The Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP) is a rigorous academic and cultural enrichment program that supports high-achieving, low-income high school students. Our multiyear, tuition-free program prepares participants for admission to and success within America’s finest colleges and universities. PUPP — founded by the Princeton University Program in Teacher Preparation in 2001 — serves students from partner public high schools in Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence, Princeton and Trenton.

Approximately 24 students are selected each year in the spring of ninth grade to participate in our comprehensive, three year college preparation program. Selection is highly competitive and based on a holistic assessment of a student’s academic record, scholastic potential and family circumstances.

PUPP scholars attend three intensive summer institutes on Princeton University’s campus. During the 6 ½ week summer institutes, scholars take a range of courses on topics including writing, literature, mathematics, art and science. Excursions to regional cultural and educational institutions are also integral components of the summer institutes. Throughout the academic year, scholars attend mandatory weekly academic enrichment sessions held after school, as well as a series of Saturday cultural events. Scholars also receive extensive college-preparation services, including college tours, standardized test preparation, and one-on-one college admissions and financial aid guidance.

“PUPP has exposed me to new people and experiences that I wouldn’t have ever otherwise dreamt I could experience.”
— Dereck Retana, Trenton Central High School Class of 2016

“I am extremely grateful for PUPP. Without PUPP, I don’t even know if I would be in college. Now I have all these opportunities.”
— Stephen Moore, Trenton Central High School Class of 2009, Muhlenberg College Class of 2013

“For our family, PUPP is an extended community of support providing a wealth of opportunities and a source of immeasurable pride.”
— Cynthia Silva, Princeton High School Class of 2014, Muhlenberg College Class of 2019

— Brianna Silva, Princeton High School Class of 2018

“The impact of PUPP on my life has been immeasurable. PUPP has served as a vehicle transporting me from Trenton, NJ to Occidental College and now, Harvard and Stanford University.”
— Michael Olegg, Trenton Central High School Class of 2008, Occidental College Class of 2012, Stanford Law School Class of 2018

— Arthur Turtas Jr., Trenton High School West Class of 2013, University of Richmond Class of 2017

PUPP PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

• Take risks in thinking critically and creatively about course content
• Broaden their academic expertise in the areas of writing, literature, science, mathematics and cultural arts
• Present an individual perspective that is informed by readings, discussions and life experience
• Exhibit high self-esteem, strong communication skills and a respect for diversity

PUPP has transformed me from a student into a well-rounded scholar. It has given me the opportunity to go beyond my own potential. PUPP has given me a new sense of life and better future.”
— Michael Olegg, Trenton Central High School Class of 2008, Occidental College Class of 2012, Stanford Law School Class of 2018

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Alumni are attending or have graduated from some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation, including:

Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Carnegie Mellon University
Colgate University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dickinson College
Duke University
Georgetown University
Franklin and Marshall College
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University
Lafayette College
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
Occidental College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Rutgers University
Smith College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
The College of New Jersey
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
Vassar College
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington University, St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University

There is no cost for students to participate in PUPP and each student receives a stipend during the summer institute. PUPP is supported by Princeton University and donations from alumni, foundations and corporations.

PUPP alumni have a 95% college-retention rate.

“PUPP is my pathway to opportunity and SUCCESS.”
— Maria Monterose, Lawrence High School Class of 2018

“Through PUPP’s inspiring classes and mentorship, Princeton University helps high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds gain greater access to a college education—and to a brighter future. This innovative program does exceptional work in motivating talented students and preparing them for the opportunities and challenges of college. By empowering these students to earn college degrees and follow their dreams, PUPP makes a huge contribution to our society.”
— Christopher L. Eisgruber ’83, Princeton University President

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