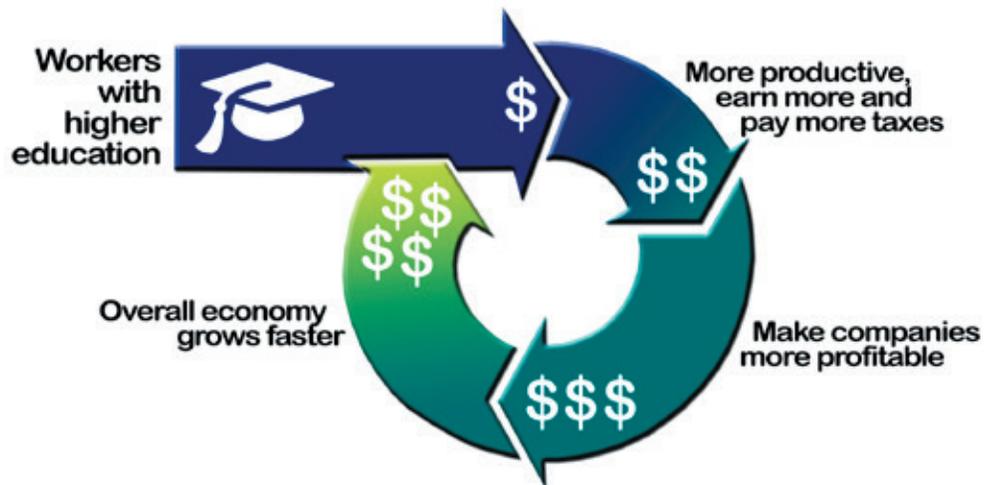
## Community Benefits

Studies reveal gains in the public schools student outcomes:

- Improved behavior in high school students
- Reduced absenteeism
- Broad test score increases across all subjects and all demographics
- Higher grades
- Increased college going rate
- Increased college graduates, including baccalaureate level grads

Source: "The Impact of Promise Programs: What Do We Know?" Research Plenary Session, Kalamazoo, Michigan, supported by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research and the Lumina Foundation, Nov. 10, 2015.

## Personal AND Public Benefit



## A Good Investment for Wicomico County

- **90%** of Wor-Wic students stay in the community and contribute to the local economy.
- Taxpayers realize an **8.4%** rate of return of state and local taxes invested in Wor-Wic.
- The annual added income to the Lower Shore, due to Wor-Wic, is **\$145 million**.

Source: "Economic Contribution of Wor-Wic Community College," Economic Modeling Specialists, Intl., October 2016.

## Wicomico Economic Impact Scholarship



Covering  
tuition and fees  
(not books)  
for eligible  
high school graduates  
in Wicomico County

## Eligibility Criteria

- Be a Wicomico resident for at least the past 2 years
- Be a Wicomico HS graduate or GED completer
- Enroll in a degree or certificate program at Wor-Wic in the Fall semester after high school graduation
- Apply for and accept all other financial aid (except loans and book scholarships) -- last dollar funding
- Register for 12 or more credit hours in the fall immediately after HS graduation
- Have a Family Adjusted Gross Income below \$75,000

## Maintaining Eligibility

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Maintain full-time attendance and earn at least 24 credit hours each academic year
- Participation is up to 6 continuous fall and spring terms or 1 associate degree – whichever occurs first (3 years to complete a 2-year degree)

Participants will receive reimbursement for direct dual enrollment course costs after successful 1<sup>st</sup> year at Wor-Wic

## Estimated County Investment

- \$252,000 -- Year 1 (based on 27 credits)
- \$540,000 -- Year 2 (based on 27 credits)
- \$665,000 -- Year 3 (based on 27 credits for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and 12 credits for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students)



## Economic Impact Scholarship Program



## Fall 2016 Experience

- 131 Applicants
- 118 Completed all paperwork
- 91 Eligible as of start of school
- 84 Eligible as of 20% date
- 26 Actually receiving WEIS funding
- 10 or 26 are receiving full WEIS funding
- \$55,000 - \$60,000 is projected FY 2017 expenditure

Somerset County Initiative

## Fall 2016 Experience

- The program was not approved until late June 2016 after seniors had graduated.
  - Most had made other plans
- The last minute amendment from no income limitation to eligibility for only students with up to \$75,000 family adjusted gross income made many graduates ineligible.
  - Effort to modify the income level to \$125,000 for future classes is being led by local Chambers, Greater Salisbury Committee and clubs and organizations.

## Community Building



- Create a college-going culture in our community
- Support area children from pre-kindergarten through college graduation
- Strengthen dual enrollment of high school students taking college classes
- Better align the education pathway from high school through college degrees in our communities
- Improve college attainment and college success through this program
- Measure outcomes by the benefits to our region's young people and the benefits to our region's economy

## Changing Lives Since 1975

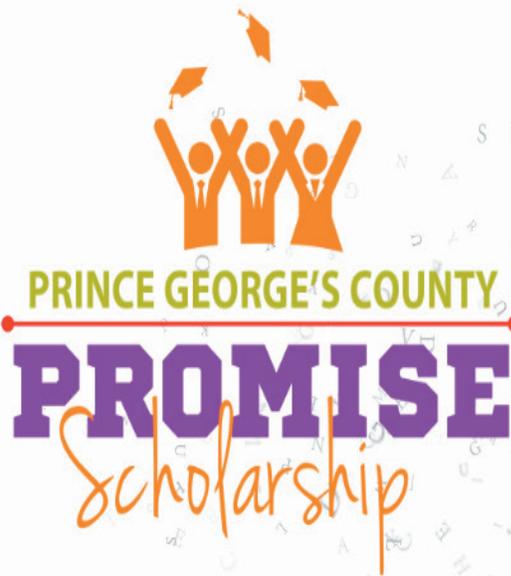






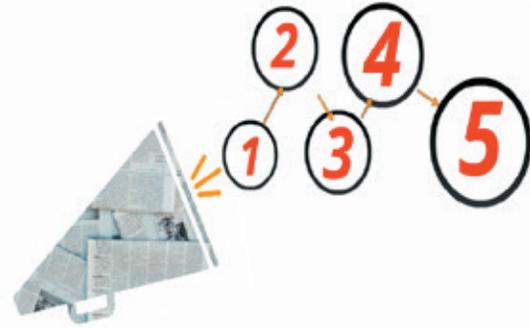
# Appendix—D

## Regional Comparison of Educational Attainment and Income



Public Meeting #1  
Monday, October 10, 2016  
Duval High School

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



# What Is the "Promise"?

America's College Promise



# Prince George's Promise

In the 2016 Legislative Session, HB1087 established the Prince George's Promise Scholarship Task Force



**Dr. Charlene Dukes**  
Chair



**16** County Council  
PGCPS  
Chamber of Commerce  
UMD  
Bowie State  
PGCEA  
Member Task Force



## Why A Prince George's Promise?

### *Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps*



Percent of Population with a Bachelor's Degree



Percent of Population with an Associate's Degree



Percent of High School Graduates Enrolled in College Courses 1 Year After Graduation

