

## 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 2021 there are 105 **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 Kingstree, 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 as a young woman traveled to find work in Philadelphia and finally Chicago. Having lived through the Great Depression, World War II, and the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras, 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 a great inspiration to her family, friends, and community. She taught everyone she touched to reach for the stars by doing their best, to trust in God, to 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 may receive a financial grant, participate in the **Promise Prize®** Scholar Summits, 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 | Service | 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:

**Lifetime Learning and Scholarship | Personal and Professional Development of Self and Others  
Give back to their Community and School | Actively Participate in the Promise Prize® Scholar Network**

It is expected that **Promise Prize®** Scholars will:

1. Uphold high standards, values, and character which reflect positively for the Scholar, their alma mater, the 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®** Award.
5. Remain involved as alumnus at one's alma mater after graduation.

## Promise Prize® Scholar Benefits

1. Direct Financial Grant in first year of selection
2. Financial Grant by Academic Partner to attend Initial Leadership Summit
3. New Scholar Orientation
4. Learning Webinars and Leadership Development Programs
5. Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities
6. Lifetime Member of the Promise Prize® Scholar Network

## Promise Prize® Scholar Engagement

**Promise Prize® Scholars** are 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®** 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 programs, 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.

## Acknowledged and Accepted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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

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

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

Permanent Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

College /University: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Other Information

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