

THE PROMISE CHAMPION INITIATIVE

2019-2020 Dallas County Volunteer Guide



DALLAS COUNTY
PROMISE



of Metropolitan Dallas

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***“TAKE THE CHALLENGE OF YOUR LIFE.
REACH OUT TO YOUR GOALS. THERE IS
NO LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE”***

– Lailah Gifty Akita



Thank you for investing your time, energy and talent in our most valuable resource – the young men and women who will shape our future.

Many Dallas County seniors face overwhelming barriers to successfully navigating post-high school education. Dallas County Promise depends on Champions like you to provide advice, guidance, and a helping hand. A well-educated workforce is necessary for Texas to remain competitive in a fast-changing world. We're committed to helping Dallas become the first American city to solve the workforce talent gap by helping ALL students complete college with the skills necessary to succeed in the North Texas job market.

OUR DREAM FOR DALLAS COUNTY

Our Mission is to achieve the 60x30TX plan with equity in Dallas County. The plan outlines a bold vision: by 2030, at least 60% of Texans aged 25–34 will have a certificate or degree.

Our Vision is to become the first American city to solve the talent gap by producing equity in college completion.

OUR PROMISE:

- to help high schools ensure that ALL students graduate college and career-ready,
- to help colleges and universities achieve 60x30TX with equity for Dallas County, and
- to help the Dallas County workforce solve the talent gap.

PROMISE CHAMPION PARTNERS

The Promise Champion Initiative is a collaborative effort between Big Thought, Dallas County Promise, Dallas Independent School District, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and community-based organizations.

Dallas County Promise is a powered by school districts, colleges, universities, employers, and communities that have joined forces to help more Dallas County students complete college and begin careers. Their role is to engage students, parents, and the community to lead and inspire one another around a mission of economic mobility. Through Dallas County Promise participating colleges provide “last-dollar scholarships” to students who graduate from a Promise high school with a high school diploma or associate degree. The Promise scholarship covers the gap between need-based financial aid and the cost of tuition at partner colleges and universities.

Big Thought is a non-profit youth empowerment organization that works to ignite young imaginations and narrow the opportunity gap. They engage youth through accessible educational programs that reinforce academic curricula, develop 21st century skills, and address social and emotional needs. By connecting like-minded organizations, they customize programs to meet the unique needs of each community they serve. They are recruiting Champions from existing community groups and providing them with training and support.

Dallas Independent School District is home to approximately 40,000 high school students at 38 campuses. Their School Leadership and Strategic Initiatives departments helped identify the 15 high schools for Promise Champions launch year and took the lead with their campus CAP team to optimize the collection of senior Promise Pledges, college applications, career pathways and FAFSA submissions. Each participating high school campus will help host events for Promise Seniors and Champions and will be a resource for Champions along the remaining college enrollment process.

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas improves lives throughout North Texas by raising funds and increasing the effectiveness of service providers and programs that focus on long-term, measurable and effective change in our community. United WAY was an original convener, thought partner and resource provider in the launch of the Promise Champions initiative. They continue to provide supports for partner org alignments, recruitment awareness, summer bridge programming, and subsequent post-secondary persistence & completion efforts for our students.

Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is one of the largest community college systems in the state, with seven independently accredited colleges. DCCCD provides support for initiatives to increase college enrollment for Dallas County Promise Seniors.

GET CONNECTED

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Porcscha Lloyd

Dallas County Promise Champions Coordinator
Porcscha.lloyd@bigthought.org
469.621.8909

Stephanie L. Nixon

Dallas County Promise, Sr. Manager of Strategy and Operations
Stephanie.Nixon@dallascountypromise.org
469.629.9080

PARTNER EMAILS

Check your email for the latest partner updates from Dallas County Promise. We will stay connected to provide information about college requirements, important deadlines, and Champion-Student meetings. If you do not receive our Friday emails, please let us know so we can update your email address. You can reply to our weekly email if you have any questions!

TEXT MESSAGING

We will communicate using CHRONUS to share updates regarding various requirements, financial aid applications, important deadlines, and the college enrollment process. You can reply to our texts and someone will respond! See page 35 for a Chronus User Guide.



Follow @DallasCoPromise on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for regular updates, stories, and other relevant information about Dallas County Promise and the Promise Champion Initiative.

PROMISE AT-A-GLANCE

2019-2020 DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE PROGRAM KEY DATES

PLEDGE - OCTOBER 1, 2019

- Promise Pledge opens for Dallas County students graduating from participating high schools. All eligible students should take the pledge to confirm interest in receiving tuition assistance, coaching, and other Promise benefits.

APPLY - FEBRUARY 7, 2020

- **STEP ONE:** Deadline to complete the Dallas County Promise Pledge and submit a parent signature if under 18 at the time of Pledge completion.
- **STEP TWO:** Admissions applications for *most Promise partner colleges and universities are due. Visit ApplyTexas.org to complete one application for the partner college(s) of your choice. Students interested in enrolling at DCCCD with dual-credit courses completed should only update their contact information at the DCCCD campus of their choice.

SUBMIT - MARCH 6, 2020

- Deadline to submit the FAFSA/TASFA for *most partner college and universities. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at your chosen college/university to confirm your FAFSA or TASFA application has been verified and all requirements have been met.

ENROLL - JULY 31, 2020

- Deadline to register for classes. Please contact the Admissions Office at your chosen college/university to confirm your registration dates and that all requirements have been met.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR CHAMPIONS TO KNOW

April

4/21 » 6th Six Weeks Begins

May

High school graduation month

5/27 » Final day of high school classes

Summer

Dates vary » Registration for fall courses

Dates vary » Submit verification documents for financial aid

Dates vary » Register for and attend new student orientation

8/24 » First day of college classes for DCCC, University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University!