**\$12,000,000+**

Total Student Loan Debt for PGC Students & Graduates



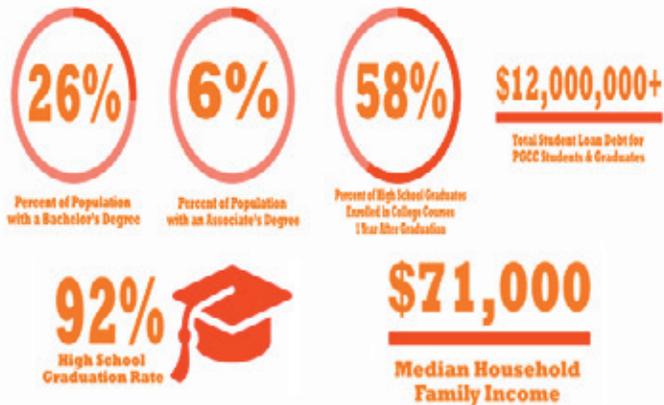
High School Graduation Rate

**\$74,000**

Median Household Family Income

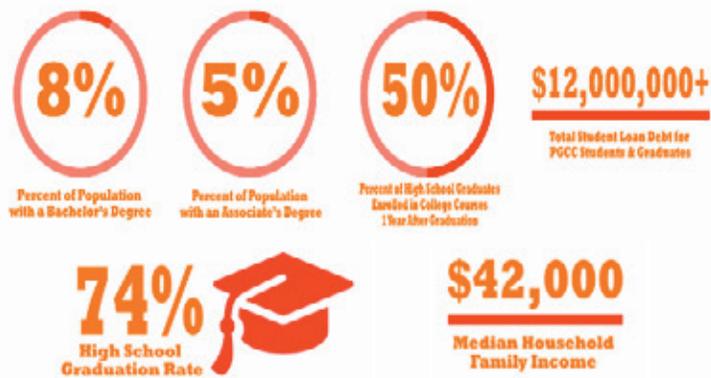
# Why A Prince George's Promise?

*Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps:  
Lanham - Seabrook 20706*



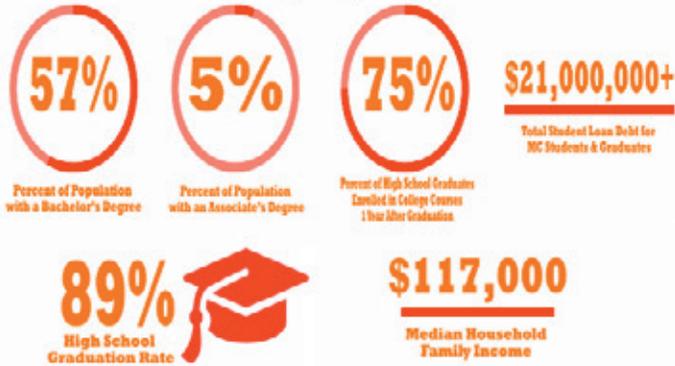
# Why A Prince George's Promise?

*Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps:  
Bladensburg 20710*



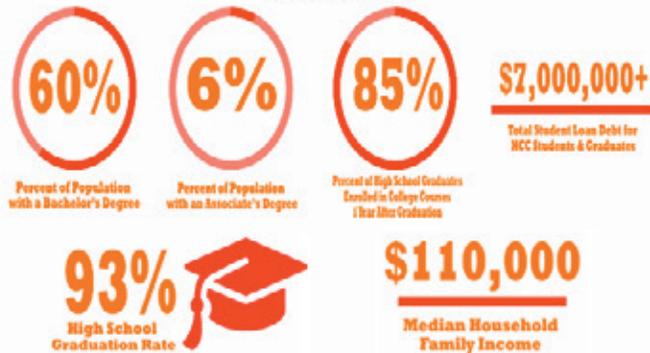
# How Do We Compare?

## Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps: Montgomery County



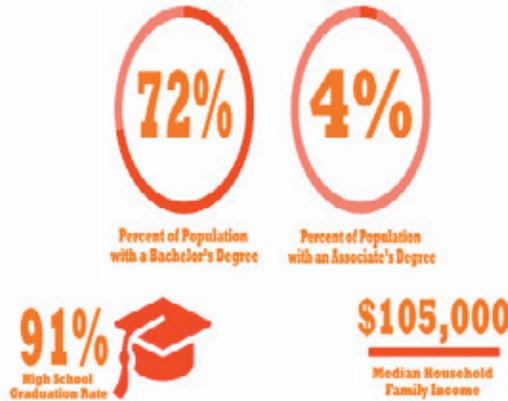
# How Do We Compare?

## Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps: Howard County



# How Do We Compare?

*Economic Opportunity & Student Achievement Gaps:  
Arlington County*



## "Promise" Programs Across the U.S.

Over 150 Localities - States, Counties, and Cities - Across the U.S. Have Implemented Various "Promise Scholarship" Programs to Provide Free Community College to Their Students



# "Promise" Programs Across the U.S.

## Detroit Promise Zone

- Began in the 2016-2017 School Year
- Provides Scholarships to Any Detroit High School Student Who Attends Community Colleges in the City of Detroit
- Funded Through Private Donations from the Business Community for the First Two Years of the Program



# "Promise" Programs Across the U.S.

## Tennessee Promise Scholarship

- Began in the 2015-2016 School Year
- Provides Tennessee High School Graduates with Two Years of Free or Technical College in Tennessee
- Includes a Mentorship & Community Service Component

### Tennessee Promise Students\*

**16,291**

Tennessee Promise students enrolled in Fall 2015

**\$1,020**

Average Tennessee Promise award per student

**\$10.6 million**

Net cost of Tennessee Promise for 2015-2016

### Overall First-time Freshmen (FTF) Enrollment

**10.1%**

One year increase in overall FTF enrollment in Tennessee public higher education

### Changes in FTF Enrollment

24.7% increase at community colleges



# What's Next?

Prince George's Promise Scholarship Task Force  
Will Host Two More Public Meetings:

- **October 20th at 7:00pm at Crossland High School**
- **November 2nd at 7:00pm at Prince George's Community College**

The Task Force's Final Report Is Due to the  
County Executive & General Assembly on  
January 1, 2017







# Appendix—E

Petition from PGCC Students

Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Task Force

**Dear Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Task Force & the honorable Rushern L. Baker III, Prince George's County Executive:**

We the under signers of this petition are residents of Prince George's County and students enrolled at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). With rising tuition cost, high student loan debts, and the financial burden that this will have on students like us, **we would like our college to become the 4<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction in Maryland, and the 151<sup>st</sup> community in the U.S. to offer the Promise Scholarship Program.** It is imperative that higher education becomes more affordable and more accessible for more students to become well educated and trained.

