



Annual Update 2014

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About the Foundation

Mission: The Change Create Transform Foundation believes in a holistic model anchored in universal values –

- A world in which people have the power and opportunity to utilize their full potential and gifts.
- We realize this through our work with education, community, and leadership oriented missions and organizations.

The Change Create Transform Foundation provides ongoing support to foster relationships through a vibrant network of Academic Partnerships and Promise Prize Scholars to recognize and reward academic excellence and encourage leadership, scholarship, service and philanthropy. The Foundation was founded in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) Private Foundation. It includes a twelve-member Board of Advisors, including independent volunteers and Promise Prize Scholars, as well as a Faculty Council consisting of representatives from Academic Partners.

Promise Prize Scholar Objective: To promote learning and scholarship through educational support of new leaders who will actively participate in and serve their communities.

ACADEMIC PARTNERS & SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

- Bronx Community College
- College of Mount Saint
- Montclair State
- Project GRAD- Newark, NJ
- Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville
- SUNY Buffalo Law School
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Iowa
- University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

**49 PROMISE PRIZE SCHOLARS GRANTED
&
\$227,500 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED***

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014

*includes scholarships granted beginning in 2002 before formalizing the Foundation in 2010.

OUR COMMUNITY

Members of the Board of Advisors, Faculty Council and Foundation Support Staffing are a community who share responsibilities, while acting in the best interests of the Change Create Transform Foundation, our Academic Partners, and student Scholars. Each community member commits to participate and engage based on his experience and vantage point. Our strength lies in our diversity, ability to participate authentically, listen actively and grow courageously.

Academic Focus of The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize

The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize is awarded annually to graduate and undergraduate students who have achieved academic excellence demonstrated by the highest grade point average in their cohort. Scholarships are awarded at colleges and universities around the country who are Academic Partners to the Change Create Transform Foundation. Generally one \$5,000 or two \$2,500 scholarships are granted annually per Academic Partner.

Scholars – *Change* the Playing Field

The primary purpose of the Promise Prize Scholarship and Program is to support exceptional students in completing their academic program and achieving life and career success. Other benefits include:

- **Financial Support:** A meaningful grant that Scholars utilize to meet a variety of financial needs in support of their education.
- **Leadership Development:** The Annual Promise Prize Scholar Summit in New York is a leadership development program. Scholars participate in orientation, as well as leadership and academic training and development, led and informed by experienced executives, academics and leaders.
- **Promise Prize Scholar Network:** A network for academic and career success, as well as mentoring and support, Scholars are members for life. Scholars make a moral commitment to service, leadership and participation by agreeing to a Scholar Statement of Understanding.
- **Community Building:** An opportunity is offered for Scholars to engage in networking, service and volunteering, while developing important relationships.

Guidelines and Process for Selection

- Awards are based upon academic achievement and promise, as demonstrated through the highest grade point average. Once students are selected based upon grade point average, they are screened for demonstrated leadership, scholarship, initiative, service, and promise.
- Academic Partners make a commitment to support the granting process for a specially selected academic program and course of study. Sustainability and commitment are key requirements of Academic Partners.

Academic Partners - *Create* Opportunities for Student Success

Empowered and centered at the campus level, Academic Partners collaborate with the Foundation to customize student focused programs to align with their specific mission, needs and goals. Academic institutions benefit in the following ways:

- **Expand Student Recruitment and Retention** by attracting and supporting underrepresented high performing students.
- **Strengthen Academic Excellence** by creating a program that focuses on academic achievement, motivation and student outcomes.
- **Enhance Institutional Advancement** by creating a framework that sets an example. This attracts and engages donors, while developing a strong affinity between Scholars and their alma mater.