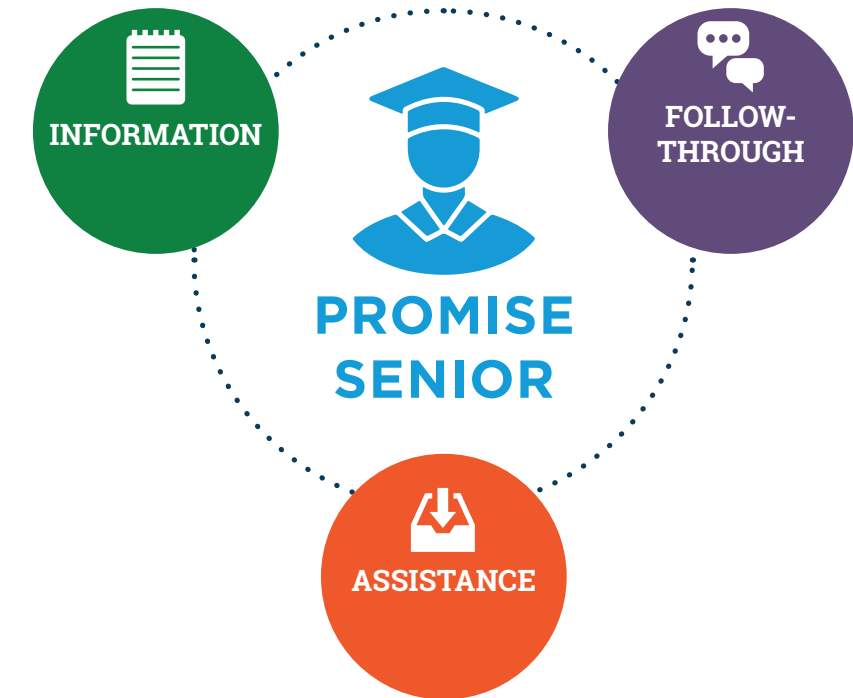
September

9/9 » Champion Check in on campus Day 12



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

The Promise Champion Initiative is driven by a network of organizations, leaders, individuals, and volunteers committed to student success.



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Provides information about:

- FAFSFA/TASFA
- College applications
- DCP Pledge Share scholarship
- ACT/SAT
- College and career exploration

- HS credit & attendance check
- DCCCD course credit check
- Other graduation requirements
- Graduation timeline
- Senior parent meetings

COLLEGE ACCESS PROVIDER

Provides information about:

- FAFSFA/TASFA
- College applications
- DCP Pledge Share scholarship
- ACT/SAT
- College and career exploration

- College & scholarship essays
- Student documentation submission

PROMISE CHAMPION

Provides information about:

- FAFSFA/TASFA
- College applications
- DCP Pledge Share scholarship

Ensures follow-through on:

- Attendance
- Keeping up grades
- Choosing classes
- Showing up on first day of class
- Attending classes
- Getting help

THE CHAMPION ROLE

A Champion is a guide, friend, and resource to students who paves the way to success and derives satisfaction from helping others succeed. Your role as Champion is to inspire, encourage, and support your student, and to contribute to their personal and educational development.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What am I expected to do?

Champions are expected to provide their student with 3 scheduled, in-person or virtual interactions. All other interaction will take place via email and other web-related tools (for example, instant messaging) or face-to-face, as appropriate. Champions should work with their student to determine what kind of support will be most useful—specific feedback related to preparing for graduation, college planning, general career advice, personal encouragement, and so on.

How long will the commitment be?

We ask our Champions to make commitments of at least nine months to one year in order to ensure that the student is able to fully benefit from the relationship. If a Champion must leave the relationship early, we request at least one month's notice in order to search for a replacement Champion.

Are there any potential risks to me or my company?

No. It is not appropriate for Champions to engage in any business transactions with their students; instead, the relationship should only involve the flow of general information and advice.

Relationship is not going well or I am concerned about being a Champion, what to do?

We encourage letting the student know about the situation and contact the Admin immediately. We will provide our full support to resolve the situation in a positive and satisfactory manner. our students.

Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is one of the largest community college systems in the state, with seven independently accredited colleges. DCCCD provides support for initiatives to increase college enrollment for Dallas County Promise Seniors.

YOUR NEXT STEPS AT A GLANCE

Things to work on with your Promise Senior to prepare for the freshman year of college.

February

DEADLINE: Promise Pledge

DEADLINE: College applications submitted via ApplyTexas.org

March

• **DEADLINE: FAFSA/TASFA Applications Due**

Review financial aid packages and costs to attend college

• Champion-Senior Meet-Up #1 (Virtual)

• Identify student needs for success, gaps in resources, etc.

• Summer planning begins

April

• Review financial aid packages and costs to attend college

• Champion-Senior Meet-Up #2 (Virtual or In-Person)

• Goal-setting activity

• Career/Goal planning

• Finalize summer plans

May-June

Champion-Senior Meet-Up #3 (Virtual or In-Person)

Recruit for College Bridge Camp (Champion)

Register for classes (Senior)

Bridge Camp (Senior)

Submit financial aid verification, if needed (Senior)

Clear any/all holds on student account (Senior)

July-August

Brief Champion-Senior check-in focused on ensuring student is prepared for the 1st day of classes (See Your Next Steps)

8/24 » Champion walks student to their first day of college life!

September

9/9 » Champion Check in on campus Day 12

YOUR NEXT STEPS

March 2020: Meet-Up #1

PREPARING FOR THE MEET-UP

- Set up your Chronus Account for secure communication. The Chronus software platform makes it easy to start, manage, and measure a mentoring program. It will serve as your communication portal with your Promise Senior. To set up your Chronus account, see instructions beginning on page 14.
- Communicate with your Promise Senior. Send a message to your Promise Senior via Chronus and introduce yourself. Ask for a short bio so you can learn about them as well. Consider your own experience and strengths and what you'll bring to the relationship, then think about what you hope to gain — this is a two-way street.

DURING THE MEET-UP

- Set relationship parameters. It can seem dry and impersonal, but start off by deciding when and how often you should connect. Getting the housekeeping out of the way first can be a great ice-breaker.
- Tell them about yourself. Thank them for their bio and give a brief overview of your career highlights and relevant experience. Let your Promise Senior know why you're investing in this relationship.
- Articulate expectations. Make sure you gain a clear idea of what your Promise Senior is looking for in this relationship. Discuss how you can best assist and guide them in achieving their goals.

REFLECTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

- Decide on next steps. Schedule the next check-in, share any relevant articles you've been enjoying, and start looking for opportunities to help your Promise Senior grow!

YOUR NEXT STEPS

April 2020: Meet-Up #2

PREPARING FOR THE MEET-UP

- Communicate with your Promise Senior. Send a reminder message to your Promise Senior about the upcoming meet-up.
- Do a little homework on your Senior. Consider any particular challenges or successes your Promise Senior has experienced on the pathway to college and career. Check in with your Promise Senior's CAP provider or your Champion Liaison if you need additional information.
- Do a little homework on today's college experience. Familiarize yourself with the common challenges of today's first-year college-goer's experience. Things may have changed a bit since you were in school! See Resources for relevant articles.
- Prepare for goal-setting. Prepare yourself to complete the goal-setting exercise with your Promise Senior.

DURING THE MEET-UP

- Complete the goal-setting exercise with your Promise Senior.

REFLECTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

- Prepare for summer planning. Touch on College Bridge Camp. Make sure your Senior is on track to register for classes, submit financial aid verification (if needed) and clear any/all holds on their student account. Schedule your next campus planning check-in.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

May - July: Summer Planning

There will be plenty of things to follow up on as your Senior makes the final preparations for college. Answer any questions they may have, and make sure they follow through on all those details!

- Register for fall classes
- Attend Bridge Camp
- Submit financial aid verification, if needed
- Clear any/all holds on student account
- Register for and attend new student orientation

August - September: The Big Day!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the big day — the first day of classes! Walk your Promise Senior to class the first day. You might consider walking through their entire class schedule with them beforehand so they know exactly where to go when classes begin.

Do one final check-in. On the 12th day of classes, approximately September 9, check in with your Senior to answer any questions and make sure that all is well.

Model adapted from Mentorloop, a communications channel, event planner and goal setting app. Written by Lucy Lloyd, co-founder of Mentorloop.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUR PROMISE SENIOR

Be prepared. Plan what you will discuss with your Promise Senior before each check-in or meet-up.

Communicate what you know. What are your interests? Are you an expert in a particular area? Do you have pertinent experience to share? Don't hesitate to share your wisdom.

Be present, positive and genuine. Ask questions and really listen. Inquire about your Promise Senior's college plans, academic interests, career goals and life goals.

If you and your Promise Senior are not a good match. The DCP Coordinator will work with the lead community partner on the campus to assign a new Champion for the student. Just let your campus community lead partner know.

If you have a serious conflict with your Promise Senior. Notify your campus planning team member and work with them on a resolution.

If you arrive at the campus and your Promise Senior is absent, or if you have to miss a meeting. Please see the counselor or campus planning team member and let them know that you were there or that you cannot attend. Then schedule another time to meet and share a message with your Promise Senior via Chronus.

The designated meeting place on campus is unavailable. Ask the campus office manager about other places, such as the library or cafeteria, where you might meet.

How can the Promise Senior's parent(s) or guardian(s) help? Parents and guardians should ensure that all paperwork needed for college enrollment has been submitted. They can also provide their Senior with support and serve as a cheerleader they're nervous or unsure. And they can be a valuable resource for Champions, by sharing information and background about the Senior, especially as you help your Senior to complete any necessary paperwork.

What is Parent Promise? Parent Promise is a scholarship program that provides a pathway for parents of Promise Seniors to also earn a certificate or associate degree in order to pursue a career in an in-demand field of study at no cost. Parent Promise will cover any gap between state and federal financial aid at any Dallas County Community College to make sure tuition is covered. To learn more, visit <https://www.dcccd.edu/pc/scholother/scholarships/parent-promise>

TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUR PROMISE SENIOR

CHAMPION

DO'S

1. Commit to three interactions with your student(s).
2. Take responsibility to initiate the relationship.
3. Set aside time for the mentoring process and honor all appointments.
4. Support the student in school meetings or activities, as appropriate.
5. Be on time to the scheduled in-person meetings.
6. Arrange frequent contacts through telephone, email, fax, face-to-face, etc., as appropriate.
7. Respond to emails from your student within 2 days of receipt.
8. Keep information that your student has shared with you confidential. If something concerning the student needs to be discussed with others, it should first be discussed within the mentoring relationship.
9. Establish open and honest communication and a forum for idea exchange.
10. Foster creativity and independence. Help build self-confidence and offer encouragement.
11. Provide honest and timely feedback to your student.
12. Provide opportunities for the student to talk about concerns and ask questions.
13. Above all - LISTEN.

DON'TS

1. Try to give advice on everything.
2. Encourage student to be totally dependent upon you.
3. Provide your personal history, problems, animosities, successes, failures, etc unless they are constructive contributions.
4. Be too busy when the student needs your friendship or your support. If you do not have time, give the student a heads up, so that they know when they can reach you.
5. Criticize.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUR PROMISE SENIOR

STUDENT

DO'S

1. Take a proactive role in shaping the relationship you'll have with your Champion.
2. Understand what you want from the Champion relationship and communicate your goals and aspirations to your Champion. Balance personal and professional relationship with your Champion.
3. Set aside time for relationship building and keep all scheduled appointments with your mentor and display professional behavior.
4. Utilize your time with your Champion wisely. Come to meetings with your Champion prepared to participate in activities.
5. Respond in a timely manner to your Champion's inquiries. Respond to emails from your Champion at most two days after receipt.
6. Be open and honest with your Champion about your challenges and weaknesses.
7. If something concerning the Champion needs to be discussed with others, it should first be discussed with school officials.

DON'TS

1. Ask for advice on everything. Have a purpose in each request.
2. Blame the Champion if his or her advice doesn't work out.
3. Expect the Champion to know all the answers.
4. Commit yourself to obligations you cannot keep.
5. Cancel meetings/visits with your Champion at the last minute.

