

## Speaker Notes for Slide Show & Discussion Notes

Calistoga Promise Program, June 27th, 2017

**Note: Please refer to slide-show from meeting.**

**Discussion notes may not always perfectly align with topics on slides, but rather resulted from the discussion of slide contents.**

**Slide #3 | Promise Programs:** Place-based means that the scholarships are awarded only to those students living and attending schools in the community that has created the program. By guaranteeing a college education, they help to support a college-going culture within the schools they serve. In addition to paying for college tuition, some promise programs provide tutoring and mentoring opportunities for students as well. For example, Tennessee Promise has an incredible mentor program completely staffed by community volunteers who can even meet remotely with their mentees. Mentors are provided with step-by-step support and resources.

**Slide #4 | Kalamazoo Promise:** Link to Video: <https://youtu.be/LCNXZqfs6Vo>

Begun in 2005, Kalamazoo Promise is one of the oldest programs in the country -- [there are currently over 80 Promise Programs in California alone.](#)

**Slide #5 | Key Considerations:** There are several key considerations to launching and running a successful Promise program. The program should have partners from all sectors of the community, student qualifications must be established and agreed upon, decisions need to be made about how the scholarships will be disbursed and under what circumstances, funding sources must be identified, supported, and maintained in order to ensure that the promise is truly a guarantee, and all partners have a say in how the success of the program will be measured.

### Key Considerations Discussion Notes:

- Would be good if all groups (service & community organizations) could work together under one umbrella -- Promise creates that opportunity.
- Disbursement - students changing schools: We'll need to carefully consider and seek consensus from all partners on how disbursement will be regulated. For example, would families who send their children to school elsewhere be eligible for the Promise if they return to CJSHS for junior/senior year?
  - Pro-rated -- In some cases the Promise could be pro-rated for families that return to CJSHS
  - Strong feelings around not providing Promise to families who LIVE in Calistoga but send their children to a school outside district

- Could be reviewed case-by-case, as some families take children to schools where they work.
- Proposal: What if there were 10 different criteria and a family would be required to meet a set number of those criteria in order to be eligible? Would give the program some options in terms of deciding if a particular family/student is eligible
- Mentioned that currently 65 families are sending their students to school outside of Calistoga. It seems unlikely that many would return for just their senior year, so hopefully this would not be a big issue.
- Babies born in Calistoga -- Could begin offering a savings plan (TIAA funding / savings bonds to babies born to families in Calistoga who plan to stay in Calistoga and enroll in Calistoga schools.
  - There are also funding models that match contributions, so parents could add to the fund, but then their contributions could be matched. There was a program through the UpValley Family Center for home purchase that was structured this way.

**Slide #6 | Partners:** This a list of the various types of partners that have participated in the creation of the more than 80 promise programs currently operating in California. We do not need to limit ourselves to just these partners, nor do we necessarily need all of these partners to be successful.

Partners Discussion Notes:

List on slide 6 makes sense. Add "individual donors," who may be particularly involved in the savings bonds -- individuals who could make a \$500 contribution to the savings account to get it started, for example.

Partner roles will be clearly delineated. For example, College & Career Center responsible for organizing and running parent workshops at various stages so that parents/families as partners are informed and involved.

**Slide #7 | Student Qualifications:** These are Carla's suggestions, gleaned from the descriptions of other California promise programs. The program should be tailored to the needs of the community, and these qualifications should be a reflection of those needs.

Student Qualifications Discussion Notes:

- From a Calistoga school (graduate)
- Increase the community service requirement for graduation. Make sure students are performing community service throughout their education -- not just giving back to their community, but also experiencing various career possibilities.
- Partner outreach -- community partners could come and do outreach earlier. Look at involving students in community issues and opportunities to contribute earlier so they are prepared to engage as soon as possible/appropriate.

- What does "Leadership" mean in the context of a student qualification? It could be older students mentoring younger students, but it could also be young people working to lead the way on various community projects/initiatives.
- Parent accountability - How do we shape the parent commitment? Carla will get copies of possible contracts, with possibility for students to participate even if parents won't. These should be easy to obtain through other College Promise Programs.
- Add a residency qualifier to attend Calistoga Schools for set number of years -- disqualify if you live here but attend elsewhere? (maybe attend junior senior year -- "demand respect we deserve" as a district.

**Slide #8 | Funding Choices:** A last dollar scholarship is what I see as most beneficial for our students who are qualified to attend four-year universities. It is that funding gap that prevents qualified students from beginning their education at a four-year university. Once they begin at a two-year, the amount of time required to degree completion can become another financial obstacle, which prevents persistence. The funding gap is also the main reason students who go directly to a four-year university struggle to persist and complete.

Oakland Promise has taken a "cradle to career" approach and all infants born into poverty in Oakland have a college savings account opened in their names.

Funding Choices Discussion Notes:

- Mentoring programs to encourage 4-year attendance
- Computer access for students to take community college classes here in Calistoga -- this could facilitate dual enrollment too, which would help students with timely degree completion.
- Include trade schools if possible/necessary. Some students need to attend a trade school if the training/certificate they desire is not available at a California community college. These students should definitely be included in the Promise.
- Catch them young! Really need to reach and inspire students and families @ the elementary level.
  - College & Career Center role in encouraging kids -- how reach down to elementary?
- Mindset of you can do anything! Example: "That Class."
  - Could do savings bonds @ 3 different benchmarks -- sets the stage for persistence and success.

**Slide #9 | Funding Sources:** From "A Collection of Program Profiles" by WestEd

Funding Sources Discussion Notes:

Current donor organizations and individuals continue to select recipients based on existing criteria, but would also like to provide the opportunity for existing donors to participate in the Promise by donating to the promise. Completely up to the donors. There is a "Special revenues / property tax" potential on the horizon -- 2 new projects generating \$900 per student per property in perpetuity. These funds aren't currently committed. \$1800 per student per year. This funding comes available in two years, so we should begin looking now into the possibility some or all of these funds could support the Promise. Many districts throughout the state are using similar funding sources to support their promise programs. There will be a lot of competition for these funds. Perhaps a task force to explore and strategize?

**Slide #10 | Outcomes & Data:** These are just examples of some of the long, medium, and short term outcomes of various promise programs. These outcomes should be tailored to our specific desires and needs in Calistoga. Data sources and metrics would be agreed upon by the partners -- how will we know when we are succeeding at any given outcome?

Follow-up Discussion Notes:

- Set up individual meetings one-on-one to help parents and students plan individual plan for each student.
- flyer/ business card with web address for others to get involved: Carla will create and get to the group.
- Soroptimist (Nushi & Teresa) to possibly meet with Carla in August re: success curriculum that supports students setting goals and making long-range plans.