Donor and Supporters - *Transform* Lives to Make a Difference

By offering resources and support, donors and supporters help transform lives. This makes possible scholarships and unique scholar programs which:

- **Develop Future Leaders**
- **Champion Academic Excellence and Diversity**
- **Address Social Responsibility**
- **Improve Student Outcomes**
- **Increase Graduation Success Rates**
- **Elevate Workplace Capabilities**
- **Contribute to a Strong Workforce**

Marie Nesbitt
Promise Prize
Scholars



Derrick Johnson



Elena Paulino



Josh Netter



Siana McLean



Kojo Wallace



Aaron Miles



Stacey Carter



Malcolm Minor



Alanda Alexandre



Jarea Bivens



Monique Blackwood



Sebastian Rothwyn



Melanie Johnson



Nathan Lake



Roslyn Gillespie



Mark Smith



Chidera Atuegbu



Kenneth Bostick



Jennifer Haywood



Christopher Bryant



Josephine Floyd



Duwaine Bascoe



Rodnika Carter



Ian Findlay



Latoya Bracewell



Terrence Coffie



Natalie Setoute



Shawn Lackerson



Stephanie Fox



JP Ninteretse



Vanessa Glushefski



Sylvea Hollis



Aziza Ingram



Sara Valencia



Chanerra Tillies



Micca Corbett



Zipporah Moultrie



Ryan Leonard



Kache Claytor



Mary Adeleke

Not Pictured:

Eliana Amarante-Reynoso Mohamed Camara Daquan Estevez Noelle Green Miles Gresham
Ashley Johnson Veronica Johnson Pamela Schaller Marcos Argenis Sosa

Faculty Council Commitments

- Guide the Foundation toward mission relevant strategic imperatives to improve student outcomes and promote scholarship
- Build the bridge between Academic Partners and Scholars to enhance Scholar leadership, academics, and service
- Ensure programming that improves academic excellence
- Provide advice and support to Scholars, Academic Partners, the Foundation and its Board of Advisors



Co-Chair



Co-Chair



Dr. Horace Porter, PhD Yale, is the F. Wendell Miller Professor of English & American Studies, and chair of The University of Iowa’s Department of American and African American Studies. He has served on the faculties of Wayne State University, Dartmouth, University College, and Stanford. He published *Stealing the Fire: The Art and Protest of James Baldwin*, and is one of the editors of *Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition*, *Jazz Country: Ralph Ellison in America*, and a memoir, *The Making of a Black Scholar*.

Dr. Marcia Cantarella, MA, PhD, NYU, is expert on college success, access and diversity. Author, blogger, consultant and speaker, she specializes in strategy, program creation and communications in higher education, specializing in outcomes. She published, “I CAN Finish College: the Overcome Any Obstacle and Get Your Degree Guide”, from her experience at Hunter, Princeton, NYU, and Metropolitan College of New York. She is experienced in marketing, communications, financial, and strategic planning from her years at Avon Products.

Dr. Agatha E. Jeffers, CPA, is Professor, Accounting, Law & Taxation at Montclair State University, teaching International Accounting, Auditing, and Financial and Management Accounting. She has worked in public accounting in New York City and served for over 7 years in the Ministry of Finance for the Governments of the countries of Nevis & St. Kitts, and at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. Dr. Jeffers has published over 25 peer-reviewed publications in the past 5 years. She represents Montclair State at the African American Caucus on the President's Commission on Affirmative Action and Diversity.

Anjana Malhotra, JD, is SUNY Buffalo Law School, Associate Professor. She taught at the Seattle University School of Law as the Fred T. Korematsu Clinical Fellow. A graduate of Duke University and NYU School of Law, she clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in Los Angeles, and worked at Human Rights Watch and the ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project. Professor Malhotra has worked for Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss, and as a research strategist and organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Jeffrey Wisotsky, MFA Columbia, BFA, CCNY Picker Film Institute, is Director, CAS Media and Digital Film Production, Communications Arts and Sciences Professor, CUNY, Bronx Community College. Member, Directors Guild of America, he brings talent in documentary, industrial and fiction directing. A Senior Producer & Director for NYC winning the National Kodak Teenage Movie Award for his first film, and New York Emmy Award nominations for Jerry Orbach’s, *Smooth Operator*, and *The Blue Devils Come Home*, a Telly Awards Best Documentary, including the Cableace Award winning children’s series, *On the Edge*, and his dramatic film *Housing Project, USA*.