2019-2020 CAMPUS CONTACTS

SCHOOL	CAMPUS LEADERSHIP (PRINCIPAL)	DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE CONTACT
Carter HS	Jonathan C. Smith jonsmith@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Conrad HS	Temesghen Asmerom tasmerom@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Kimball HS	Mr. Llewellyn Smith LISmith@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Lincoln HS	Johnna Weaver JoMorgan@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Madison HS	Marian A. Willard MWillard@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
North Dallas HS	Katherine Eska kwanserski@dallasisd.org	Skiler Miller skiler.miller@dallascountypromise.org
Pinkston HS	Mr. Marlon Brooks marbrooks@dallasisd.org	Ana Ramirez ana.ramirez@dallascountypromise.org
Roosevelt HS	Troy Tyson ttyson@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Samuell HS	Jennifer Tecklenburg jteck055@dallasisd.org	Derek DeYonge derek.deyonge@dallascountypromise.org
Seagoville HS	Angela West anwest@dallasisd.org	Derek DeYonge derek.deyonge@dallascountypromise.org
South Oak Cliff HS	Dr. W.F. Johnson wjohanson009@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Spruce HS	Francine Taylor frataylor@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Sunset HS	Claudia Vega cgalindo@dallasisd.org	Ana Ramirez ana.ramirez@dallascountypromise.org
Thomas Jefferson HS	Sandi Massey samassey@dallasisd.org	Carlos Ruiz carlos.ruiz@dallascountypromise.org
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	Jasen Campbell jcampbell@dallasisd.org	Derek DeYonge derek.deyonge@dallascountypromise.org

RESOURCES

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE CHAMPIONS INFORMATION

<http://dallascountypromise.org/champions>

<http://dallascountypromise.org/resources/educators-1>

For general questions, email Porcsha Lloyd Porcsha.lloyd@bigthought.org.

To check students' Promise status, email student.success@dallascountypromise.org

For questions about the Parent Promise, email parentpromise@dcccd.edu

FAFSA/TAFSA INFORMATION

FAFSA/TASFA instructions and links to print TASFA applications

www.collegeforalltexans.com

English/Spanish PDF walk through of FAFSA & additional resources

www.understandingfafsa.org

Federal Student Aid resources from the Department of Education

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources>

CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING

Texas OnCourse Academy

<https://texasoncourse.org/tools/texas-oncourse-academy>

TIPS FOR FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

Addressing Common Problems

<https://owlcation.com/academia/common-problems-for-college-students>

How First-Generation College Students Can Navigate Admissions

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/loans/student-loans/applying-college-7-tips-firstgeneration-students/>

RESOURCES

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

DACA/Dreamer Resources

- RGV Money for College
http://dallascountypromise.org/uploads/images/RGV_money-for-college.pdf
- E3 Alliance Guide, Advising Guide for Undocumented Students
dallascountypromise.org/uploads/images/Spring-2015-College-Guide-for-Advising-Undocumented-Students-092415.pdf

SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

- Scholarship Database
<http://www.dreamersroadmap.com/scholarships/>
- Top 10 Internship Database
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2015/01/30/the-10-best-websites-for-finding-an-internship/#30e497d21b44>
- Top 10 Scholarship Search Engines
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/college/2016/01/06/the-10-best-sites-to-search-for-scholarships/37410585/>
- Scholarships, internships, pre-college programs, fellowships
<https://www.chcnextopp.net/home>

COLLEGE ADVISING RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONS

GenTX Community Planning Guide Videos, toolkits, workshop planning guides and inspiration from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. http://gentx.org/	Texas College Access Network Network of agencies and organizations working to increase student access and success in postsecondary education. https://www.edtx.org/txcan/home	National College Access Network Resources, trainings, and advocacy alerts. https://www.ncan.org/	Free College Advising Texting HS juniors, seniors, and college students can sign up for text reminders and on all things college access. https://www.bettermakerroom.org/up-next/
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DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

General Information

What is the Dallas County Promise?

The Dallas County Promise is more than just a scholarship. The Promise is a program to reduce financial barriers and support students to succeed in college, careers, and life with a commitment to securing a rewarding job in their career pathway.

The Promise is available to all 2020 graduates in 57 participating high schools across 11 school districts. All 2020 graduates - regardless of GPA or family income - have the opportunity to earn a last-dollar scholarship that will cover any gap between what a student's state and federal financial aid cover and the cost of tuition at a Promise Partner college. Promise Scholars also have access to a Success Coach and exclusive transfer scholarships at Promise partner colleges and universities.

What does the Dallas County Promise scholarship cover?

The Dallas County Promise scholarship pays any balance of tuition not covered by federal or state financial aid at participating Promise partner colleges. Promise Scholars will also be matched with a Success Coach who will serve as a mentor for students, beginning at the end of their senior year through college completion. For more details on the direct and transfer scholarship offers at participating partner colleges, visit the Promise Partner College page.

Promise Scholars attending a Dallas County Community College (DCCCD) who also meet income requirements and have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale will also receive the Rising Star Scholarship to cover the cost of textbooks. Promise + Rising Star scholars will also be matched with an in-person Rising Star advisor. Seniors in a Promise high school must complete all three Promise deadlines, including the Promise Pledge and DCCCD admissions application, by February 7, 2020 in order to be eligible for both Promise and Rising Star scholarships.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

General Information (continued)

Can I use my Dallas County Promise scholarship at another school?

The Dallas County Promise scholarship can only be used at participating Promise partner colleges and universities. However, completing the Promise Pledge does NOT commit you to attending a Promise partner college or university.

Transfer scholarships are available to various Partner colleges and universities, with more partners coming on board soon. Students who complete an associate degree in high school may be eligible to use their Dallas County Promise tuition scholarships at UNT Dallas, SMU, MSU and TAMUC directly following high school.

My high school is not on the participating school list. Is there another scholarship for me?