**We call upon on you to support this initiative to establish the Promise Scholarship Program at Prince George's Community College.**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	Maria Buriani	Ferrara, Italy	
2.	Paulett Mcintosh	Largo, MD	
3.	dania sawyer	Ianham, MD	
4.	Jate Harrington	Upper Marlboro, MD	
5.	Amber Owens	Clinton, MD	
6.	Tony Nguyen	Lanham, MD	
7.	Jessica Butts	Temple hills, MD	
8.	Porsche Palmer	Bowie, MD	
9.	Musu Sheku	Greenbelt, MD	
10.	Jasmine Wright	Capitol heights, MD	
11.	Crystal Burnett	FORT WASHINGTON, MD	
12.	Venus Ferdinand	Upper Marlboro, MD	
13.	Ante Essang	Temple Hills, MD	
14.	Michael Riddick	Clinton, MD	
15.	Mary Kanu	Lanham, MD	
16.	Kimberly Watkins	Washington, DC	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
17.	Rolando Gonzales	Fort Washington, MD	
18.	Tirzah Edwards	Capitol heights, MD	
19.	Leslie Chofo	Upper Marlboro, MD	
20.	Marcia Hall	Landover, MD	
21.	Annette Jalloh	Glenn dale, MD	
22.	Treasure Green	Washington, DC	
23.	Godlove Vuyufambom	Bowie, MD	
24.	Valery Njong	Beltsville, Viet Nam	Free community college will enhance more students to be college graduates and seek good jobs
25.	Raneice Watkins	Capitol Heights, MD	
26.	kaleyah braxton	district heights, MD	
27.	Andrea Bryant	Bowie, MD	
28.	Shaakira Muhammad	Hyattsville, MD	
29.	Maria Vigil Ramos	Hyattsville, MD	
30.	Kevin Smith	Bowie, MD	
31.	Laura Reyes	Hyattsville, MD	
32.	Tanisha Pearson	Washington, DC	
33.	Teiona Sanders	Springdale, MD	
34.	Janel Turner	Hyattsville, MD	
35.	Makeda Illidge	Capitol Heights, MD	College tuition is rising ever year and has become a burden for most students who dream to attend college but can not or do but drop out. People desire to continue their education, like myself, and for the opportunity to attend community college for free is a wonderful opportunity for all people.
36.	Elsy Salmeron	Oxon Hill, MD	
37.	Bryana Matthews	District Heights, MD	
38.	Maria Cruz	Riverdale, MD	I shouldn't have to worry about not being able to afford my education in order to become successful.
39.	Alexi Sanchez	Hyattsville, MD	
40.	Kimani Sadler	Upper Marlboro, MD	
41.	Deaunte Griffith	Bowie, MD	
42.	Zorel Castro	Accokeek, MD	
43.	Amber Price	Clinton, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
44.	ntuma kamara	Hyattsville, MD	Receiving a proper education is vital to being an effective and independent member of the American society especially since so much that we do, including voting, working, and staying informed about our democracy involves being literate. For this reason, policy makers should ensure that everyone receives a college education with no financial burden attached.
45.	Arkbar Burkley	Temple hills, MD	
46.	Jasmine Greene	Laurel, MD	Community College should be free because not many students have a little over \$1,000 for classes. I know I didn't. I did the deferred payment plan, and it was hard to have almost \$300 every 3 months. It's not easy.
47.	Jamar Watkins	Bowie, MD	
48.	pamella uzoukwu	LANHAM, MD	
49.	Brandi Sturge	Hyattsville, MD	
50.	Tamesha Hawkins	Capitol Heights, MD	I would hope Prince George's County would participate in the Promise Scholarship program because this would be beneficial for individuals like myself. I don't qualify for grants and the cost of tuition is so expensive that I can not further my education.
51.	Dimitri Butler	Bowie, MD	
52.	Mariam Magassouba	Landover, MD	
53.	Tiffany Royster	Clinton, MD	
54.	Michelle Caldwell	Hyattsville, MD	
55.	STEPHANE FOKOU	SUITLAND, MD	
56.	Kim Wilson	Upper, MD	
57.	SETH FRIMPONG	LANHAM, MD	
58.	Anita Carroll	Laurel, MD	
59.	Sierra Smith	Forestville, MD	
60.	Daija Miller	Capitol Heights, MD	
61.	Najat Wright	Fort Washington, MD	
62.	Vladimir Bonese	Beltsville, MD	Education is the pride of all Americans; it is the future of our country; No one should be deprived of the right to education because of money; no one should be denied the opportunity to participate in shaping a better future, their community, their country because their family could not afford their local school/college.
63.	Tolani Taiwo	Lanham, MD	
64.	Hunter Smith	Upper Marlboro, MD	
65.	Victoria Ulmer	Upper Marlboro, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
66.	Symone Warren	Capitol Heights, MD	
67.	Alice Oshinrongboye	Bowie, MD	
68.	Ernest Canlas	Clinton, MD	
69.	Charlene Cowan	Lanham, MD	
70.	Deonta Covington	Temple Hills, MD	Everyone deserve an equal opportunity at getting an education no matter what their financial circumstances may be!!!
71.	Khyla Link	Washington, DC	
72.	Esther Antwiwaa	Severn, MD	
73.	Latashua Davis	Temple Hills, MD	
74.	Tania Bravo	Hyattsville, MD	
75.	Lauren W	District Heights, MD	
76.	Jania Shaw	Largo, MD	I can barely afford it now.
77.	Netsanet Asres	Hyattsville, MD	
78.	Jessica James	Bowie, MD	
79.	Lujania Urbina	Silver spring, MD	Making the choice of getting a higher education shouldn't be based on whether it can be afforded or not!
80.	Adenike Agagu	Hyattsville, MD	
81.	tunisia squire	capitol heights, MD	
82.	James Stallins	Forestville, MD	Please provide free tuition.
83.	Vivian Nwachukwu	Glenarden, MD	
84.	Jennifer Williams	Capitol Heights, MD	This new establishment under a mountain of milestones would be a grave opportunity for students of Prince George's County seeking to boost the County to new realms. Therefore, it should be seen as an opportunity for the County to aid its residents. Thank you in advance Mr. Baker
85.	Sincere Coles	District Heights, MD	
86.	Alexis Witt	Clinton, MD	
87.	Perdithia Curry	Belt, MD	
88.	Bernadine Befolo	Bowie, MD	
89.	Nathan Calhoun	Clinton, MD	
90.	Christina Mckinney	Hillcrest Heights, MD	
91.	Olive Chimobe	Capitol heights, MD	
92.	Chukwuzara Nwachukwu	Hyattsville, MD	
93.	Yassir Omer	Mount rainier, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
94.	Jakia Richardson	Clinton, MD	
95.	tonecia McMillan	Oxon HILL, MD	
96.	Sheeza Sheikh	Bowie, MD	
