



**HILLSIDE WORK-SCHOLARSHIP CONNECTION (HW-SC)
GRADUATION. COLLEGE. CAREER.**

Lifting Young People Out of Poverty and on to a Path for Success

WHO WE ARE

For the past 28 years, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) has earned national recognition as an innovative leading solution to poverty and the abysmal high school graduation rate, delivering consistent, measurable results for school districts and their students in the areas of high school graduation, college and career readiness, and employment

What we provide exclusively is a full time, paid, professional YA who engages students and families and helps them connect to academic, workforce and social supports. Each advocate optimizes the potential of students and is held accountable for them achieving high school graduation, college readiness skills, job training and a part time employment experience.

In essence, we change the norm for students and families living in generational poverty by giving them a process to be successful, which includes expanding access to educational and employment opportunities.

The results and community impact are compelling:

- Since the program's inception, over 5,000 young people have graduated from our urban high schools and have become productive citizens in the communities where they live and work today.
- Of the students who stay in the program, 84% graduate high school.
- Many of the students work during high school with our employment partners. As a matter of fact, those students who work with our employer partners graduate at the rate of 94% in four years!
- There are currently over 4,000 students in the program today in New York and Maryland.

WHAT WE DO

HW-SC releases the potential of at-risk youth to break the cycle of poverty by helping them graduate from high school and become college- and- career ready. Professional youth advocates, part-time jobs, new life skills and community investments are at the core of our proven model. Graduation is just the beginning because we are serious about lifelong success. Core elements of the HW-SC model include:

- ✓ **Mentoring:** Long-term, consistent relationships with full-time, professional Youth Advocate mentors whose case-management approach helps students access the resources they need to overcome any obstacles at home, at school and on the job.
- ✓ **Life skills:** Robust year-round enrichment activities, including weekly after-school programs utilizing the evidence-based Teen Outreach Program curriculum (proven to help reduce teen pregnancy, school suspensions, class failure and dropout) and HW-SC's Summer Academy.
- ✓ **Workforce development:** HW-SC prepares students for entry into the workforce through its Jobs Institute and Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA), a 25-hour training program that helps youth develop interviewing and entry-level job skills. Students who meet standards for attendance, grades and positive attitudes are recommended for YETA. Successful completion of YETA allows students to apply for entry-level jobs with local employer partners. Employment exposes students to career opportunities and enables them to develop marketable job skills, as well as earn money toward college tuition. While employed, students are supported by regular coaching from a mentor/supervisor at their place of

employment, by their Youth Advocate and by HW-SC staff specializing in youth workforce development.

- ✓ College preparation and support: Helping students access the information and support they need to gain acceptance to college, and to ensure their successful transition.
- ✓ Individualized academic support: Includes tutoring, academic assistance and other specialized interventions during the school year and in the HW-SC Summer Academy. HW-SC partners with local colleges, universities and other academic partners for tutoring support.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

- ✓ **Consistency and engagement** — Our program is year-round and multi-year, from enrollment through graduation. Students have the same trusted Youth Advocate four years or more (depending on enrollment dates). Most develop lifelong attachments that help drive their future success.
- ✓ **Results oriented** — We are recognized as a leading solution to the poverty and dropout crisis because we deliver dependable, measurable results for communities. HW-SC students graduate at much higher rates than their peers.
- ✓ **Collaborative** — We partner with schools, teachers, administrators, parents, students and many other community resources to achieve success. Our model relies on a team approach to maximize the community's existing resources on behalf of our students instead of duplicating what's already working.
- ✓ **Youth employment** — HW-SC's Jobs Institute helps young people acquire the skills they need to be successful on the job, providing them with a solid foundation upon which they can build their future careers. Employment also helps inspire achievement.

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENTS

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection was named one of 23 high-potential programs nationwide in "Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond," a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded report from the American Youth Policy Forum. Other accolades/endorsements include:

- ✓ Edna McConnell Clark Foundation — Recipient of two multimillion-dollar investments to help HW-SC replicate its program and demonstrate its impact in more high-need school districts
- ✓ Venture Philanthropy Partners — Recipient of up to \$1.95 million investment for program in Prince George's County, Md., to enable up to 1050 middle and high school students to gain work experience from local employers and the support needed to successfully graduate
- ✓ American Business Press — Points of Light Award
- ✓ PEPNet Award — National Youth Employment Coalition Best Practice
- ✓ National Center on Education and the Economy
- ✓ Partners for Education and Business, Inc. — Partner of the Year Quality Award
- ✓ Social Impact Exchange S&I 100 award — An Index of Top Nonprofits Creating Social Impact
- ✓ Catalogue of Philanthropy
- ✓ Standards of Excellence

SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015 ENROLLMENT

Buffalo, NY: Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection has been in Western New York since 2011 and currently operates in four schools serving over 230 students.

Rochester, NY: Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection has been in the Monroe Region since 1987 and currently operates in 21 sites within Rochester City School District and Greece Central School District serving over 2,300 students.

Syracuse, NY: Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection has been in Central New York since 1993 and currently operates in ten schools within the Syracuse City School District and Rome Free Academy serving over 1,000 students.

Prince George's County, MD: Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection has been in Prince George's County since 2008 and currently operates in eight schools serving over 500 students.