You may still be eligible to access a tuition and textbook scholarship to DCCCD through Rising Star. Visit www.DCCCD.edu/RisingStar for more information. Rising Star scholarship applications open October 1 and are due February 8 for all high schools.

How were the 2017-18 Promise High Schools selected?

Each participating Dallas County Promise campus is either a TEA-approved Early College High School co-sponsored by a DCCCD College; a co-sponsor of a Collegiate Academy; or submitted college and career readiness plans and commitments through a process developed in partnership with area school districts, the Dallas County Community College District, and Jobs for the Future, to help ensure all students are on a college- and career-ready pathway to success.

For more information on becoming a Promise high school, contact Eric.Ban@DallasCountyPromise.org.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

General Information (continued)

What type of courses can I enroll in as a Promise Scholar?

Students may enroll in either college credit courses or select workforce training certificate programs through continuing education. Promise Scholars may also use Promise program dollars towards the completion of developmental classes. Please refer any questions to your academic advisor to ensure courses selected are Promise eligible.

I will be graduating high school with an associate degree, can I still enroll at DCCCD?

Promise scholarship funding can only be applied towards your first degree. Students who graduate with an Associate degree from high school may not use Promise scholarship funding to attend DCCCD to complete an additional associate degree or Workforce Training Certificate. UNT Dallas, SMU, Midwestern State and TAMUC are Promise options for students completing Associate degrees in high school.

Do you plan on partnering with other colleges to expand the scholarship options for Promise Scholars?

We are actively engaging with other colleges and universities to form new scholarship opportunities for Promise Scholars. Any new college or university offers through the Dallas County Promise program will be shared on our website and through direct student and parent communication. For more details on the current scholarship offers, visit the Promise Partner College page.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Eligibility Criteria

Who is eligible?

All 2020 graduates who have attended a participating high school for their full senior year (enrolled by October 25, 2019) can receive the Dallas County Promise scholarship by meeting all Promise deadlines for pledge, admissions application, financial aid application, and registration. Please refer to the participating college list for any college-specific requirements.

Can non-US citizens receive the Dallas County Promise?

Yes, all students eligible to complete a FAFSA or TASFA application can receive the Dallas County Promise. Don't forget, a DACA number does not allow you to complete a FAFSA application. Please complete a TASFA application instead. For more help on TASFA completion visit, AIE.org.

To be eligible for in-state tuition and the Promise funding undocumented students must meet all of the following criteria:

Graduated from a Texas HS or received a GED in Texas;
Resided in Texas 36 months leading up to high school graduation or receipt of GED;
Resided in Texas 12 months prior to college enrollment;
Student provides a notarized affidavit stating sh/he will apply to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity s/he is eligible to do so.

Are ESL students eligible for the Dallas County Promise?

Yes, all 2020 seniors from participating high schools who meet all three Promise deadlines and in-state residency requirements are eligible to receive the Dallas County Promise.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Eligibility Criteria (continued)

Does Dallas County Promise have a GPA requirement?

The Dallas County Promise does not have a GPA requirement for the initial semester at DCCCD. However, some Promise partner universities do have admission criteria for eligibility. Promise Scholars who wish to enroll at DCCCD and meet all Promise deadlines, have financial need, and have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale will also receive the Rising Star Scholarship to cover the cost of textbooks.

Students entering DCCCD on academic probation due to dual credit grades are eligible for Promise for the first Fall semester. If students do not meet the 2.0 GPA renewal requirement at the end of the Fall semester, they may not be able to continue on in the Promise program.

Does Dallas County Promise have Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements?

No. However, all incoming DCCCD students must meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative to take college-level courses. For students who do not meet TSI requirements, Dallas County Promise can be used to cover the cost of developmental courses. Learn more about TSI requirements.

Is there a limit on the number of students that can receive the Dallas County Promise or Rising Star?

There is no cap on the number of 2020 graduates that can receive the Promise gap funding at a DCCCD college (including Rising Star scholarship), UNT Dallas, MSU or TAMUC. However, transfer scholarships to SMU and other partner universities are limited. (For specific requirements and eligibility by school, please refer to <http://dallascountypromise.org/students/college-partners>.)

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Eligibility Criteria (continued)

Is a student with a criminal record eligible?

It depends on the level of the infraction. Dallas County Promise follows the same eligibility requirements for students with a criminal record as the federal Pell grant.

Is there a maximum number of hours a student can take per year under Promise?

Students may not take any more than 36 credit hours a year (fall, spring and summer sessions) at a DCCCD College.

I just moved to Dallas. Am I eligible for the Dallas County Promise?

To be eligible, students must have been enrolled in a participating high school as of October 25, 2019 and graduate from a participating high school during the 2019-2020 school year.

If I am taking dual credit classes in high school, am I still eligible for Promise?

Yes. Dual-credit students are still eligible to receive Promise scholarship funding to complete the balance of hours needed for an associate degree. Students who finish an associate degree in high school are eligible for a scholarship to UNT Dallas, SMU, MSU and TAMUC. These students should list this Promise partner university on their FAFSA/TASFA and also complete a respective admissions application in their senior year of high school. August 1, 2019 and July 30, 2020 to be eligible for Promise in Fall 2020.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Eligibility Criteria (continued)

I am not eligible for in-state tuition, what happens next?

Students who have not met Texas residency requirements, including students classified as international or out-of-country students, are not eligible for the Dallas County Promise and/or the Rising Star scholarship.

Students who have questions regarding their eligibility for in-district or in-state residency status for tuition purposes should visit their college admissions office.

Can I take time off or enroll later with the Dallas County Promise?

No - students who enter the Promise Program and sit out for one long semester (fall or spring), must complete an appeal form if they fail to enroll each fall and spring semesters. Appeals for renewal are completed through the Promise Partner college - usually in academic advising or with the student's Promise Success Coach.

I'm not caught up on my tax reports, what can I do so that it won't affect my child's financial eligibility?

