



change  
create  
transform®  
foundation



# 100+ Strong !

2019 and 2020  
Years In Review

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**Successes | 90% Graduation Rate**

Social Workers | Teachers | Writers | Visionaries  
Photographers | Activists | Fulbright Scholar Scientists |  
Lawyers | Change Agents | Surgeon | Accountants  
Economists | Athletes | Musicians | Artists | Business Experts  
Academics | Builders | Policy Makers | Entrepreneurs  
Engineers | Trailblazers | Photographers | Linguists  
Volunteers | Leaders | Global Citizens

## 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. The Change Create Transform Foundation realizes this through our work with education, community, and leadership-oriented missions and organizations.

## Impact

2020 and 2019 has been opportune to support literacy, scholarship and leadership with grants to six non-profits and nine academic institutions. Five new Promise Prize® Scholars were inducted in 2020 and twelve were inducted in 2019. 2020's Virtual Programs allowed Scholars to explore career management, financial literacy, and offered support and connections during the pandemic. 2019's in-person Leadership Summit afforded new and Alumni Scholars the opportunity to examine the intersection of culture, history, business and leadership in Chicago. With beginnings in 2002, we have 105 Alumni Scholars who are invited to attend and participate as a part of our Ambassador Cabinet and Board of Advisors.

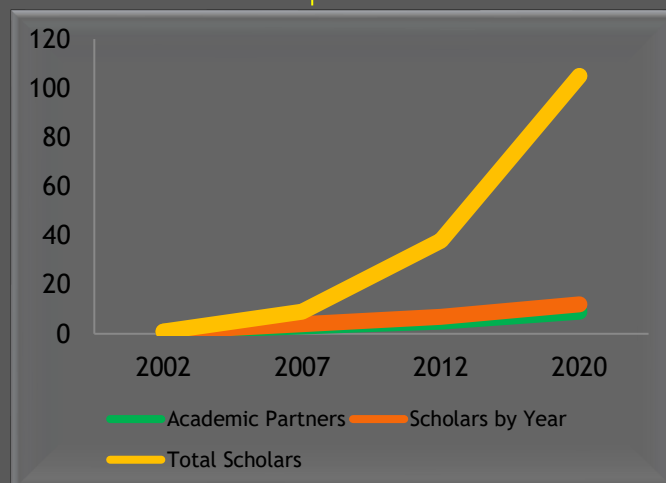
## History

The Change Create Transform Foundation was founded in 2010 as a 501(c) (3) Private Foundation. We partner with and recognize individuals and organizations pursuing growth through goodwill in their commitment to education, community and leadership. Grants are made by invitation only.

By offering resources and support, donors and supporters help *transform* lives. Although we do not actively solicit, we gratefully accept donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteers.

EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP

ACADEMICS  
ACHIEVEMENT  
SUCCESS



# Leadership



## Faculty Council



**Jessica Harris, Ph.D**  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville  
Chair



**Jeffrey Wisotsky, MFA**  
Bronx Community College



**Erick Leggans, Ph.D**  
Grinnell College



**Faith Taylor, Ph.D**  
MBA  
Montclair State University



**Charles Menifield, Ph.D**  
Rutgers University - Newark



**Tolulope Adunsi, JD**  
University at Buffalo School of Law



**Horace Porter, Ph.D**  
University of Iowa (Ret.)  
Chair Emeritus



**Damani Phillips, D. Mus**  
University of Iowa



**Jane Rhodes, Ph.D**  
University of Illinois at Chicago



**Sheneeta White, Ph.D, MBA**  
University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis



**Monique Blackwood, JD, MA**  
University at Buffalo School of Law '02  
Scholar Representative

## Ambassador Cabinet



**Jordan Pinnix '16, Chair** | Emmanuel Adu Poku '16 | Minu Bidzimou '16 | Olivia Hettman '18 | Sylvea Hollis, PhD '12  
Simone Richardson '19 | Canisha Russ '17 | Sara Valencia '05 | Christian Watts '17

## Board of Advisors & Officers



**Vikki Pryor, JD, MBA, CPA, President** | Monique Blackwood, JD, MA '03 | Marcia Cantarella, PhD | Stephanie Fox '12  
Tom Grayman, MBA | Joseph Leake | Jay Morris, PhD, JD, MBA | Joshua Netter '10 | Dana LaCondre Nugent, MBA, CPA '15  
Samuel Osaro '16 | Jordan Pinnix '16 | Daniel V. Parker, Sr., Sec'y & Treasurer | Horace Porter, PhD | Jocelyn Wright, MBA, CFP  
Franklin Montgomery, JD, (not pictured)

# Who We Support & Honor



**A BETTER CHANCE**  
Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1963.



*Sunny starts. Bright futures. Where homeless children grow.*



Marie Nesbitt

**Promise Prize®**



## 2019 Award Recipients



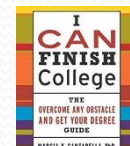
### Innovator Award, Chancellor Michael Amiridis, PhD

University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Michael Amiridis received the 2019 Innovator Award for his vision and commitment to leaders of the future through advancement of research and scholarship.



