

## MARIE NESBITT PROMISE PRIZE SCHOLAR STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

### History

The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize was first established in 2002 and was incorporated into the Change Create Transform Foundation in 2010. As of 2016 there are 67 Promise Prize Scholars from various colleges and universities around the country. Created in memory of Marie Nesbitt, students are selected by faculty and staff at each school, based upon high scholastic achievement, outstanding character, and exceptional promise.

Marie Nesbitt was born on August 16, 1917, in Clearwater, Florida and raised in South Carolina. A great granddaughter of slaves, her education stopped at the 3rd grade. At the tender age of 14 she became a single mother, and as a young woman traveled to find work in Philadelphia and finally Chicago. She experienced the Great Depression, Jim Crow, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. Marie Nesbitt was a woman of strong opinions and deeply held principles. A field worker, domestic, welder and shipping clerk, she used her precious spare time as an avid reader, writer, photographer, chef, homemaker, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her church and family were central to her life and she cared for and raised many relatives and others who passed through her home. An activist, feminist, humanitarian, and talented public speaker, Marie Nesbitt was an inspiration to family and friends. She taught everyone she touched to reach for the stars, do their best, trust in God, stand up for their beliefs, and most of all, to never give up. The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize is a tribute to an extraordinary woman and others like her. Each Promise Prize Scholar is chosen to continue a tradition of excellence and courage.

### Mission and Purpose

The purpose of the Promise Prize is to recognize, encourage and celebrate academic excellence, leadership, community service and promise among American students of African descent. Leadership and academic excellence are broad themes and the Promise Prize seeks to include a wide diversity of talent and skills. Selection into the Promise Prize Scholar community provides the opportunity to network, learn, grow, give back, and be acknowledged for high scholarship, outstanding character, and exceptional promise.

Once selected, Promise Prize Scholars are members for life and will participate in activities to promote their development, as well as provide a platform to be of service to their broader communities and schools. In addition to being recognized at an appropriate event at their school or in their community, each Scholar receives a scholarship, and has the honor of awarding the Prize to an incoming Scholar in the years following their receipt of the Prize.

To earn the Promise Prize, a student's record must demonstrate superior academic achievement, as reflected by:

- Grade point average
- Intellectual curiosity
- Resilience
- Courage
- Other indicators of future promise

### The Promise

Promise Prize Scholars are leaders who actively participate in the world and serve their communities. Scholars make a moral and ethical commitment to:

- Mentor and Develop the Next Set of Leaders

- Promote Learning and Scholarship
- Give back to their Community and School
- Actively Participate in the Promise Prize Scholar Network

It is expected that a Promise Prize Scholar will:

1. Uphold high standards, values and character that reflect positively for the Scholar, his/her alma mater, community and the Change Create Transform Foundation.
2. Maintain a superior record of academic performance.
3. Participate in campus, community, and service activities.
4. Attend on and off campus gatherings to publicly accept the Promise Prize Scholarship.
5. Remain involved as alumnus at one's alma mater, after graduation.

### Scholar Engagement

Every Promise Prize Scholar is encouraged to:

1. Provide biographical and contact information to the Foundation office upon acceptance of the Promise Prize.
2. Participate in an orientation program sponsored by the Foundation, welcoming them to the Promise Prize Scholar community and to participate in the Scholar Network. (Expenses are provided by the Academic Partner as a part of the scholarship package for the first year orientation only).
3. Attend Promise Prize Scholar meetings and Summits.
4. Keep biographical and contact information up to date with the Foundation office.
5. Promptly respond to all Scholar communications from the Foundation office.
6. Remain connected and involved with the Promise Prize Scholar Network.
7. Serve as a mentor for other Promise Prize Scholars.

Acknowledged and Accepted:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