To complete a 2020-2021 FAFSA/TASFA, students will need 2018 tax information for themselves and parents that worked in 2018. If the student and/or parents have not filed their 2018 taxes, they should consider filing the appropriate tax forms as soon as possible to ensure the student is able to complete a financial aid application. Visit with a tax service professional for further details on filing the appropriate tax forms.

I have more than one child graduating this year, is there a cap on promise scholarships for households?

No. There is not a household limit on the number of students eligible for the Dallas County Promise scholarship program.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Process Timeline

How do I apply?

To be eligible to receive the Dallas County Promise (and Rising Star scholarship at DCCCD only), 2020 graduates must meet three key deadlines:

February 7: Complete the Dallas County Promise Pledge at DallasCountyPromise.org AND submit a parent signature on your Student Waiver Form (FERPA Form) if under 18 at the time of Pledge completion.

February 7: Admissions Application for Promise Partner Colleges due. Note: Students intending to enroll at a DCCCD college who have been enrolled in dual credit courses at DCCCD within the last year need only to update their contact information with the DCCCD college in which they intend to enroll.

March 6: Submit FAFSA or TASFA with a Promise partner college or university listed. Note: Students submitting a TASFA, please retain an electronic or printed and stamped receipt as proof of submission to a Promise partner college or university.

July 31: Complete registration for the fall semester. Seniors in a Promise high school must complete the Promise Pledge by February 7, 2020 to be eligible for both Promise and Rising Star. Students that miss any of the deadlines are not eligible to receive either scholarship.

What Information do I need to complete my Promise Pledge?

The Dallas County Promise Pledge is due by February 7. You will need your full name, Social Security Number (if applicable), date of birth, address, email address, cell phone number, and parent/guardian contact information. Click here to access.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Process Timeline (continued)

When do I have to start classes?

In order to take advantage of the Dallas County Promise scholarship, Promise Scholars must start classes the fall semester after graduation. If you have a hardship please email Phillip.Fabian@DallasCountyPromise.org for information on how to be considered for an extension.

What do I need to do to renew my Promise scholarship once I'm in DCCCD?

To continue to receive the Dallas County Promise scholarship, scholars must meet the cumulative GPA (2.0 overall) and Satisfactory Academic Progress (67% of all attempted credit hours) requirement each semester, take at least 18 hours over the course of each year, and complete their FAFSA/TASFA each year by March 6.

Promise Scholars and Rising Star scholars must enroll in the fall and spring semester during their first year and must not skip a fall or spring semester during the three-year eligibility period. However, Promise scholars and Rising Star scholars may enroll in fall, spring, summer, winter or May terms after enrolling in their initial fall semester.

Promise Scholars must complete their financial aid file, including verification before Spring Priority registration opens. All gift aid for which they are eligible, including Pell and state grants must be accepted. It is the scholar's responsibility to keep contact information up to date with Dallas County Promise, Rising Star, and the awarding institution's registrar's office. Incorrect contact information does not prevent a student from becoming ineligible.

My phone number or email address changed after I completed my Promise Pledge.

What do I do?

All Promise scholarship information will be sent to the email and phone number you list on your Promise Pledge. If your contact information changes, please let us know by emailing info@DallasCountyPromise.org and include your full name and HS student ID.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Process Timeline (continued)

What happens if I become ineligible or am suspended from the Promise Program?

Promise Scholars with qualifying special circumstances (i.e. military, pregnancy, documented illness, etc.) affecting their eligibility may appeal to DCCCD Promise with supporting documentation. The student will be notified by the Promise Program within five business days after a decision has been made regarding the appeal.

I signed the Pledge, but I plan on attending a non-partner college. What are my options through Promise?

The Dallas County Promise scholarship can only be used at participating Promise partner colleges and universities. Check out our Student Resources page for other potential scholarship opportunities.

If I sign the Pledge, am I required to attend DCCCD or a Promise partner college?

No. Completing a Promise Pledge provides the opportunity to attend a partner college with tuition gap funding, but the Pledge does not obligate a student to attend that college.

Does the Dallas County Promise expose my legal status if it offers me any resources?

No. Dallas County Promise staff will never share student information, including residency and citizenship status, with outside organizations or community members. Student information is shared with Promise partner colleges and universities that the student has indicated an interest in for the sole purpose of supporting student success.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Process Timeline (continued)

Why are there limited scholarships available with schools like Southern Methodist University?

The Dallas County Promise scholarship is funded directly by each Promise partner college and university. Each partner college and university defines their scholarship offer and selection criteria depending on the size of the institution and financial aid funds available.

Funding

How does the last-dollar scholarship work?

Dallas County Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, which means it will cover the gap between what classes cost and what Pell grants and other federal and state grants cover. Therefore, students are required to submit their financial aid applications (FAFSA or TASFA) by March 6.

If I'm selected for verification, when do I need to complete that process?

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA/TASFA information. If you are asked for verification, you must provide the necessary documentation to ensure timely funding. Funds will not be paid until the college determines that the verification process is complete.

If I miss any of the Dallas County Promise deadlines, can I still apply for Rising Star?

Seniors in Promise high schools must meet all three Promise deadlines to be considered for both Promise and Rising Star scholarships at DCCCD. Students in a Promise high school who miss the February 7 Promise Pledge deadline cannot receive a Promise or Rising Star scholarship at DCCCD.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Funding (continued)

Can I use my Dallas County Promise scholarship for developmental education classes?

Yes, developmental classes are covered by Dallas County Promise.

Does Dallas County Promise cover online classes and certificates?

Yes. And Dallas County Promise also counts for special awards, certificates and some continuing education courses.

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Yes. And Dallas County Promise also counts for special awards, certificates and some continuing education courses.

How will the funds be administered?

Promise Scholars will never directly receive cash from Dallas County Promise. Once a Promise Scholar's state and federal financial aid have been applied, the partner college will fund the gap with the dollars they've set aside for their Promise scholarships.

Does the Dallas County Promise make college completely free?

Even with the Dallas County Promise and/or Rising Star, there are other college costs you should budget for, including supplies, transportation, rent, and food. If you receive federal or state financial aid or additional scholarships, you can use these dollars towards your overall costs. To estimate college costs for DCCCD click [here](#).