97.	Meredith Page	Laurel, MD	
98.	Neha Sethi	Upper Marlboro, MD	I greatly support Promise Scholarship and I think it will motivate others to get or complete the college education.
99.	Sean Kelly	COLLINGDALE, PA	
100.	Tyra Murphy	Suitland, MD	
101.	Jennifer Larios	Hyattsville, MD	
102.	Justus Hawkins	Dunkirk, MD	With rising tuition cost, high student loan debts, and the financial burden that this will have on students like us, we would like our college to become the 4th jurisdiction in Maryland, and the 151st community in the U.S. to offer the Promise Scholarship Program. It is imperative that higher education becomes more affordable and more accessible for more students to become well educated and trained
103.	Folly Gbetoula kangnivi	Mitchellville, MD	
104.	Katherine Cortez	Silver Spring, MD	
105.	Kayla Molock	Upper Marlboro, MD	So looking forward to this!
106.	Abigail Abikoye	Bowie, MD	
107.	Hawa diallo	Suitland, MD	
108.	Linda Akaba	Mt rainier, MD	I really do need this help thank
109.	Mohammad Wahid	Greenbelt, MD	
110.	Marquelle Smith	Glenarden, MD	
111.	Jazlynn Brooks	Oxon Hill, MD	
112.	Perez Ejoh	Hyattsville, MD	
113.	Anjolie Young	Lanham, MD	
114.	Fatmata Bah	Bowie, MD	
115.	Marcus Russell	Washington, DC	
116.	adeola sonoiki	upper marlboro, MD	
117.	Alysse Caldwell	District Heights, MD	College is already a financial burden. Let's lift that burden and watch students soar knowing that their community college education is taken care of.
118.	Deyvi Valverde	Bowie, MD	This is a great opportunity to show my potential
119.	Crystal Nwogu	Mitchellville, MD	
120.	Maryan Saliu	hyattsville, MD	
121.	Betsy Fleurimont	Lanham, MD	
122.	Masada Jackson	Landover, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
123.	Matjaz Bratus	Ljubljana, Slovenia	
124.	Lydie Brino	NEW CARROLLTON, MD	
125.	Halimah Adams	Seat pleasant, MD	
126.	Da'Jiah Beale	Upper Marlboro, MD	
127.	Ebony Edwards	Capitol heights, MD	
128.	Sharon McIntosh	Laurel, MD	With Trump winning we can almost guarantee cuts in funding for education, so now more than ever, we need this scholarship program.
129.	Jonás de la Nuez	Las Palmas, Spain	
130.	ERIKA SOMLAI	BUDAPEST, Hungary	
131.	Sherry Pearson	Upper Marlboro, MD	
132.	Mercedez Ricks	Hyattsville, MD	
133.	Brent Biel	WADENA, MN	
134.	Rachel Oddoye	Hyattsville, MD	
135.	Greta Martin	Largo, MD	
136.	Tyrell Wilson	Bowie, MD	
137.	Lesley Soriano	Oxon Hill, Uganda	Everyone should have the opportunity to go back to school and not have tuition be the reason holding them back
138.	Latrice Lee	Forestville, MD	
139.	Tatiana Gonzalez	Waldorf, MD	
141.	Constance White	Accokeek, MD	
142.	Alex Schell	Capitol Heights, MD	This will really impact those in our communities who are afraid of the costs for continuing education.
143.	Toni Scott	laurel, MD	
144.	Fatimah Faleye	Hyattsville, MD	I support
145.	Antonio Morrell	Bladensburg, MD	I fully support this program. It will allow those who crave an education but can't afford it an opportunity to do so.
146.	Danaya Barrett	Laurel, MD	
147.	Daryn Anderson	Bowie, MD	
148.	quayana randall	greenbelt, MD	
149.	Isabell Stark	Eslöv, Sweden	
150.	Julie Dale Rupal	UPPER MARLBORO, MD	
151.	Altina Cowan	Lanham, MD	
152.	Cameca Anderson	New Carrollton, MD	
153.	Safaa Roumani	White Plains, MD	Our students deserve more financial support
154.	Sara Greenback	Annapolis, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
155.	JANET DINKINS	Bladensburg, MD	Free tuition turns out more graduates, turns out educated populations doing great work for our country the USA
156.	Zornitsa Georgieva	Largo, MD	
157.	Robert Berry	Greenbelt, MD	
158.	Gina Nightengale	Upper Marlboro, MD	
159.	Deborah Zankofski	Fairfax, VA	
160.	Pamela Mosby	Largo, MD	
161.	Alonia Sharps	Upper Marlboro, MD	We as a County owe a free associate degree to our residents. The degree will create a more prepared workforce and will aid the economic base of Prince George's County
162.	Jennifer Walker	Upper Marlboro, MD	
163.	Ioana Rus	Greenbelt, MD	
164.	Catherine LaPalombara	Edgewater, MD	
165.	Lynette Smith	Beltsville, MD	
166.	Mary Njah Foncham	Beltsville, MD	Free community college will and scholarships will improve educational opportunities as we build a better future for our country.
167.	Peaches Crenshaw	Largo, MD	
168.	Andrew M	Largo, MD	education is the future. our young people need hope, skills, and training that PGCC can provide. please support this initiative.
169.	Chery George	Bladensburg, MD	The cost of higher education is constantly getting out of reach to low income children. It doesn't matter on the race, gender etc., but, it will put our country at a low high in having enough supplies of qualify candidates for opportunities in emerging business.
170.	Ennis Allen	Largo, MD	
171.	Shameka Robinson	WASHINGTON, DC	
172.	Alcene DeLaCruz	Laurel, MD	
173.	Courtney Thrower	Largo, MD	ACCESS is CRITICAL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you care about developing and producing educated, productive, and well-rounded citizens, how can you not see the need!! If you're not going to lower the cost of college tuition, then of course this a no-brainer approach!! Thanks in advance for supporting our future!!!
174.	Diane Butler	Oxon Hill, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
175.	Sharon Roberts	Lanham, MD	I have young relatives who live in South Carolina and they are able to go to college because of this type of scholarship. They used to live in Maryland and I don't know that they would have been able to achieve the dream of going to college if they still lived here in Maryland. We need to invest in our youth because they are indeed the future of this country. And, to be potential leaders, they must be educated.
176.	Elizabeth Clune-Kneuer	Waldorf, MD	
177.	Jennifer Aguilar	Brentwood, MD	
178.	KAYLA VELEZ	Hyattsville, MD	
179.	Angela Carter	Upper Marlboro, MD	