### Humanitarian Award, Marcia Cantarella, PhD

Author, academic, consultant, activist, and global citizen, Dr. Marcia Cantarella received the 2019 humanitarian award for her tireless work and dedication to human advancement.



### Leadership Award, Rod Adams

PwC's US Talent and Acquisition Leader Rod Adams received the 2019 Visionary Leader Award for his innovative and people centered work in developing talent, people and leaders.



### Advocacy Award, Patricia Rivera

Founder of Chicago HOPES for Kids, Patricia Rivera, received the 2019 Community Service Award for her tireless advocacy and ground-breaking work in supporting Chicago's most vulnerable children through academic support and mentoring.



### Egalitarian Award, Marcus Miller

Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Chicago, Marquis Miller, received the 2019 Egalitarian Award for his sustained commitment to equality, access, and empowerment of all people.



# Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize®



The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize® is our signature program

## LEADERSHIP

A program focusing on leadership, academic support, as well as personal and career and development. It is led and informed by experienced executives, academics and leaders.

## NETWORKING

A network for academic and career success, as well as mentoring and support. Scholars make a moral commitment to service, leadership and participation, while learning how to build meaningful relationships.

## COMMUNITY

An opportunity to engage, think creatively, and consider how to have impact, be successful, and make a difference, while contemplating how to develop lasting connections.

## About Marie Nesbitt

The Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize® was first established in 2002 by Vikki L. Pryor, Founder and President, Change Create Transform Foundation, in memory of her 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 as a young woman traveled to find work in Philadelphia, finally settling in Chicago. She experienced the Great Depression, Jim Crow, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. 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, she was a woman of strong opinions, deeply held principles, and 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 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.

Kingstree, South Carolina, circa 1952, Marie Nesbitt and her sister Inez. They are pictured on family property where their father lost his life in 1929, in front of his wife and 10 children; the youngest was one year old.

# Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize® Scholars

## 2020

**Avery Barnett**, Grinnell College  
**Lana Katai**, Grinnell College  
**Tiamera Rasmussen Ellen**, Montclair State University  
**Taylor Hutchison**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Jaynie Doe**, University at Buffalo -School of Law

## 2019

**Ingvar Denis**, Bronx Community College  
**Charles Fofie, Jr.**, Bronx Community College  
**Malcolm Davis**, Grinnell College  
**Madison Wardlaw**, Grinnell College  
**Alicia Ann-Caesar**, Montclair State University  
**Simone Richardson**, Rutgers University - Newark  
**Dasmin Whitted**, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
**Tevon Carpenter**, University at Buffalo -School of Law  
**Tiana Warner**, University of Iowa  
**Yvonne Livingston**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Aniya Watkins**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Riccardo Williams**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

## 2018

**Michael Akingbade**, Bronx Community College  
**Itala Watson**, Bronx Community College  
**Farah Omer**, Grinnell College  
**Olivia Hettman**, Montclair State University  
**Alexis Waters**, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
**Deonna Jones**, University at Buffalo -School of Law  
**Devin Francis**, University of Iowa  
**Adeyemi Adewola**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis  
**Jayda Pounds**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

## 2017

**Isiah Fynn**, Bronx Community College  
**Alexander Graham**, Bronx Community College  
**Ryan Toney**, Bronx Community College  
**Minu-Tshyeto Bidzimou**, Grinnell College  
**Kishawn Jean-Pierre**, Montclair State University  
**Cassidy Oliver**, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
**Christian Watts**, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
**Crystal Melvin**, University at Buffalo – School of Law  
**Canisha Russ**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Shelby Campbell**, University of Iowa

**Mohamed Malim**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis  
**Victor Sikeley**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