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

Funding (continued)

How does Promise work with other outside scholarships?

It is possible to use other scholarship funds towards your overall costs as a Promise Scholar. However, there are scenarios where your outside scholarship would not be able to be used. Such as if the outside scholarship is designated to only be used towards the cost of tuition. Contact your intended college's financial aid office for further details.

Can I choose to take my classes entirely online at DCCCD and still be covered by the Promise scholarship?

Online classes that are included in a credit program or approved non-credit continuing education program are eligible for Promise gap funding. Some college programs require students to attend in-person courses. Check with the college admissions office for further details.

If my financial aid (Pell grant, Texas grant, etc.) covers my tuition and I don't need Promise dollars, am I still considered a Promise Scholar?

Yes! If your federal and/or state financial aid fully covers your tuition costs, you will still receive the other benefits of being a Promise Scholar, including access to a Success Coach at the college you attend and transfer opportunities from DCCCD.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE STUDENT FAQs

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE – DCCCD SUCCESS COACHES

What is a Success Coach?

One of the ways to help navigate the transition from high school to college is to continue asking questions and engage with the college culture and resources. There are times when it will be a little uncomfortable but that is a part of the learning and growth process! When it gets uncomfortable reach out your Success Coach. We can talk about what's on your mind and see how you can make the most thoughtful decisions for yourself.

How do I get a Success Coach and what do the Success Coaches do?

All Promise Scholars will be automatically assigned a Promise Success Coach after meeting the required Promise deadlines. Success coaches are there to support Promise Scholars in staying on top of deadlines, connecting to available services at the college and developing strategies to identify and overcome potential obstacles to college completion.

Who do I communicate with after I graduate high school and enroll at a Promise partner college?

Students who successfully complete requirements to be eligible for the Dallas County Promise scholarship program will be paired with a Success Coach, a dedicated college employee focused on student success from their intended college. Students may reach out to their Success Coach for support while entering or attending a Promise partner college, or they can reach out directly to the college admissions office, financial aid office or other student support services.

To speak with someone, contact the Success Coaches:

972-669-6599

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CHRONUS MOBILE USER GUIDE

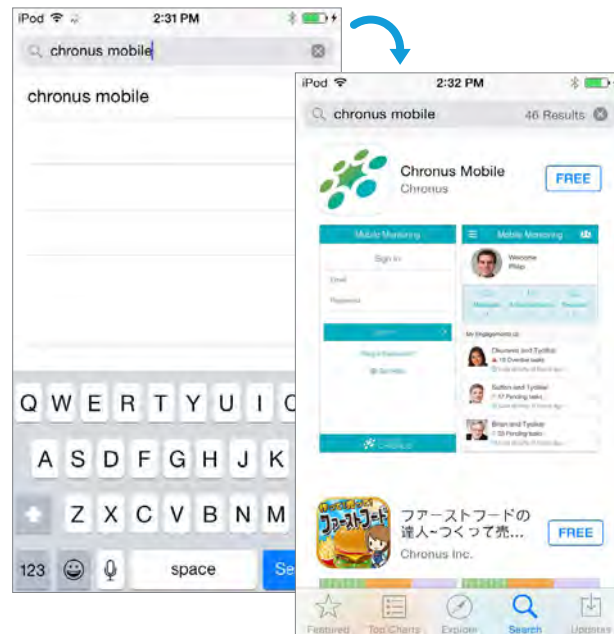
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR IOS

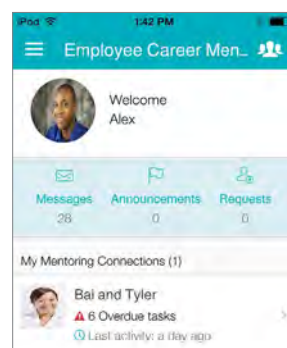
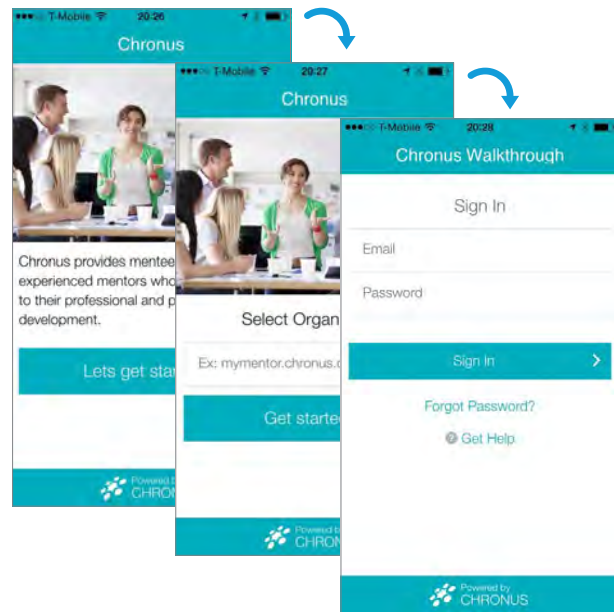
Installing Chronus Mobile on iOS

1. Open the App Store on your Apple® iPod®, iPhone®, or iPad.™
2. Navigate to the Search tab and search for “Chronus Mobile” as in the screenshot below left. You should then see something like the image below.
3. Install Chronus Mobile by tapping on the button labeled **FREE**
4. After installing, open the Chronus Mobile app.