180.	Tamara Garner	Fort Washington, MD	As a former PGCC student and 2015 Alumni, I believe that community college should be free and it will help so many students from stressing about whether or not they can pay for their classes like I did. Also, stressing over classes can affect their grades, which is very important.
181.	Nicole Clem	Mount Rainier, MD	
182.	William Rodgers	Silver Spring, MD	
183.	Kristal Brown	Largo, MD	
184.	Denise Barino-Samuels	Largo, MD	
185.	Zelda Bell	college park, MD	Yes! Our students, in particular, need this option to be able to begin their college experience without going broke.
186.	Nancy Grinberg	Silver Spring, MD	Rising tuition costs are putting college out of reach for far too many students. We need to make sure higher education is more affordable and more accessible for more students. In order to make this a reality, we need programs like the Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County.
187.	Jacqueline Sumner	Largo, MD	
188.	Danielle C	Largo, MD	
189.	Alicia Brown	Temple Hills, MD	
190.	Deeondre Harrison	Mitchellville, MD	
191.	Jahmal McNair	Greenbelt, MD	Bridge scholarships may become vital to colleges and trade schools, in the near future, to keep them affordable. Let's lead, here.
192.	Caroline Lopez	Bowie, MD	
193.	Ashley Jones	Upper Marlboro, MD	
194.	Ava Johnson	Cap. Hgts, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
195.	Ayodeji Onafeko	Largo, MD	
196.	Mariana Lukacova	Moldava Nad Bodvou, Slovakia	
197.	Germaine Whitehead	Adelphi, MD	
198.	Waverly Jung	Upper Marlboro, MD	
199.	Nadia Haile	Lanham, MD	
200.	Lisan Miles	Lanham, MD	
201.	Stephanie Daley	Seat pleasant, MD	
202.	Latoya Mason	Temple hills, MD	We need free couses
203.	Ariel Gorham	Lanham, MD	
204.	Ashley Abney	Lanham, MD	
205.	Elijah Jones	Greenbelt, MD	
206.	Aicha Nsangou	Hyattsville, MD	Help me please
207.	Janay Douglas	Bryans road, MD	
208.	Juan Harris	Washington, DC	
209.	Ka'Leia Graves	Beltsville, MD	
210.	Brandon Lo	Fort Washington, MD	Prince George's Community College offers quality education for first-year students, graduate studies, and generally for people that need a higher level of education. PGCC is a place for minorities, people in financial need, and people in need of career guidance. PGCC builds structure and confidence in students that they can use for their future endeavors. PGCC should be provided free because it is a symbol of hope for students to persevere and work for personal career goals.
211.	Imelda Gotis	Clinton, MD	
212.	Carlos Sorto	Fort Washington, MD	
213.	Arantza Flores	Landover, MD	
214.	Kyree Williams	Halethorpe, MD	
215.	Lucie Mbeté	Hyattsville, MD	
216.	Jasmyn Musgrove	Suitland, MD	
217.	Bria Wilson	Glenarden, MD	
218.	Brandon Maye	Suitland, MD	
220.	Diara Rochester	Glenn Dale, MD	
221.	Addo Mantey	New Carrollton, MD	
222.	Emmanuelle Willis	Upper Marlboro, MD	
223.	joyce akinmade	hyattsvile, MD	
224.	Jacqcar Chevalier	New Carrollton, MD	
225.	George McMillan	Largo, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
226.	sade somber	Oxon hill, MD	
227.	Taiwo Bello	Upper Marlboro, MD	I will be so grateful to get the scholarship and I will use it to register for my classes wisely...Thanks
228.	Toni-ann Sinclair	Hyattsville, MD	
229.	David Washington	Largo, MD	
230.	Karen Lewis	Largo, MD	
231.	Charles Freeman	Mitchellville, MD	Every USA citizen should have a opportunity to get a free college education and it will make the country stronger.
232.	Yolanda Lee	Brandywine, MD	
233.	Bianca Mccoy	Washington, DC	
234.	Lori LaFontaine	Lothian, MD	
235.	Wallace Lassiter	Largo, MD	
236.	Aliya Roseborough	Fort Washington, MD	
237.	Kathy Hofmann	Upper Marlboro, MD	Having the Promise Scholarship at PGCC would give a student, who is willing to work hard, the opportunity and support to complete his or her education without a huge burden of debt after graduating.
238.	Jeniah Richbow	Upper Marlboro, MD	
239.	Ornella Fowler	Bladensburg, MD	
240.	Emerald Wilson	Upper Marlboro, MD	
241.	Adenike Olu-Ayinla	Bladensburg, MD	
243.	Jane Ahamdi	Bowie, MD	This is a great opportunity for everyone especially those who are struggling with tuition. Those who don't qualify for financial aid and therefore forced to pay. Out of pockets. I hope this go through!
244.	Raissa Scott	Lanham, MD	
245.	Maria Thoundayil	Largo, MD	
246.	Ihuoma Chikere	BOWIE, MD	
247.	Vanicia Tambu	Bladensburg, MD	
248.	Tolulope Fashina	Bowie, MD	
249.	Chanler Crawford	Hyattsville, MD	
250.	Daniel Okeke	Lanham, MD	
251.	Deandre Gibson	Clinton, MD	
252.	LaQuita McClurkin	Suitland, MD	I truly hope this petition passes. Higher education is important and free education is needed to help students to strive for their best.
253.	Jackie Phan	Bowie, MD	
254.	Baladji Diakite	Upper Marlboro, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
256.	Kimberly Schell	Capitol Heights, MD	
257.	Clara Holly	Temple Hills, MD	Because tuition cost has been continually rising, and so many students/families cannot afford college, the Prince George's County Promise Scholarship would provide a great opportunity for more students to attend college to better their lives.
258.	Theresa Walker	Largo, MD	
259.	Syed Javed	College Park, MD	
260.	Elijah Etta	Beltsville, MD	Having free Community College could help me and many other students who pay for college out of pocket to balance their life and help them focus on school instead of school and work.
261.	Melissa Robinson	Temple Hills, MD	
262.	Antonio M	riverdale, MD	a better educated population is capable of so much more.
263.	Victoria Proctor	Brentwood, MD	
264.	Yamilet Vivar	Riverdale, MD	
265.	Christian Aguiar	Hyattsville, MD	
266.	Christian Larios	hyattsville, MD	
267.	Ja'Kia Hamilton	College Park, MD	Free College
268.	Jessica Nolasco Garcia	Mount Rainier, MD	
269.	Rashard Travers	Beltsville, MD	
270.	norman gonzalez	hyattsville, MD	
271.	kimberly notice	Lanham, MD	
