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The College Promise Quarterly Newsletter | March 31, 2023

National Commitment Day, Graduation, and More Accomplishments on the Horizon!



The College Promise team is excited to congratulate all students who are graduating this spring! Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have led you to great accomplishments in your academic pursuits. We are proud to see so many of you earning degrees, certifications, certificates, and credentials of value that will help you succeed in your future careers and make a positive impact on your communities.

We also want to acknowledge the incredible work of K-12 teachers, professors, counselors, advisors, administrators, and promise leaders who have worked tirelessly together. Our common goal is to provide students with the resources, guidance, and supports they need to achieve their academic and career goals. Your commitment to student success is truly inspiring, and we are honored to work alongside such passionate advocates for education.

Together, the College Promise community is making a meaningful impact in the lives of countless learners across the country.

College Promise's Speaking Engagements



On February 9, College Promise's Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, Michelle Cooper, spoke at the #RTLeadershipInstitute in Dallas, Texas. Michelle facilitated a panel representing several Promise programs and the opportunities they provide students as they seek out education and career opportunities.



On February 13, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden spotlighted the [growing Promise movement in Mesa, AZ](#), and all the good it's bringing to their community. We visited Mesa, AZ Mayor Giles last year to learn more about increasing student opportunities and we can't wait

to continue our work together.



On March 1, College Promise CEO, Martha Kanter, presented at the inaugural meeting of the National Community Research Alliance in Raleigh, NC. Hosted by the Belk Center and North Carolina State University, the event focused on bringing together centers of community college research to further their work. Dr. Kanter spoke about the future of Promise and her thoughts on the importance of a collective agenda for community college researchers.



On March 3, College Promise Senior Leader, Rosye Cloud, spoke at [HOPEX 2023](#) in Lynchburg, VA, hosted by [Lynchburg Beacon of Hope](#), a remarkable Promise program. Rosye shared her journey as a first-generation American and affirmed the power of community and the purpose and dignity of connecting education to career mobility.

Upcoming Events



Register for PTK Catalyst 2023!

[PTK Catalyst](#) is Phi Theta Kappa's premier annual event, bringing together members, advisors, and their supporters for professional development and celebration of the accomplishments of their community. The experience will be held April 20-22 and include immersive opportunities for personal and professional development, college transfer guidance from experts, speakers who inspire, election of leaders, and endless opportunities to network and learn from PTK members.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

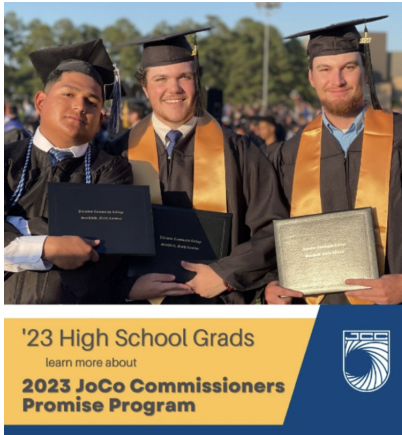


Save the Date for PromiseNet!

Since 2008, PromiseNet conferences have brought together hundreds of innovative education and community leaders from across the nation to spark inspiration and share best practices for expanding individual opportunity and building community vitality through College Promise programs. This year's PromiseNet conference will be held in person in Detroit, MI October 1-3, 2023. Leaders working in K-12 and post-secondary education, existing and potential Promise programs, city, municipal and workforce fields, as well as those with an interest in philanthropy, research, and policy, are invited to engage in a high-impact and interactive program of breakout and plenary sessions.

Promise News

Each month, we are proud to highlight Promise Programs and tuition-free college successes. We select a few programs based on program updates and featured headlines. If you have relevant news or a program you would like us to share, please let us know at info@collegepromise.org.



JoCo Commissioners Promise Covers Tuition for 2023 High School Graduates | North Carolina

The JoCo Commissioners Promise covers tuition for 2023 high school graduates who enroll at Johnston Community College (JCC) in the Fall or Spring Semesters of 2023-24. The initiative bridges the gap in tuition not covered by Federal Pell grants or other state funds for graduates during the 2023-24 academic year. Students are only responsible for the costs of textbooks, supplies, and program-specific fees. Traditional high school graduates, home-schooled students, and those who have earned a high school equivalency are all eligible. Students who graduate from Career and College Promise, Early College Academy, and Career and Technical Leadership Academy also qualify. [LINK](#)



Munson's bill to expand Oklahoma's Promise passes House A&B subcommittee | Oklahoma

House Democratic Leader Cyndi Munson, D-Oklahoma City, wants to give more Oklahoma students a chance to go to college. HB 2772, authored by Rep. Munson, would allow students with non-violent, drug and alcohol offenses to be eligible to earn a scholarship for college tuition through Oklahoma's Promise. Oklahoma's Promise is a scholarship program operated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The program was created by the legislature in 1992 to allow Oklahoma

students from low-income families to earn a college or technology center scholarship. Students must also meet academic and conduct requirements in high school. [LINK](#)

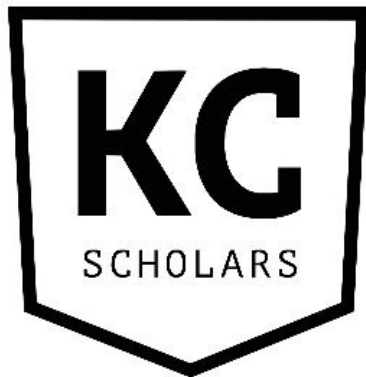


States Continue Progress to Make Community College Tuition-Free | New America

The movement to make college tuition free continues to grow at the state level. Just last week, Minnesota State Senator Omar Fateh introduced a proposal to make college tuition free for some Minnesota residents, which seems poised to move forward in the state legislature. Earlier this month, Governor Janet Mills proposed \$15 million of additional funding to continue Maine's Free College Scholarship, a program designed to make community college tuition-free for recent high school graduates. While free college plans vary in scope, support, and programmatic design across states, one thing has become increasingly clear: state governments do not need to wait for federal action to make college more affordable. [LINK](#)

This Kansas City Program Could Pay for You to Get Trained and Certified for a New Career

Kansas City nonprofit KC Scholars has launched Great Jobs KC, a programme that offers scholarships to adults looking to continue their education and careers in areas including healthcare, construction, IT and manufacturing. The initiative prioritizes short-term credentials that can prepare adults for jobs with an annual salary of \$45,000 to \$85,000, with KC Scholars covering tuition for the certification and training. Participants are also offered services such as mentoring, child care, transport and financial literacy, with local college and institution training programmes vetted for completion rates and the likelihood that students will find employment in their chosen field. [LINK](#)





Enrollment in New Mexico Universities and Colleges is up This School Year — A Trend Reversal

New Mexico's public college and university enrollment for the spring semester has grown by roughly 6%, or over 5,000 students, to 90,700, compared to last year, when it hit its lowest point in over a decade. The increase is attributed to the state's Opportunity Scholarship, which covers tuition and fees for New Mexico residents at public colleges and universities. Although there were 14,000 fewer college students from just a few months ago, which is typical for spring semesters, the state saw an enrollment rebound in the fall semester for the first time in a decade. [LINK](#)

Support the Promise Movement

Students across the country are facing unprecedented challenges to reach their college and career goals of achieving the American Dream. Help us expand equitable access to post-secondary education for all Americans. Today, your donation will help a student get one step closer to attaining their dream of going to college. [Donate here and help us grow the College Promise Movement.](#)



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