Setting up Chronus Mobile on iOS

1. Open the Chronus Mobile app (iOS only). 
2. Tap “Let’s Get Started” (iOS only).
3. If you are asked for your organization, enter the URL of your mentoring program (coxmentors.chronus.com). (iOS only)
4. Sign in using the same email address and password you use to access your mentoring program.
5. Once you have signed in, you will see the Chronus Mobile app home page, which looks like this:

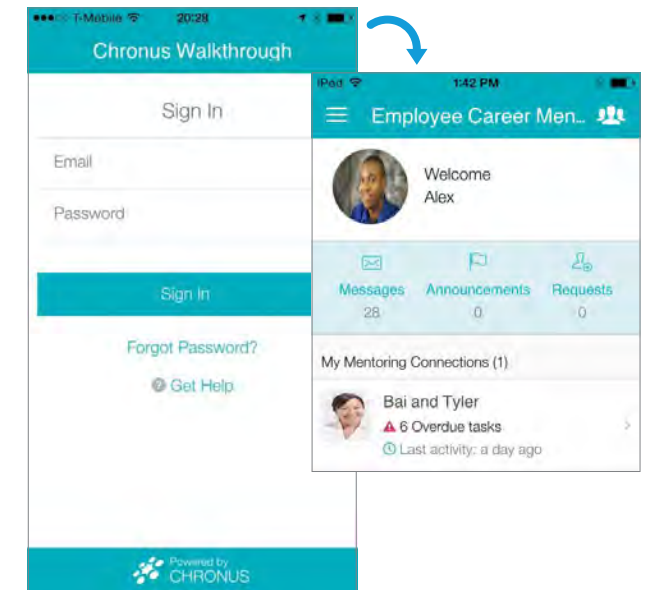


Congratulations, you have just signed in to the Chronus Mobile app!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANDROID

Setting up Chronus Mobile on Android

1. Open Chrome Browser on your smartphone and enter the website address of your mentoring program in the address bar, coxmentors.chronus.com.
2. Sign in using the same email address and password you use to access your program.
3. Now you will see the Chronus Mobile home page, which looks like the image on the right.



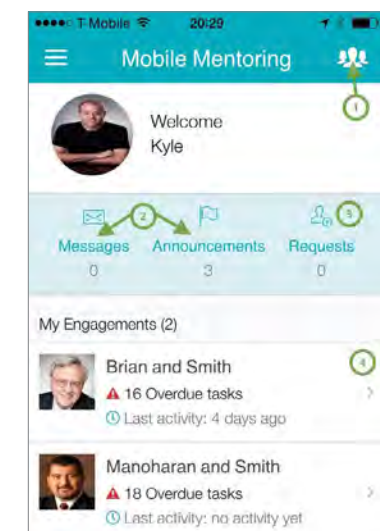
Congratulations, you have just signed in to the Chronus Mobile app!

USING CHRONUS MOBILE

Home Page

The Home Page shows you the status of all of your connections as well as any Messages, Announcements, or Connection Requests that are waiting for you. You can also tap on the Connect icon to browse for new people to connect with.

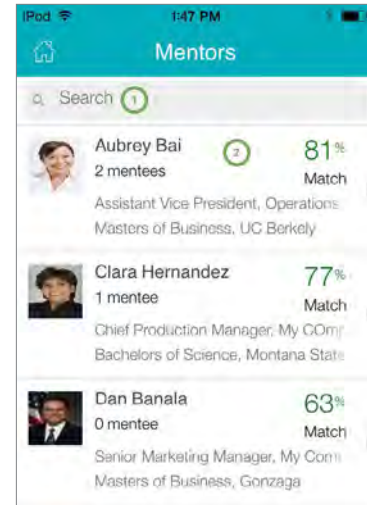
- 1 Tap here to find new people to connect with.
- 2 Tap here to read your messages and announcements.
- 3 Tap here to reply to Connection Requests.
- 4 Tap here to view the details of a connection.



Connection Requests

This page shows people that might be a good match for you. Use it to find potential connection partners.

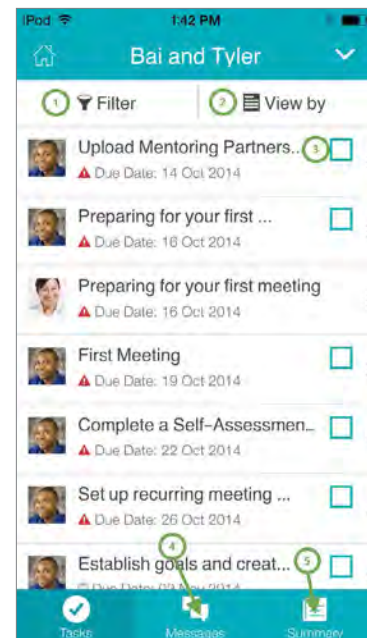
- 1 Use the search bar to find people with a specific skill such as accounting, consulting, or management.
- 2 View more details about a person by clicking on the person's name.



Connection Details

Once you have established a connections, use the Connection Details page to review and complete tasks, send messages to your connection partner, and see a summary of your connection.

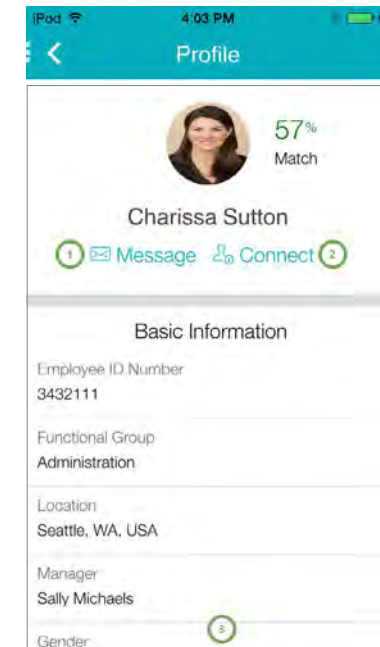
- 1 Tap here to filter tasks and only see the ones you want.
- 2 Tap here to organize tasks by Milestones and Goals
- 3 Tap here to mark a task complete. You can also tap anywhere in the task description to view the details of that task.
- 4 Tap here to view the messages sent between you and your connection partner.
- 5 Tap here to view a summary of this Connection.



Profile Page

The Profile Page shows information about people that will be useful in finding a connection partner.

- 1 Tap here to send a message to this person.
- 2 Tap here to request to Connect with this person.
- 3 Scroll down to see more information.



THE PROMISE CHAMPION INITIATIVE

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Dallas, Texas 75215
<https://dallascountypromise.org>