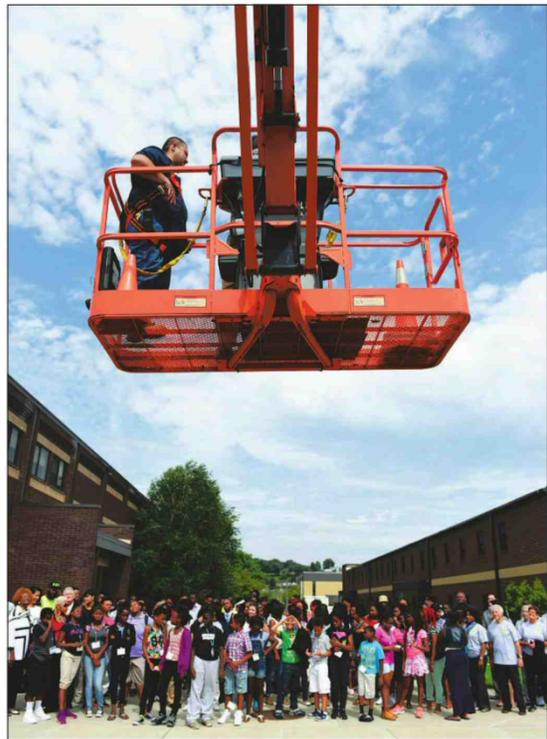




PHOTOS: KEITH HODAN | TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Students (from left) Harmony Woodson, 13, Brandon Pannell, 11, and Davintre Mins, 10, work together to learn about propulsion using a balloon and guide string.



About 100 minority students from regional middle and high schools gather to have their photograph taken during My Brother's Keeper Day at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park.

# Black Who's Who

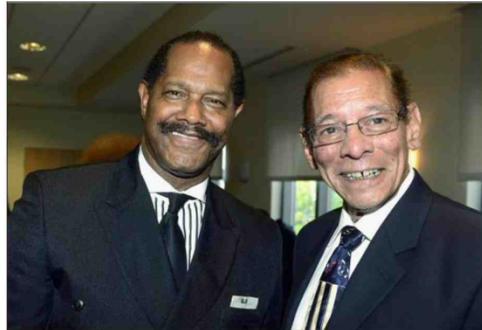
Pittsburgh's black community was tweeting up the unveiling of the inaugural edition of the "Who's Who in Black Pittsburgh" book, Thursday night. Live tweets were being displayed on two big screens set up inside the Herberman Conference Center at UPMC Cancer Pavilion, Oakland.

The sold-out event drew more than 300 guests, including many of 2015 Who's Who honorees. Mingling during the reception were Rod Doss, associate publisher of "Who Who in Black Pittsburgh" and publisher of the New Courier and Ernie Sullivan, vice president of Who's Who Publishing. KDKA's Lynne Hayes-

Freeland, one of the honorees, served as emcee for the evening.

Among those celebrating were Real Time Media CEO Hiram Jackson,

UPMC's Candi Castleberry Singleton and Gregory Peaslee, Highmark's Evan Frazier, Chuck Sanders, Debbie Norrell, Tim Stevens, **Esther Bush**, Doris Carson Williams with James, and so many more.—*Patricia Sheridan*



Ernie Sullivan and Rod Doss

Bill Wade/Post-Gazette photos



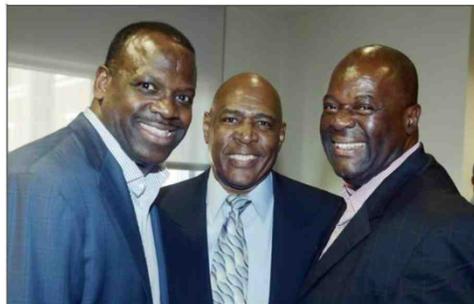
Candi Castleberry Singleton and Evan Frazier



Esther Bush, James Williams and Doris Carson Williams



Gregory Peaslee and Hiram Jackson



Chuck Sanders, Louis Alexander and Urie Norris



Published: July 21, 2015

# Bank On Greater Pittsburgh to hold free Financial Literacy Symposium

 **Almanac Quick Poll**  
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 Jessop Community Federal Credit Union



The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Bank on Greater Pittsburgh in partnership with Neighborhood Allies will hold a free Financial Literacy Symposium 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. July 25 at the Hosanna House, 807 Wallace Ave., Wilksburg. The event will include a full agenda of informative sessions to aid people in managing their money.

The keynote address, "Your Financial Game Plan," will be given by Maura Attardi, director of Education and Community Relations at Money Management International (MMI) and the largest nonprofit full-service credit counseling agency in the nation. Attardi specializes in educating professional athletes including the Pittsburgh Steelers, NCAA and WWE.

Other sessions include topics such as "Emotional Spending," "Financial Stress Busters," "Get Started on Your Path to Financial Stability," "Budgeting and Cost Cutting" and more.