272.	Kareen Grant	hyattsville, MD	
273.	Adrian Hewitt	District Heights, MD	would be dope
274.	Sofia Ruiz	Hyattsville, MD	
275.	Noelle Coleman	Greenbelt, MD	
276.	Pamela Wilson	Upper Marlboro, MD	
277.	Shannon Reid	Hyattsville, MD	It would be with great gratitude to have scholarship to attend college, because there is a fair amount of people that would love to attend college, but are unable to attend.
278.	Danisha Simms	Bowie, MD	
279.	Ebony Alarape	Laurel, MD	
280.	Daysi Herrera	Largo, MD	
281.	Jose Romero-Velasquez	Largo, MD	
282.	Tytianna Hardy	Huattsvile, MD	
283.	Pedro Saavedra	Mount Rainier, MD	
284.	Kerah Jenkins	Temple hills, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
285.	Jose Vasquez	Adelphi, MD	
286.	David N	Laurel, MD	
287.	Marc Sims	Upper Marlboro, MD	I believe that education should be a right and not a privilege for the very few who can afford it. An education should be an affordable right to all citizens no matter what race, creed or religion. It's important for everyone to have an education because without it our democracy and prosperity would not flourish without it.
288.	Juan Acha-ngwodo	Fort Washington, MD	
289.	Danielle Pittman	Bowie, MD	
290.	Andre Vines	Landover, MD	
291.	ciara robinson	bowie, MD	
292.	Marlin Gutierrez	Hyattsville, MD	
293.	Fernanda altamirano	silver spring, MD	
294.	Shardee' Powell	Apt C, MD	
295.	sumaya naorin	college park, MD	I am highly interest to acheive my degree and more higher education which is hard to afford.
296.	Miss B	Suitland, MD	
297.	Felicia Davenport	Hyattsville, MD	
298.	Nashira Otero	Adelphi, MD	
299.	Chen Boon Fook	SELANGOR, Malaysia	
300.	Sabrina May	Upper Marlboro, MD	Please Help this Petition Many people are struggling with loans. please I recently lose my job and I dont want to stop school because I cant pay. please
301.	George Provido	Upper Marlboro, MD	I agree with this because paying my tuition is very troubling for my mom. Over time, it would only increase which is a bad idea for families living paycheck to paycheck. I just think it should be free or at least a lot cheaper.
302.	Diana Martinez Gonzalez	New Carrollton, MD	
303.	stephanie tchameni	SEABROOK, MD	
304.	ANGEL GUSTAVO BARRERA VENTURA	LANHAM, MD	
305.	Erika Escalante	Riverdale, MD	
306.	Sylvia Anyiam	Laurel, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
307.	Norma Sorto	Hyattsville, MD	
308.	Wendy Alston	Washington, DC	
309.	Madkhal Youssouf	Hyattsville, MD	
310.	Charlemagne Cabayao	Greenbelt, MD	
311.	pamella uzoukwu	lanham, MD	
312.	Aliyah King	Oxon Hill, MD	
313.	Karem Cardwell	Bowie, MD	
314.	Anna Suazo	Mount Rainier, MD	
315.	Jan Marlo Santos	College Park, MD	
316.	Dorrett McFarlane	Burtonsville, MD	
317.	Parys Newman	Fort Washington, MD	
318.	Takeel Hewitt	District heights, MD	
319.	Gloria Belt	Landover, MD	The option to further one's education should be an opportunity afford to everyone, regardless of their economic standing.
320.	Shanelle Wildman	New Carrollton, MD	
321.	Jennifer Turcios	Hyattsville, MD	
322.	Cristopher Hernandez	Lanham, MD	
323.	Aljenyc Polanco	Hyattsville, MD	
324.	Jennifer Flores	Brentwood, MD	
325.	Muhumed Tagouri	bowie, MD	
326.	toni lewis	SEAT PLEASANT, MD	
327.	Jennifer R	BRANDYWINE, MD	
328.	Yesica Herrera	Lanham, MD	
329.	Tangier May	Fort Washington, MD	
330.	jaida jenkins	oxon hill, MD	
331.	Shannon Beafuord	Clinton, MD	
332.	Aleysha Miller	lanham, MD	
333.	jamilla rountree	laurel, MD	
334.	Olivia Morgan	Clinton, MD	
335.	Susan Nandih	Hyattsville, MD	
336.	daichel butler	Clinton, MD	
337.	ELENA HERRERA	Riverdale, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
338.	Travon Edwards	Bowie, MD	
339.	Eboni Scott	Clinton, MD	
340.	Mia Barnes	District Heights, MD	
341.	Ashley S.	captiol heights, MD	There should be no reason that anyone does not have the opportunity to go to school due to the lack of financial funds. If District of Columbia students has the opportunity, Prince George's County should too.
342.	Virginia Melton	Clinton, MD	
343.	Michelle D' Rozario	University Park, MD	
344.	Janaye Dorsey	District Heights, MD	No one should have to give up on their education simply because they can't afford it. As job competition rises, it has become more imperative that community college should be free for all those who are willing to accept the challenge.
345.	Theodora Anderson	Bowie, MD	
346.	Felicia ayanda	upper marlboro, MD	
347.	Diana Hinds	Clinton, MD	Community colleges should be free period. It would ease the burden of students who have to also pay for their bachelor and masters degree. At least America can do this for their students
348.	Carlton Over	Bladensburg, MD	Please, please, please!
349.	Christinea Francis	Mount rainier, MD	
350.	Nicole Jacques	fort washington, MD	Yes It should be free
351.	Kayla Mixon-Donaldson	Lanham, MD	College is essential for our success and our futures. Although it is very important to have education, it is hard to afford sometimes. It is important that we take oppurtunites we get for college to become more affordable.
352.	keyona moore	clinton, MD	
353.	Maria Julia Frank	Bowie, MD	Education should not be restricted because of lack of financial means.
354.	Camille Smith	Oxon Hill, MD	I was one of the individuals that initially helped with conducting research on behalf of PGCC's Promise Scholarship. This is a great opportunities for all!!!!!!!
355.	Danielle King	Clinton, MD	
356.	Hewida Osman	Riverdale, MD	
357.	Petra Sawyer	Laurel, MD	
358.	Ana Juarez	District heights, MD	
359.	james Adebayo	new carrollton, MD	
360.	rachel davis	Hyattsville, MD	
361.	RODRIGO HERNANDEZ	COLLEGE PARK, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
362.	Elefenesh Gizaw	Capitol Heights, MD	
363.	ALIA HASSAN	CLINTON, MD	
364.	adea moore	Ianham, MD	
365.	Ra'Chelle Robinson	Temple Hills, MD	
366.	quentin miner	Ft.Washington, MD	
367.	Cynthia Escobar	Riverdale, MD	
368.	Cindy Hoang	Hyattsville, MD	