## 2016

**Emmanuel Adu Poku**, Bronx Community College  
**Jessica Black**, Grinnell College  
**Maya Elliott**, Grinnell College  
**Stanley Fils**, Montclair State University  
**Niamke Dozier**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
**Eboni McKenney**, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
**Shatorah Donovan**, University at Buffalo – School of Law  
**Philip Pierre**, University at Buffalo – School of Law  
**Tyleana Venable**, University at Buffalo - School of Law  
**Aja Witt**, University of Iowa  
**Samuel Osaro**, University of Iowa  
**Jordan Pinnix**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

## 2015

**Christopher H. Byfield**, Bronx Community College  
**Sigourney Salkey**, Bronx Community College  
**Dana LaCondre Nugent**, Montclair State University  
**Khadijat Olagoke**, University at Buffalo- School of Law  
**Ashley Lee**, The University of Iowa  
**Awele Eneanya**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

## 2014

**Stephanie Fox**, Bronx Community College  
**Shawn Lackerson**, Bronx Community College  
**Alanda Alexandre**, Montclair State University  
**Nintereste Jean Pierre**, University at Buffalo- School of Law  
**Nathaniel Lake**, University of Illinois Chicago  
 - School of Business  
**Rodnika Carter**, University of Iowa - School of Liberal Arts  
 and Sciences



# Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize® Scholars

## 2013

**Sebastian Rothwyn**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Terrance Coffie**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Chidera Atuegbu**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**Mary Adeleke**, *University of Illinois Chicago*  
*- School of Business*  
**Kache Claytor**, *University of Iowa - School of Liberal Arts and Sciences* –

## 2012

**Ian J. Findlay**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Aziza J. Ingram**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Eliana Amarante-Reynoso**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Marcos Argenis Sosa**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Vanessa Glushefski**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**Jennifer Haywood**, *University of Illinois Chicago*  
*- School of Business*  
**Sylvea Hollis**, *University of Iowa - School of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

## 2011

**Elena Paulino**, *College of Mount Saint Vincent*  
**Melanie Johnson**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Natalie Setoute**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Mohamed L Camara**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Ashley Jackson**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Kenneth Bostick**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**LaToya Bracewell**, *University of Illinois Chicago*  
*- School of Business*

## 2010

**Derrick Johnson**, *Bronx Community College*  
**DaQuan Estevez**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Malcolm Minor**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Joshua Netter**, *University of Illinois Chicago - School of Business*  
**Duwaine Bascoe**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*

## 2009

**Roslyn Gillespie**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Christopher Bryant**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Jonathan Miles Gresham**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**Veronica Johnson**, *University of Illinois Chicago - School of Business*

## 2008

**Kojo Wallace, MD**, *Bronx Community College*  
**Jarea Bivens**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Noelle Green**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Siana McLean-McDonald**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**Aaron C. Miles**, *University of Illinois Chicago - School of Business*

## 2007

**Micca Corbett**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Chanerra Tillies**, *Newark Public Schools*  
**Pamela Schaller**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*  
**Stacey Carter**, *University of Illinois Chicago - School of Business*

## 2006

**Ryan Leonard**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*

## 2005

**Sara L. Valencia**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*

## 2004

**Mark C. Smith**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*

## 2003

**Monique Blackwood**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*

## 2002

**Josephine Floyd**, *University at Buffalo- School of Law*



# 2019 New Scholar Orientation



The foundation of the Promise Prize® Leadership Development Program is the Annual New Scholar Orientation. New Scholars meet members of their cohort and take the first steps in a lifelong commitment to principled and people-centered leadership.

The formal program starts with a half-day reviewing leadership assessments, program materials, the history of the Promise Prize®, and discussing each Scholar's dreams, goals, commitment and participation.

## Scholar Commitment

Uphold high standards, values and character that reflect positively on the Scholar, their alma mater, community and the Change Create Transform Foundation.

- Maintain a superior record of academic performance.
- Participate in campus, community, and service activities.
- Attend on and off campus gatherings to publicly accept the Promise Prize® Scholarship.
- Remain involved as alumnus at their alma mater after graduation.

## Scholar Participation

- Fulfill a commitment to leadership and community service
- Attend Promise Prize® Scholar meetings and Summits
- Remain connected and involved with the Promise Prize® Scholar Network
- Serve as a mentor for other Promise Prize® Scholars.