Board of Advisor Commitments

- Strategically lead , guide and plan, to ensure mission consistency, program relevance, operating efficiency, financial responsibility, and sustainability
- Based upon a community building model, act as Ambassadors , while setting an example of service and philanthropy
- With a belief in values based leadership, nurture a culture that develops people, organizations and communities

Vikki Pryor, Founder and President

Ms. Pryor is the founder of the Change Create Transform Foundation. She is Principal, Change Create Transform, LLC. Ms. Pryor was the first African American woman CEO of a life insurance company and has over 20 years senior executive experience. Ms. Pryor has B.A and a J.D. from SUNY Buffalo and an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a CPA, CLU and ChFC and is admitted to practice law in New York and Illinois. She received honorary doctorates from The College of Mount Saint Vincent, Sacred Heart University, the Dean’s Medal from SUNY Buffalo Law School and the Presidential Medallion from Bronx Community College.

Laura Ballori

Ms. Ballori holds a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University, and a Masters of Arts from the Tisch School at New York University. In addition to her experience in asset management and fundraising for non-profits, Ms. Ballori is a member of the board of the New York State Council on the Arts, the Children’s Foundation, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico.

Monique Blackwood

Ms. Blackwood graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Economics and from SUNY Buffalo Law School with a J.D. She is been admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey. Ms. Blackwood is pursuing a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration at Stony Brook University and was awarded the Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize in 2003; she continues to serve as program leader. Her deep commitment to the law, people, church and community is evident, with years of public and community service.

Marcia Cantarella

Dr. Marcia Cantarella has a Masters and Ph.D. from New York University. An expert in academic advisement, career development, preparation for post-graduate fellowships, development of diversity programs, and strategies to generally enhance student’s academic experience and outcomes, she recently wrote a book, “I CAN Finish College: the Overcome Any Obstacle and Get Your Degree Guide”, based on her experience at Hunter College, Princeton University, New York University, and Metropolitan College of New York. Dr. Cantarella has fifteen years of corporate marketing, communications, financial, and strategic planning experience from her years at Avon Products. She is considered an expert in fundraising, philanthropy, leadership, entrepreneurship, work and family issues, and diversity.

Maryann Coffey

Dr. Maryann Coffey has a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, with expertise in psychology and human talent. She has held leadership positions with the University of Pittsburgh, Princeton University, The Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and the National Conference for Community and Justice. Dr. Coffey has been an educational consultant, a faculty member and held extensive positions in higher education and in the not-for-profit sectors.

Anthony Epps

Mr. Epps is CEO A.G.Epps Financial group. An accomplished financial and risk management executive with two decades in financial services, he served as an entrepreneur and officer with a global insurance company where he assisted in managing the growth of four New York sales offices with approximately 700 financial advisors. With a record for creating differentiated programs, products and marketing tools, he is a trusted advisor to business owners, corporate executives, high net worth customers, and public and private institutions. His success formula includes his performance as a team leader and advisor, and a reputation for building trusted relationships.

Board of Advisors

Ian J. Findlay

Mr. Findlay is President of The Crown Phoenix Group, a company which specializes in music and film production. He wrote, directed, and produced his first short movie, 12 + 2, which won four awards at the Bronx Community College 2012 Annual Film Festival. While a student at Bronx Community College, he held the position of President of the Media Technology Film Society Club, worked as an administrative assistant part time, and was selected as a 2012 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize Scholar. Mr. Findlay is a published author and is continuing to produce music and movies to impact the world in a positive way.

Derrick Johnson

Mr. Johnson is an American photographer and entrepreneur. He is founder of Derrick Johnson Media, LLC and BONIFACE Magazine an online magazine targeted to multi-cultural females ages 14-21. He studied at Bronx Community College majoring in television broadcasting and mass communications, where he was president of the Black Student Union and received the 2010 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize. Mr. Johnson is an alumnus at the Fashion Institute of Technology where he received "The Educational Foundation for the Fashion Industries Award" and a degree in Photography in 2002. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Divinity at NYU and serves as a mentor for the Eagle Academy.