369.	Victoria Bradford	Upper Marlboro, MD	
370.	Carlose S	forestville, MD	
371.	John Fofana	New Carrollton, MD	
372.	Iyana W	Seat Pleasant, MD	
373.	Alexus Barard	Accokeek, MD	
374.	Stephanie Moreno	North Beach, MD	
375.	Isaac Portillo	Clinton, MD	
376.	NaTanya Hunter	Glenarden, MD	
377.	Alana Carino	Oxon Hill, MD	
378.	Olushola Omomo	Greenbelt, MD	
379.	Tinuola Aremu	Upper Marlboro, MD	My biggest goal ever is to get a scholarship.
380.	Nathan Smith	Capitol Heights, MD	
381.	Lawrence Brown	Upper Marlboro, MD	
382.	William Barnett	Clinton, MD	
383.	Jennifer Delgado	College Park, MD	
384.	Girma Mengesha	silver spring, MD	
385.	Alecia W	Ianham, MD	
386.	Paulette Gilling	Capitol Heights, MD	
387.	Laquetta Jackson	Upper Marlboro, MD	
388.	Nightinghale Bale	laurel, MD	
390.	Musa Barry	Upper Marlboro, MD	
391.	Ebi Offor	Lanham, MD	
392.	Rachael Taylor	upper marlboro, MD	
393.	Derara W.	beltsville, MD	
395.	Hiwot Robi	Bowie, MD	
396.	Eduardo Martinez	Riverdale, MD	
397.	Brooke Johnson	Temple Hills, MD	
398.	Jahmari Samuel	Laurel, MD	
399.	tyja germain	upper marlboro, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
400.	mehmet naz	Ianham, MD	
403.	Oluwagbemibori Adeyemi	Clinton, MD	
404.	Tanaa Bell	New Carrollton, MD	
405.	Jadon Ware	Brandywine, MD	
406.	Jazmine hester	District Heights, MD	
407.	Willie Smith	Suitland, MD	
408.	Jennifer Martinez	Hyattsville, MD	I believe that free community college will make an impact in communities everywhere. If community college was free, there would be less drop out rates and an increase in attendance.
409.	Brendan Vermillion	Lanham, MD	
410.	Samora Pulliam	Upper Marlboro, MD	
411.	Samantha Boone	upper malboro, MD	
412.	Michaela B.	Fort Washington, MD	With the rising cost of tuition all across the country for private and public institutions, free community college will have such a great and significant impact for those who may not have the affordability to attend college. I believe it will increase the percentages for college graduates and also opens the door for people to may have not attended college at all or dropped out, a second chance. Hopefully and prayerfully this petition can help to bring about a change!
413.	Cheri Godje	Capital Heights, MD	
414.	Eugene Waldon	Upper Marlboro, MD	
415.	Hannah Pacoli	Upper Marlboro, MD	my mother is paying alone for my college tuitions and its a heavy load on her
416.	Terin Collins-Nelson	Temple Hills, MD	Their are many great minds denied their full potential due to poverty
417.	Maisha Copeland	Bowie, MD	
418.	Sean Crymes	Upper Marlboro, MD	
419.	nicholas Burns	clinton, MD	
420.	Jabari Turner	Temple Hills, MD	
421.	Jaida E	Bowie, MD	
422.	Xemena Thompson	Bowie, MD	
423.	Tamica Anderson	Great Mills, MD	
424.	Ante Essang	Temple Hills, MD	
425.	Shara Belton	UPPER MARLBORO, MD	
426.	Latrese Thomas	fort washington, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
427.	Kiada Robinson	Riverdale, MD	
428.	Keyani Payton	Hyattsville, MD	
429.	Jorge Vasquez	Hyattsville, MD	This is such a financial opportunity to the many families suffering from financial hardships that cannot afford to pay for tuition, books,etc. In addition this provides students with a bigger opportunity to excel in life.
430.	Lesa Clark	Glennedale, MD	
431.	Crystal Smith	Adelphi, MD	
432.	Naze Malone	Oxon Hill, MD	I am 100% with this Petition, as a student it is hard to pay for classes and with assistant its hard to pay back.
433.	Kilani Curtis-Gentry	Oxon Hill, MD	free college tuition for all!!!!!!
434.	Emmarie Comaad	Hyattsville, MD	
435.	Catherine Owusu-Brinfour	Bowie, MD	Though I am not in High School anymore (sadly :l ), I cannot be a recipient to be able to get this scholarship opportunity. But I would not want someone who is willing to go to college to not be able to because of finances. I would want this scholarship opportunity to be available so that whoever needs it can benefit greatly. If there was a college version for this (for non-qualified financial aid students) that would be amazing. But this is good too.
436.	felicia nwangwu	district heights, MD	Yes, Make life easier
437.	Samaya Miner	Fort Washington, MD	
438.	Marie Grace KIBAMBA	Takoma park, MD	
439.	Nic Arlene Cabrera	Oxon Hill, MD	
440.	Maya McLin	Upper Marlboro, MD	
441.	Dennis Eichler	Lanham, MD	
442.	Jada Burroughs	Hyattsville, MD	
443.	Tasha Coates	Hillcrest Heights, MD	
444.	Sharon Osano	Greenbelt, MD	
445.	Aneirra Coates	Washington DC, DC	
446.	Cecelia Knox	Largo, MD	
447.	Crystal Smith	Upper Marlboro, MD	Affordable Education will allow everyone an opportunity to provide for their families.
448.	Lindsay McCreary	Bowie, MD	
449.	Kathryn Bowlin	Easton, MD	
450.	tolu odumade	laurel, MD	hopefully this is granted
451.	Edwyn Alvarado	Hyattsville, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
452.	Atenéia Araújo	Campina Grande, Brazil	
453.	malik Johnson	Cheltenham, MD	
454.	Christina Stancil	Accokeek, MD	
455.	Dinah Carter	Temple Hills, MD	
456.	Pauline Y.	Bowie, MD	
457.	Ngozi Lucky-Alozie	Takoma Park, MD	
458.	Austin Lytle	Bowie, MD	
459.	Tibebe Hailegebriel	NEWCAROLLTON, MD	
460.	Linda Denson	Columbia, MD	
461.	charles moukoury	Ianham, MD	
462.	Maevelyn Doral	Fort Washington, MD	
463.	Oluwaseyi Dedeigbo	landover, MD	
464.	Jeremiah Holmes	Kettering, MD	
465.	Kelsey Burnett	Upper Marlboro, MD	
466.	EDWIGE HYOUSSEU	LAUREL, MD	
467.	pamela davis	bowie, MD	
468.	Ebonie Elum	Capitol Heights, MD	
469.	Martin Pickett	District Heights, MD	
470.	Abdul Zadran	Bowie, MD	
471.	Oluwaseun Adejuwon	Laurel, MD	
472.	RICHARD ARNAUD Djiekoua yossa	Greenbelt, MD	
473.	Jerry Harris	Capitol Heights, MD	
474.	Danielle Howard	Upper Marlboro, MD	
475.	Janelle Jacobs	Camp Springs, MD	
476.	Titee Wesseh	Laurel, MD	
477.	sham abraham	greenbelt, MD	
478.	Anneisha Whitehead	waldorf, MD	
479.	Jada Mitchell	Oxon Hill, MD	
480.	timothy harvey	suitland, MD	
481.	Gary Washington	Bowie, MD	