## 2019 Scholars

**Ingvar Denis**  
*Bronx Community College*



**Charles Fofie, Jr.**  
*Bronx Community College*



**Malcolm Davis**  
*Grinnell College*



**Madison Wardlaw**  
*Grinnell College*



**Alicia-Ann Caesar**  
*Montclair State University*



**Simone Richardson**  
*Rutgers University Newark*



**Dasmin Whitted**  
*Southern Illinois University Edwardsville*



**Tevon Carpenter**  
*University at Buffalo School of Law*



**Tiana Warner**  
*University Iowa*



**Yvonne Livingston**  
*University of Illinois - Chicago*



**Aniya Watkins**  
*University of Illinois - Chicago*



**Riccardo Williams**  
*University of St. Thomas Minneapolis*



# 2020 New Scholar Orientation



## Virtual Orientation 2020

Due to the pandemic, changes were made for the 2020 Program Year. Four Academic Partners selected Promise Prize® Scholars for 2020. All Scholars met the expected criteria of scholarship, leadership, service and promise. They each made the expected Scholar Commitment and participated in Scholar Orientation and Leadership Programming, which was done virtually.

## 2021 Promise Prize®

Five Academic Partners decided to move their selections to the 2021 academic year, due to the scheduling and programming challenges of the pandemic. It is the expectation that nine new Promise Prize® Scholars will be selected during 2021. New Scholars all receive the same consideration in the selection process, make the expected commitments, and participate fully in leadership programming in a virtual environment.

### 2020 Scholars

**Avery Barnett**  
*Grinnell College*



**Lana Katai**  
*Grinnell College*



**Tiamera Rasmussen-Ellen**  
*Montclair State*



**Jaynie Doe**  
*University at Buffalo School of Law*



**Taylor Hutchison**  
*University of Illinois – Chicago*



# Programs

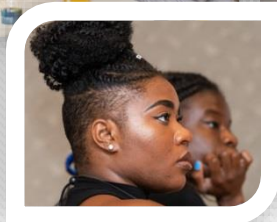


The Primary Purpose of our programs is to support exceptional students in completing their academic course of study, transitioning to work, and achieving life and career success. We accomplish this through providing grants to non-profit organizations who provide programs for education, literacy, and self-sufficiency. In addition, we provide our unique programming to support the Promise Prize® Scholars.

The Annual Promise Prize® Scholar Summit is a leadership development process. Scholars participate in orientation, as well as leadership, career, and personal development seminars. Over a two to three-day period, all Scholars come together for a power packed and in-depth series of leadership training and development activities, led by experienced volunteer executives, professionals and academics. The focus is on leadership skills and capabilities which translate into academic and career success. With programming dedicated to academic excellence, transition from school to career, and professional growth and development, we empower successful and high potential students and developing professionals.

## Annual Leadership Summit Topics

- Fulfilling Your Leadership Potential
- Finding Your Voice and Your Path
- Life Skills - Leveraging Personal Power
- Financial Literacy and Prosperity
- Leading Through Change
- Entrepreneurship
- The Workplace and the Economy
- Networking
- Service - The Importance of Giving Back
- Self Care and Wellness
- Career Management - Staying on Track
- Steps to Gain Momentum
- Executive Roundtables
- Setting Your Agenda and Action Plans
- Negotiating and Consensus Building
- Balancing Work, Study and Family
- Achieving and Managing Success
- Impact and Social Justice



Learning About Leadership with a Focus on Education and Impact

# 2020 - 2021 Virtual Programs

## Leadership | Service | Self-Care | Impact



In March 2020, we stepped up to the challenge to envision how to address the leadership development, networking, and self-care needs of our new and Alumni Promise Prize® Scholars. Because of the 2020 pandemic, it was necessary to cancel our usual in-person Summit. This created the opportunity to envision how to operate in a virtual environment and retain the important elements of support, connection, and community. Special meetings of the Board of Advisors, the Faculty Council, and our Ambassador Cabinet resulted in the design and roll-out of on-line orientation, virtual programming, and special meetings and touch-points for all Scholars.

We piloted three webinars in 2020. Managing Your Career, Parts I and II and Managing Your Finances. A special thanks to volunteers and Board members Joe Leake, Dr. Charles Menifield and Jocelyn Wright for developing the content and facilitating these important sessions.

With record levels of Promise Prize® Scholar participation, 2020 was a year of connection, learning, resilience, and a reminder of the impact of our work. The framework was developed for 2021 programming and the Promise Prize® Scholars Working Groups were born - Community Outreach, Media and Communications, and Programs.