Joshua Netter

Mr. Netter is an Associate Treasury Analyst at Aon Corporation. His previous experience includes Research & Statistics Summer Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Research Assistant at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In addition to the 2007 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize, Mr. Netter received the UIC Presidents Award, the UIC Honors College Tuition Waiver, and Dean's List every semester. He earned a B.A. in Economics in December 2011, Summa Cum Laude, Highest Distinction, and with University Honors from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Elena Paulino

Ms. Paulino is an In-Store Facilitator for Whole Foods, after rapidly moving through the ranks as a customer service supervisor. She is a 2011 recipient of the Promise Prize at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, where she received a BA in History and Special Education. Ms. Paulino is a devoted community advocate and volunteer and did over three years of internships at various educational institutions. She is now volunteering with City Harvest, Part of the Solution, and New York Cares.

Sebastian Rothwyn

Mr. Rothwyn is an award winning film maker and Media Director at Rothwyn Media. He has held positions with Gaming Magazine, Golden Eye Investments LLC, JP Morgan Chase and Pierson Education in the areas of media, technology and promotional design and development. Serving in the Army National Guard for several years, Mr. Rothwyn is the 2013 recipient of the Promise Prize at Bronx Community College where he received an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Media Technology, and Digital Film Production.

Kojo Wallace

Mr. Wallace is pursuing his M.D. degree at Mount Sinai School of Medicine while remaining involved in community activities including First Generation Scholars Program and the Student National Medical Association. He earned an A.S. at Bronx Community College before transferring to Cornell University, receiving his B.S. in Plant Science in 2010. He was President of the Lambda Nu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and International student coordinator of "Friends of Ghana.", and he was honored as a named "Cornell Tradition Fellow". Mr. Wallace is a native of Ghana and a 2008 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize Scholar.

About Marie Nesbitt

The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize was first established in 2002 by Vikki L. Pryor, Founder and President, Change Create Transform Foundation. The Prize was created in memory of Pryor's grandmother, Marie Nesbitt.

Marie Nesbitt was born on August 16, 1917, in Clearwater, Florida, and raised in South Carolina. A great granddaughter of slaves, Nesbitt's formal education stopped at the third grade. At the tender age of 14 she became a single mother, and shortly after traveled to find work in Philadelphia, finally settling in Chicago. Having experienced the Great Depression, World War II, as well as the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, Nesbitt was a woman of strong opinions and deeply held principles. During her lifetime she held jobs from domestic worker to welder and shipping clerk. Despite her limited formal education, she was an accomplished writer, photographer, chef, and an avid reader. Nesbitt's church and family were central to her life. She cared for and raised many relatives along with others who passed through her home.

An inspiration to her family and friends, she taught everyone she touched to reach for the stars, do their best, trust in God, stand up for what they believe in and most of all, to never give up. The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize is an ongoing recognition of an extraordinary woman, and others like her. It is a living tribute to how they live their lives, the principles for which they stand, and why this work must go on.



Marie Nesbitt 1953

About Change Create Transform LLC

Change Create Transform LLC, is the premiere platform for access to the world's thought leaders for innovation, problem solving and idea generation. Using the intellectual capital of an experienced Expert Platform, the **ExpertTerre™** we help businesses, organizations, entrepreneurs, and individuals, succeed and grow through services offered at the C-Suite level. We enable useful access and connections that leverage and develop intelligence, creativity, wisdom and experience to create progress with profits.

- **ChangeFormation™** - Effectively manage your business by setting expectations and measuring success in the near term.
- **TransStrategy™** - Sustainably grow your business and successfully make a breakthrough transformation for the future.
- **FounderCreate™** - Strategy and planning for entrepreneurs
- **TalkChange™** - Presentations that inform, motivate and inspire
- **The ExpertTerre™** - Helps businesses, organizations and individuals succeed and grow

To learn more, visit us at www.changecreate.com.



Vikki Pryor, Public Board Director and CEO, founded Change Create Transform LLC to provide businesses and individuals a fresh approach to thought leadership, problem-solving and idea generation. She oversees innovation, strategy, planning, sales, business development, and partnership generation. Vikki's thirty years of experience in healthcare, insurance, marketing, operations, technology and branding, provide her with access to the world's leading experts on the foremost current global topics. In addition to twenty years of senior executive experience, including eleven years as a CEO of a mid-sized life insurance company, Vikki has a JD, MBA, and is a CPA. She has served on many boards and is involved in business and philanthropic efforts in communities across the country.



change create transform®
foundation

Working Together

