

# The Detroit College Promise

*You've got to believe* 

Fall 2011

Dear Friend,

The Detroit College Promise provides scholarships to Detroit Public School students, based on the Kalamazoo Promise. We now offer scholarships to **all 65,000** DPS students who meet our simple eligibility criteria. Students apply for our scholarship in grades K-9 by filling out a one page form. We give students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or younger a scholarship award certificate to encourage them to make a commitment to work hard and graduate so that they can go to college. Via our monthly newsletter, we inform students and parents / designated adults about our scholarship, other scholarships, financial aid, and programs from the Detroit Public Library and other community organizations that help prepare them for college. We allow students up to 10 years after they graduate to use our scholarship.

***Won't you please take 15 minutes to write a letter of encouragement to a 9th grade Detroit Public School student who is making a commitment to work hard, graduate from high school and go to college?***

We need to show these students where they can be in ten years if they go to college. We need you to share your story with them. We need you to tell them how you overcame your own difficulties and challenges to succeed. We need you to tell them what your life is like now, because you went to college. We need you to give them **a vision of tomorrow** that living in their world - a world of crisis - does not provide. We need you to say, "It can be done! I came from similar circumstances and I did it." We need you to tell them – "All that hard work really paid off!" We need you to say, "Believe in yourself! The kind of life you will have depends on it!"

Please **believe**, and **act on the positive!** Please write a letter that we can give to a high school freshman when we present them with their scholarship certificate.

Maybe they won't read it; maybe it will be discarded. But just maybe, your letter will be kept in a special place, and read over and over again, when things get really tough. ***Maybe your letter will change a young person's life.***

Perhaps 20 years from now, when that individual is accepting an award for an innovation or achievement, they will refer to your letter and say, "I don't know the person who wrote this letter, but their words kept me going and helped me get to where I am today."

***Imagine how much of an impact 15 minutes of your time could make.***

Please make copies of this request and pass them to your friends, co-workers and associates.  
We are **counting on you!**

**Thank you for your words of encouragement!**

Nat Pernick, M.D.  
Executive Director  
The Detroit College Promise  
[www.DetroitCollegePromise.org](http://www.DetroitCollegePromise.org)

*To protect your privacy, if you are NOT using business letterhead, please do not use your last name, but do identify your profession and position.*

*If you are a public official or recognizable person, please use your full name. Your letter may be duplicated and given to all students.*

**Send letters to:**

**The Detroit College Promise  
30100 Telegraph Road, Suite 408  
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For additional information, please visit [www.DetroitCollegePromise.org](http://www.DetroitCollegePromise.org).