A free lunch will be provided to all registered attendees from Miss Jean's Southern Cuisine. Prize drawings will include iPads, Kennywood tickets, movie tickets and gift certificates. The afternoon will culminate with a musical performance under the direction of Trini Massie.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required by calling 412-227-4191 or emailing BOGP@ulpgh.org.

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## Reader Submissions

-  Submit a Story Idea
-  Submit an Event
-  Submit a Photo
-  Submit Announcement
-  Submit a Letter to the Editor

### **Financial Literacy Symposium**

**JULY 25—The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Bank On Greater Pittsburgh** in partnership with Neighborhood Allies will host a Financial Literacy Education Symposium from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Hosanna House, 807 Wallace Ave., Wilkinsburg. There will be several breakout sessions, a proclamation and a gospel concert with Minister Trini Massie. This is free and open to the public, and reservations are required by July 17. For more information, call 412-227-4191 or email [BOGP@ulpgh.org](mailto:BOGP@ulpgh.org).



# Promise program gets a reality lesson

## Recent changes ensure scholarships continue

By Eleanor Chute  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When then-superintendent Mark Roosevelt and then-Mayor Luke Ravenstahl first announced the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship program in 2006, they didn't have a dime.

A month later, they had the first donation — \$10,000 from from the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers — but it wasn't until nearly a year after the announcement that UPMC pledged \$100 million. Another \$150 million over a 10-year period was to come from donors to be determined.

While fundraising continued, the program began with Class of 2008 graduates from city public high schools, offering up to \$20,000 over five years for postsecondary education at public colleges and universities as well as private ones in Allegheny County based on grade point average, attendance and city residency.

The list soon was expanded to include all postsecondary schools in Pennsylvania, to cover more than tuition and, by the Class of 2012, the maximum total scholarship was increased to \$40,000, with an annual maximum of \$10,000.

While the Promise has added some benefits over the years, this month it reduced them, making

SEE **PROMISE**, PAGE B-3  
the maximum total scholarship \$30,000, with an annual maximum of \$7,500, beginning with the high school Class of 2017.

In doing its own reality check, the Promise board concluded that if it were to

keep benefits the same, it could help only through the class of 2022, students who are now in the sixth grade.

"That was not an acceptable direction for us," said Saleem Ghubril, executive director the Promise, noting that the families of younger students already enrolled in the district were looking forward to the Promise. "At minimum, we felt we had to honor our commitment to kids who are starting in Pittsburgh Public Schools this fall."

The latest changes are aimed at ensuring scholarships through the high school Class of 2028 while continuing to work toward raising the full \$250 million. The Promise still needs to raise \$73.4 million, and Mr. Ghubril expects to announce "a number of pretty substantial gifts" in October.

Scholarships beyond the Class of 2028 would take a second campaign, Mr. Ghubril said.

The Promise has become a buzzword throughout the city schools and a key way many students help to pay for college.

So far, 5,634 students have received scholarships of \$64.3 million to 101 postsecondary schools. For its impact, the Promise notes the Pittsburgh Public Schools graduation rate has grown from 63 percent in 2007 to 71 percent in 2014, and the percentage of students enrolled in postsecondary education has increased from 58 percent in 2005 to 68 percent in 2010.

Mr. Ghubril said the Promise examined 25 factors influencing costs to decide on changes, using data it has developed with experience.

In addition to reducing the maximum to \$30,000, there are other significant changes, also beginning with the Class of 2017, including limiting the scholarship to tuition and fees not covered by other scholarships. Currently, the scholarship can go for room, board and books as well. It

also will be provided only during the first four years after graduation, instead of the first five.

The residency requirement is increased. While both the old and new rules required enrollment in city public schools — district and bricks-and-mortar charter schools — from kindergarten on for the full amount, now those who don't enroll until ninth grade will be eligible for just 50 percent instead of the current 75 percent. Those who enroll later are still ineligible.

The Promise will continue requiring at least a 2.5 GPA and a 90 percent attendance record in high school. However, it still will offer an "extension" program at Community College of Allegheny County for those with GPA between 2.0 and 2.5.

Except for those students at CCAC, which charges low tuition, nearly every recipient has used the allotted maximum, said Mr. Ghubril.

The latest changes come at a time when some, including school board member Mark Brentley Sr., have been asking the Promise to make scholarships available to all city public high school graduates who are accepted into a college.

Joseph Kennedy III of the Central North Side, a school volunteer, said too many inequities exist in city schools to set grade and attendance criteria. "The Pittsburgh Promise has wandered out onto this uneven playing field ... handing out prizes to the winners of the unmodified game. This is racial inequity in action."

Mr. Ghubril considers that "misguided," adding data "point to the fact that high school GPA is absolutely the best indicator for postsecondary readiness and success."

How the latest changes affect each family depends on individual circumstances.

Ron Sofo, CEO and principal of City Charter High School, Downtown, said he is most concerned about the provision that the scholar-

