

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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-PRESS RELEASE-

New Haven Promise Hires Assistant Director

*Suzanne Lyons joins New Haven Promise with critical experience in college preparation,
college access and college support*

(NEW HAVEN) —New Haven Promise welcomes assistant director Suzanne Lyons to the Promise team, announced Executive Director Patricia Melton.

Lyons is a licensed social worker with more than 10 years' experience working with and for youth in a variety of settings, including out-of-school programs, university-community collaborations and national nonprofit organizations. She has a finance and accounting certificate and a Master's in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame.

Most recently, Lyons was the associate director of the University of Pennsylvania High School Upward Bound, a college prep program tasked with increasing the rate at which low-income, first-generation students enroll in and graduate from college with a bachelor's degree. The program provides high school students with academic, career and cultural enrichment resources.

In that position, Lyons was responsible for Upward Bound's summer and academic year programs, the mentoring program, tracking Upward Bound alumni and working with college access colleagues on best practices and leveraging resources.

Prior to Upward Bound, Lyons was the associate director of the University of Pennsylvania's Civic Scholars Program and Civic House, the university's hub for student-led community engagement.

From 2005-2008, Lyons served as a program trainer and senior trainer in Boston at The Posse Foundation, a nationally renowned college access and youth leadership development program. Posse operates on the philosophy that a small group of carefully trained students can serve as a support system for one another and a catalyst for change on campus.

“Suzanne’s college preparation, college access and college support experience will provide New Haven Promise with an important level of expertise as we expand the program into both providing college preparatory work and supporting our growing class of college scholars,” said Melton.

Lyons is the first in her family to attend and graduate from college. She is also a Connecticut native.

As assistant director, Lyons will be responsible for overseeing program implementation of the Pathways to Promise and Promise Scholarship programs in the NHPS K-12 in addition to supervising the creation of the Promise College Support Network. In this role, Lyons will work closely with students, guidance counselors, program partners such as College Summit and college student support staff.

New Haven Promise is a scholarship and support program. New Haven Promise: Scholarship is funded by Yale University. New Haven Promise: Partnership is funded by Yale-New Haven Hospital and Wells Fargo. New Haven Promise is a component fund and program of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

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