

"Detroit College Promise" awards \$500 tuition grant to students | Michigan Radio

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When [U.S. Secretary of Education](#) Arne Duncan [visited Detroit last week](#), he brought up the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship program. He called it the "best economic development tool" for a city, and urged Detroit to develop something similar.

"If we could make that guarantee of not just a 2-year but a 4-year university education possible for every young man and woman who graduates from Detroit Public Schools, that would be absolutely amazing."

Nat Pernick created a Kalamazoo Promise-like scholarship in 2009 for Detroit students. The [Detroit College Promise](#) offers up to \$500 to all high school seniors in Detroit.

Pernick says he eventually wants to be like the [Kalamazoo Promise](#) and offer full college tuition to qualifying students, but he's not sure how long it'll take to get there:

"Our next goal is to be able to offer \$10,000 per student - that would be \$2,500 a year for four years - and we're hoping for the class that's entering high school right now, the class of 2015. That will probably cost us about \$5 million a year. That's something that is doable."

Pernick says a lot of institutions think it's better to "wait until we have all the money" before starting a scholarship program. But "we have kids who need help today," explains Pernick.

The Detroit College Promise is funded by individual donations and grants, unlike the anonymously-funded Kalamazoo Promise.