Columbus Promise Announcement
Dr. Dixon Remarks
Nov. 10, 2021

Thank you, President Harrison.

This moment marks a historic opportunity for future Columbus City Schools graduates! From the first time students step foot into a classroom, parents and teachers alike focus on life after high school -- "go to college; find a career you love; consider opportunities in the military." As partners in their success, we share a responsibility to expose them to those postsecondary experiences and pathways, and that is exactly what we are doing today.

The Columbus Promise is another example of our city and community leaders wrapping their arms around Columbus City Schools’ students and investing in their future.

The Columbus Promise has the opportunity to change trajectories for CCS students. This program will allow college to become a reality for many students, especially when you are talking about removing one of its biggest hurdles - tuition. The degree they can earn from Columbus State Community College could very well be the first college diploma earned in their family. Whether they decide to continue their education or enter the workforce, they will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to make an immediate impact.

That is what we want to give them...a PROMISE of a brighter future. A future rich with life-changing educational and financial opportunities.
And while we are here today focused on the Class of 2022, I’m equally excited about what this initiative could mean for our students in elementary and middle school. We have been very intentional in aligning postsecondary readiness in our K through 12 space and ensuring our students embody the attributes outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate: Adaptability, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Global Empathy, and Technology.

With the support of our business partners, we will be able to expose students to career fields earlier. We have a chance to get them on a college campus sooner and paint a picture of the experiences waiting for them when it is their time to graduate high school.

Everyone here shares a similar vision of what the future of our city could and should look like. It starts with a promise, a promise like the one we’re ALL making today to current Columbus City Schools seniors and the graduating classes that will follow.

The education and experience we will afford students are invaluable, and I am incredibly grateful to work alongside these dedicated leaders creating this new pathway. On behalf of Columbus City Schools family, THANK YOU!

And now I would like to introduce our Board of Education President Jennifer Adair.