### 2021 Programs (Virtual)

Webinars	Scholar Meetings	Community Service	Grants	
	January	January		Life Skills, Academic Encouragement, Community Service, Mentoring
March				Financial Literacy, Networking
May				Career Management, Networking
	July	July		Leadership Programming, Volunteering, Social Justice
September				Career Management, Networking
November				Leadership Programming, Self-care and Wellness, Mentoring
			December	Scholarship Grants to Academic Partners
	As Needed			Self-care and Wellness, Academic Encouragement, Career Management

Learning About Leadership with a Focus on Career, Life Skills, and Service

# 2019 - 2016 Leadership Summits

## Leadership | Service | Civic Engagement | Impact

Every year our Scholars join in a major city to understand and study the nexus of leadership, service, civic engagement and the impact they will have as leaders now and in the future.

### Highlights of our Recent Summits

- Leadership development sessions, with reading, writing, interaction and presentations, facilitated by business, civic, academic and non-profit professionals and executives
- Talks and teachings from business leaders, lawyers, entrepreneurs, healthcare and financial services executives, ambassadorial representatives, and university Deans and Presidents
- Community Service Projects with Chicago Hopes for Kinds, Read Alliance NYC, Bright Beginnings, Washington, DC, and WestCop, Westchester, NY, focusing on literacy and support for children and young adults
- 2019 - Chicago citywide tour, including the DuSable Museum, University of Illinois, Willis Tower, a global leadership program, and participation and remarks by UIC Chancellor Amiridis and PWC Talent Executive
- 2018 - New York City historic borough tour, including Lincoln Center, Battery Park, Times Square, Harlem, a literacy leadership program, and gathering hosted by Bronx Community College
- 2017 - Study and tours of national importance including the U.S. Capitol, Martin Luther King, Jr. , FDR, Lincoln, and Jefferson Memorials, Washington Monument, and The Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture
- 2016 - Year 1 of ongoing Leadership immersion program with Leadership Development expert Jay Morris, PhD, JD, MBA



Learning About Leadership with a Focus on History and the Future

# Capacity Building Academic Partners

With a sustainable model that is talent centered, we work with mission driven institutions, our Academic Partners. 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.

- Bronx Community College
- Grinnell College
- Montclair State University
- Rutgers University, Newark
- Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
- University at Buffalo
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Iowa
- University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis

Academic Partners make a strong commitment to their Promise Prize® Scholars by making at least a five-year commitment to the program, appointing a Faculty Member to serve on the Faculty Council, and supporting students and faculty involved in the program. This includes managing the selection process, Scholar engagement and recognition on campus, and Scholar support for participating in the Scholar Summit and Orientation. The Faculty Council has a strategic role in guiding the programming content.

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.



# Capacity Building

## The Ambassador Cabinet & Working Groups

Volunteer | Talent | Expertise | Leadership



Jordan Pinnix '16, Chair | Emmanuel Adu Poku '16 | Minu Bidzimou '16 | Olivia Hettman '18 | Sylvea Hollis, PhD '12  
Simone Richardson '19 | Canisha Russ '17 | Sara Valencia '05 | Christian Watts '17

**The Ambassador Cabinet** is a Promise Prize® Scholar volunteer group to advise, evaluate, collaborate, and assist with Scholar perspective and engagement, as well as implementation of Scholar programs. Members serve on the Ambassador Cabinet for a period of three years and meet several times during the year. Participation helps Scholars develop leadership and teamwork skills, gain exposure to board governance, and develop strategies, programming and goals for new and Alumni Scholars. The Ambassador Cabinet also serves as a pipeline for future leadership of the Change Create Transform Foundation. The strength of the Ambassador Cabinet Members lies in their commitment, generosity, compassion, and work ethic. Each member agrees to participate authentically, listen actively, and grow courageously.

**Working Groups** were formed in 2020 in response to the pandemic. It was a call-to-action to the Promise Prize® Scholar Community for volunteerism and service. The result? Alumni Scholars formed three groups to support Scholars and leadership development.

- **Community Outreach** to support Scholars in need and activate in the greater community through service
- **Media and Communications** to guide social media, the website, and communications
- **Programs** to inform the development of relevant and meaningful Scholar programming



