



A Statement on Steppingstone Scholars' Partnership with Temple University In Launching the Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program

November 12, 2020

I am proud to share that through a strategic collaboration with Temple University, we have just launched the [Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program](#). What makes this program different and exciting is the student population it targets and the pre-college academic support it provides. The Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program will focus on students living in just eight (8) zip codes, all in North Philadelphia. Open only to students who attend Philadelphia public high schools (district or charter), selected scholars will be provided:

- Coordinated pre-college preparation through Steppingstone, including dual enrollment courses at Temple during their senior year in high school
- Focused campus advising and mentoring in cohorts to build community
- Targeted scholarships which will cover base tuition at Temple through a combination of scholarships and grants

As an educational and social mobility organization, Steppingstone is laser-focused on addressing the systemic racial and economic barriers that face so many underserved and underrepresented students across the City of Philadelphia. Few realize that less than 10% of the School District of Philadelphia's students complete college six years after their high school graduation. That is less than 1,500 students of the 15,000 who begin 9th grade every year. Even fewer know that in some North Philadelphia neighborhoods, unemployment rates are higher today than in the Great Depression. This has all been exacerbated by COVID-19 and rightfully illuminated due to the critical national – and local – conversation on inequality and racial justice.

The Cecil B. Moore Scholars Program actively responds to this moment by creating a better pathway to college for students in North Philadelphia, where, for too long, the college process has not been fair or equitable. It is the creation of such a pathway that is at the heart of Steppingstone's mission in this city. We are proud to make this better pathway with our valued partners at Temple, our city's only public university, and we have every confidence that this program will have a tremendous impact on the lives of students living and learning in North Philadelphia.

If you know a potential scholar, please share with them the application details and deadlines linked [here](#).

Sean E. Vereen, EdD
President
Steppingstone Scholars