	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
510.	Rodney Rice	Fort Washington, MD	
511.	Monica White	Landover, MD	
512.	stefan choh	Greenbelt, MD	
513.	Finda Sharpe	Largo, MD	This is the United States of America, college should be free for its citizens.
514.	Lorenzo Nesbitt	Hyattsville, MD	
515.	Sandra A	bowie, MD	
516.	Shantel Morris	Washington, DC	
517.	Jada Arenas	Capitol heights, MD	
518.	Michael Riddick	Clinton, MD	
519.	brandon byrd	fort washington, MD	
520.	Alfred Ainooson	Hyattsville, MD	that a great idea
521.	DeAndre Lewis	Temple Hills, MD	I think this is a great opportunity for students in general. Education should'nt be something your stressing constantly about because you can't pay for. Education should never be a bill. Its a conspiracy!! I hope this works out because it'll help out alot.
522.	Jalen Dreher	glenn dale, MD	
523.	Kelin Bonilla	Landover, MD	
524.	joseph mihanda	temple hills, MD	
525.	Andrae Cadogan	Greenbelt, MD	
526.	Javonne Briscoe	Washington, DC	I'm for free college in general. we shouldn't have to go into serious debt to become better people and exceptional members of society.
527.	Tyler Dutch	District Heights, MD	
528.	Maria Lin	Bowie, MD	
529.	James A	Lanham, MD	this has to happen
530.	samuel oriloye	Lanham, MD	
531.	Juan De La Cruz	Bowie, MD	
532.	Jawaun Lewis	Brandywine, MD	I agree with the statement that higher education becomes more affordable and more accessible for more students to become well educated and trained. There are so many of us who would sell the shirt right off our back to pay for school. This is how much we need the help!!!
533.	Davon Little	Hyattsville, MD	FREE EDUCATION
534.	Joana Wall	Beltsville, MD	Education has consistently been shown to improve the lives of those who have the means and opportunity to obtain an education. It is imperative that everyone who is interested in attending community college be given the tools and financial assistance necessary to attend community college. A better educated constituency only strengthens our society as a whole.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
535.	Danielle Jackson	Laurel, MD	
536.	Katana Robinson	Bowie, MD	
537.	Lilian Umana	Brentwood, MD	
538.	Anthony Byrd	Upper Marlboro, MD	
539.	JOHNICE PROCTOR	TEMPLE HILLS, MD	
540.	Breona Sands	District Heights, MD	
541.	Grace Avalos	Hyattsville, MD	
542.	Tiana Slade	fort washington, MD	
543.	Vincent Ogida Jr	Mitchellville, MD	
544.	Mesha Persaud	Clinton, MD	
545.	wendy turcios	greenbelt, MD	
546.	Tanise Bing	District Heights, MD	Please help change the world!
547.	Ahmani Morgan	Bowie, MD	Everyone should be able to have a chance at furthering their education without being discouraged because they cant afford to go to school.
548.	Ivette Magana	Fort Washington, MD	
549.	Henry Nguyen	Bowie, MD	
550.	Tramaine Whitehead	District Heights, MD	
551.	Hermann Neugang Neugang	Hyattsville, MD	
552.	olu ade	hyattsville, MD	
553.	Onyekachukwu Azih	Lanham, MD	
554.	Rashidat Azeez	bladenburg, MD	
555.	Christian Roncal	Bowie, MD	
556.	Olivia Stevens	Fort Washington, MD	
557.	Gary Flores	Hyattsville, MD	
558.	Dominique Johnson	Fort Washington, MD	
559.	Rita Offodile	Uppermarlboro, MD	I leave in PG county, i pay my tax, why should i now be paying so much to educate myself.
560.	Nicole Pillor	Landover, MD	
561.	Kyle Koelzer	New Carrollton, MD	
562.	Jasmine Brunson	Glenarden, MD	I currently attend Prince George's community college and I believe it would be such a benefit to students to have free tuition. I wont rethink going straight to a university after <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
562.	Jasmine Brunson	Glenarden, MD	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> getting my associates degree because I would have had 2-3 years to financially equip myself to attend a 4 year school.
563.	Jasmine Middleton	College Park, MD	
564.	Kamri Pinkney	Temple Hills, MD	
565.	iliana Navarro	Mounter Rainer, MD	
566.	Marcos Pomales	Bowie, MD	sure
567.	Zohra Nasar	College Park, MD	
568.	Nicole Cummings	Bowie, MD	
569.	Alliene Gale	Clinton, MD	
570.	DeAndre Mines	Greenbelt, MD	
571.	jessica c	Hyattsville, MD	
572.	Tamara Wilson	Oxon Hill, MD	We need this!!!!!!
573.	Christopher Davis	Bowie, MD	
574.	Adrian Dillon	Hyattsville, MD	
575.	Stephanie Borjas	Bladensburg, MD	
576.	Catrina Brown	Landover, MD	
577.	jamiel perry	greenbelt, MD	Why not ! Tuition is one of the biggest reasons why my people do not want to continue there education after high school.
578.	Angela Davis	Temple Hills, MD	
579.	Christina Long	District Heights, MD	Community college helps us get our foot in the door and opens our minds to our future.
580.	Pamelia M	waldorf, MD	
581.	Alisha Madden	Oxon Hill, MD	
582.	Anna Richardson	Forestville, MD	I want our young people to get an education and not have to spend their life paying for it.
583.	Andrea Hernandez Cruz	College park, MD	
584.	Shonez Terry	Fort Washington, MD	
585.	Neya Abdosh	Upper Marlboro, MD	
586.	Luis Aguirre-Henriquez	SUITLAND, MD	
587.	Gabrielle Lemmon	Landover, MD	
588.	Melina Sot	fort washington, MD	
589.	Zaira Amaya	Hyattsville, MD	
590.	christina chuba	laurel, MD	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
591.	Tatyanna Richardson	Largo, MD	
592.	Nang Hai Chen	SELANGOR, Malaysia	
593.	Iris Barrios-Vasquez	Landover Hills, MD	I believe education is important. I currently work full time and take classes at PGCC at Night. I have Managed to maintain a 3.75 GPA. We need Free Community College
594.	Yanci Gamez	Hyattsville, MD	
595.	Kevin Stith	Clinton, MD	
596.	Ganiu Oladipo	New Carrollton, MD	
597.	Akua Codrington	Baltimore, MD	
598.	Donecia Dunk	District Heights, MD	
599.	Kiara Duncan	Bowie, MD	
600.	Jonathan Fernandez	Accokeek, MD	
601.	Johannah Azurin	Fort Washington, MD	
602.	Arthur Powell	Upper Marlboro, MD	
603.	Alicia Baker	Jessup, MD	



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

**PROMISE**  
*Scholarship*

Report of the  
Task Force to Study a  
Promise Scholarship Program  
in Prince George's County  
Submitted to Maryland General Assembly  
and County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III  
December 21, 2016

HB1087/Ch. 647, 2016 (MSAR #10884)