### 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.

# Capacity Building Supporters

## Transforming Lives to Make a Difference

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

- 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 Global Society



## Our Deepest Thanks to our many Supporters over the last 19 years!

Jackie Adams | Deborah Aguiar-Velez | Laura Ballori | Ilene Lang & Neil Berkson | Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph  
 Monique Blackwood, Esq | Patricia Bransford | Malene & Robert Brissett | Marcia Cantarella PhD  
 Robert Catell | Maryann Coffey PhD | Anda Cumings CPA | Tracey L. Daniels Esq | Shatorah Donovan Esq  
 Maureen Douglas | Thelma Dye | Sandra Harris & Ron Everett | Toni Fay | Cheryl Fells | Josephine Nobles Floyd Esq  
 Darlena Fulp | Thomas Grayman | Olivia Hettman | Natalie Holder Esq | William Hundley  
 Thomas Isekenegbe PhD | Karen Kaczmarek Esq | Linda Lanton Esq | Dr. Stefanie Lenway | Judith Lorick  
 Carol Matorin, Esq | Teresa McCaslin | Marquis Miller | Pamela Moffat | Jay Morris, PhD | Deborah Nelms  
 Josh Netter | Josephine Nobles Esq | Dana Nugent CPA | Daniel Parker Sr. | Eon Nichols Esq | Katrina Patterson Esq  
 Elena Paulino | Robert Perkins | Horace Porter PhD | Dorothy Pryor | Vikki Pryor | Sebastian Rothwyn  
 Canisha Russ | Sheila Stamps | Andre & Kathryn Swintek Dorra | Faith Taylor PhD | Kathy & Mike Totilo CPA  
 Sandra Timmons | John & Mary Tuller | Grace E. Vandecruz | Sara Valencia Esq | Florence & Spencer Ware  
 Ilene Wachs | Koko Wallace MD | Sharon Waters | Linda Willett Esq | Kate Woods | Jocelyn Wright | Marva York



# Scholars are Talking!

“I want to thank everyone for participating. There are so many things going on and so many of us are affected in a lot of different ways. These are tough times with things changing. It’s important to remember the community we have built because of this Foundation - let’s stay focused on progress.” Jordan Pinnix ‘16, Chair Ambassador Cabinet



“Excellent sessions, very high level, incredible value to get such excellent advice from top tier professions.” Sara Valencia ‘05, Member Ambassador Cabinet



“This was much needed - Part I, then Part II blew me out of the water, the interactive sessions were a great addition.” Stanley Fils ‘16, Media and Communications Working Group



“What really resonated for me were the portions about boundaries, showing your personality, and just remembering to stay optimistic as you rise and move forward.” Ashley Lee ‘15



# Gratitude and Looking Ahead



Vikki L. Pryor  
President & Founder

December 2020

2019 was an exciting year for the Change Create Transform Foundation. Marking our 18<sup>th</sup> year of Promise Prize® Scholars, we held our Annual Promise Prize® Leadership Summit in greater Chicagoland.

2020 has been an opportunity to evolve our programs in a creative way without compromising our mission. We piloted virtual programs due to the generosity of our Academic Partners, Board Members, donors, supporters and volunteers. We are thankful to all of them.

The Promise Prize® is possible because of an integrated support system. Volunteering of time, expertise, interest and commitment have allowed us to fulfill our mission. The Academic Partner Schools that select and support our Scholars, as well as our Board of Advisors who provide the infrastructure are fundamentally critical.

- We celebrate 19 years of getting to know and connecting developing leaders. This comes at a time when the challenges of academic achievement, community health, and career prosperity seem even more daunting. Finding new and creative ways to nurture promising individuals to develop into their highest and best selves is still our first order of business. Through leadership, academic and career success, life skills, and self-care, we can continue to be a pioneer and game-changer.
- We are honored, grateful, and humbled to have 105 Promise Prize® scholars and nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and grants.
- Our Academic Partners showed continuing commitment to our programs with the unique contribution of their talented faculty and staff. They make our Promise Prize® Scholars program a reality. As always, a special thanks to our Faculty Council and their chair, Dr. Jessica Harris, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.
- Our Alumni through their volunteerism and the Ambassador Cabinet and the new Working Groups launched in 2020, continue to help us design and deliver programs for a sustainable model of Scholar participation and engagement.
- Our Board of Advisors, Donors, Supporters and Volunteers remain the essential part of reaching more Scholars, improving programs, and having the resources to start each year anew. We thank them for the impact and their unwavering support. A special thank you to PCSB Bank as a continuing multi-year sponsor.

Stay tuned, as we share information about our 2021 Virtual Programs and the celebration of 20 years since the first Promise Prize® was granted in 2002. We hope to return to our in-person Summit in 2022. We will continue to play our role in the national conversation about education and human potential. Your help and support are needed as we undertake our work and virtual programming in 2021.

Thanks again for your partnership and friendship. You are making a difference.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vikki".



100+ Strong !



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