

Helping Youth Lift Themselves Out of Poverty and Onto Pathways for Success

Founded in 1987, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) is dedicated to reversing the trend of entrenched poverty in urban and rural areas, which can be directly linked to low high school graduation rates. The program has earned national recognition for delivering consistent, measurable results in improving graduation rates, college/career readiness and employment—helping communities, one student at a time.

One unique element of HW-SC is the Youth Advocate, a full-time professional who works directly with students, families, teachers and school staff to connect the HW-SC participant to academic, workforce and social supports that make a difference in their ability to set and achieve their goals.

Student Enrollment: 2016-2017 Academic Year			
Community Served	Serving Area Since	# of Schools	# of Students
Buffalo, NY	2011	6	540
Prince George's County, MD	2008	9	877
Rochester, NY	1987	19 (city & suburbs)	2,098
Rome, NY	2015	1	104
Salamanca, NY	2016	1	51
Syracuse, NY	1993	10	974
Washington, DC	2016	1	28
Total: 4,672 Youth Served			

Results and Community Impact

- Since the program's inception in 1987, nearly 6,000 participating young people have graduated from urban high schools and become productive citizens in the communities where they live and work.
- Of the students who stay in the program, 93% graduate high school.
- Many participating students work during high school with HW-SC employment partners. In fact, those students who work with employer partners graduate at a rate of 98% in four years.
- HW-SC serves more than 5,000 students in the 2017-2018 academic year, including new program partnerships in the Binghamton and Union-Endicott (NY) school districts.

How HW-SC Works

HW-SC unleashes the potential of youth to break the cycle of poverty by helping them graduate with college- and career-readiness skills. HW-SC is committed to participant success through a core model that includes:

- **Mentoring**—Long-term, consistent relationships with Youth Advocates whose case-management approach helps students access resources to overcome obstacles at home, school and work.
- **Life Skills**—Robust year-round activities include HW-SC's Summer Academy, as well as weekly after-school programs that utilize an evidence-based teen outreach curriculum—proven to help reduce teen pregnancy, school suspensions, class failures and dropping out.
- **Workforce Development**—Participating students prepare to enter the workforce through HW-SC's Jobs Institute and the Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA), a 25-hour program that provides interviewing and entry-level job skills training. Students meeting standards for attendance, grades and positive attitudes are recommended for YETA, and upon completion may apply for entry-level jobs with local employer partners. That employment exposes students to new career opportunities and helps them develop marketable job skills, while earning money for college tuition. While employed, HW-SC students are supported by a workplace mentor/supervisor, their Youth Advocate and program staff.

- **College Preparation and Support**—HW-SC supports students through the college application process, and helps ensure their successful transitions to the world of higher education.
- **Individualized Academic Support**—Academic assistance and other specialized interventions, including tutoring support through partnerships with local colleges, universities and other academic partners.

What Makes HW-SC Different

- **Consistency and Engagement**—HW-SC provides year-round support for participants throughout their high-school journey. Most student participants work with the same trusted Youth Advocate from enrollment through graduation, and develop lifelong connections that drive their future success.
- **Results-Oriented**—HW-SC’s dependable, measurable results drive the program’s national reputation as a leading solution to the poverty and dropout crisis. Participating students graduate at much higher rates than youth not involved with the program.
- **Collaborative**—HW-SC takes a team approach in partnering with schools, teachers, administrators, parents, students and community resources—all to help students succeed.
- **Youth Employment**—The HW-SC Jobs Institute helps young people acquire the skills they need to be successful in the workforce, providing them with a solid foundation upon which they can build future careers. Employment also helps inspire academic achievement.

Program Support and Endorsements

HW-SC was named one of 23 high-potential programs nationwide in “Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond,” a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded report from the American Youth Policy Forum. Other accolades and endorsements include:

- **Edna McConnell Clark Foundation**—Two multimillion-dollar investments to help replicate HW-SC in other high-need school districts
- **Upstate Revitalization Initiative**—\$3 million in public funding, matched by private funds, to support program growth in the Rochester/Finger Lakes Region
- **My Brother’s Keeper**—Selected by Syracuse City School District to implement a three-year, \$1.76 million grant
- **Venture Philanthropy Partners**—Up to \$1.95 million investment to expand HW-SC in Prince George’s County, MD
- **American Business Press**—Points of Light Award
- **PEPNet Award**—National Youth Employment Coalition Best Practice
- Recognition from the **National Center on Education and the Economy**
- **Partners for Education and Business, Inc.**—Partner of the Year Quality Award
- **Social Impact Exchange S&I 100**—An Index of top nonprofits creating social impact
- **Catalogue for Philanthropy**—Cited among top Greater Washington Region programs impacting the social good
- **Standards for Excellence**—A national accreditation recognizing nonprofit organizations that achieve the highest benchmarks of ethics and accountability in governance, management and operations

Proven High Community Value

According to a detailed Benefit-Cost Analysis conducted by the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education, every dollar invested in HW-SC yields high value to society:

- **\$4.75** For all students exposed to HW-SC
- **\$7.52** For students who remain in HW-SC through on-time graduation
- **\$9.55** For African-American men who stay with HW-SC until graduating

To learn more, contact HW-SC at (888) 514-4455 or visit hillside.com.