



2:46 pm, March 18, 2010

## Detroit College Promise asks letter writers to encourage freshmen

By [Sherri Welch](#)

The **Detroit College Promise** has launched a letter-writing campaign to keep **Detroit Public Schools** high school freshmen awarded a partial scholarship through the program, on a college track.

Founder and Executive Director Nat Pernick is asking all Southeast Michigan residents to write a letter to Detroit public high school freshmen who have registered to receive a Detroit College Promise Scholarship to give them a glimpse of what professional life might be like and let them know others have succeeded in overcoming major challenges.

The letters are meant to give students confidence that there are people who believe in them and that they need to believe in themselves, Pernick said in a release.

The program currently provides scholarships of \$500 per year towards undergraduate tuition at Michigan public colleges and universities to freshmen students at Cody and Frederick Douglass high schools and a limited number at Cass Tech, Central, Pershing and Trombly.

Scholarship certificates and other support services go to freshman students to create early college awareness and keep them motivated

Last August, Pernick hired a local fundraising consultant to help the organization raise an estimated \$2 million to expand scholarships of \$500 to the graduates of all DPS high schools within three years.

In a March letter posted on the Detroit College Promise's Web site, Pernick said he expects to offer the scholarships to all qualifying DPS freshmen next year.

For more information on the letter-writing campaign, visit <http://www.detroitcollegepromise.com/encouragementletter.pdf>.

© 2010 [Crain Communications Inc.](#)

Advertisement

Advertisement for "Got Ethos? 4th Annual EMU Ethos Week" featuring a portrait of Robert Bobb. The text includes: "Got Ethos?", "4th Annual EMU Ethos Week", "March 15-19", logos for WJR, Crain's Detroit Business, and Corp!, and contact information: "For ticket information, call 734.487.2282 or visit cob.emich.edu".