

How has the Kalamazoo Promise Changed My Life?

Responses from High School Students in May 2007

The following responses were provided by high school students in Kalamazoo Public Schools on a survey administered in May 2007. Students were prompted with the question, “*How has the Kalamazoo Promise changed your life?*” Rich responses were received, so much so that the evaluators thought they deserved their own space in the evaluation. (A more concise summary of the responses can be found in Appendix B of Working Paper #3: www.wmich.edu/evalctr/promise/)

We have removed any identifying information from the responses, such as the names of schools or teachers, but have otherwise left the grammar and phrasing of the students’ responses in their original form. They have been grouped by theme for the reader’s ease. As is evident from the graph below, a total of 620 students left comments to our open-ended prompt. This is almost half the total number of students who completed the survey. This particular prompt was the last question on the survey.

A handful of survey responses were not included in the total count, nor were they coded for a theme, due to their inappropriate nature or their lack of substance. We have chosen to include comments that reflected no change due to the Kalamazoo Promise because they also reveal important aspects of the effects of the scholarship program, even if they are a bit redundant. We think that, overall, the responses

	Relief of financial burden	No change	College as a possibility	Increased options	Self-improvement	Family disposable income	Negative impact	Total
N	147	145	130	73	68	32	25	620
%	23.7%	23.4%	21.0%	11.8%	11.0%	5.2%	4.0%	100%

reveal a genuine and tangible impact on the lives of students and their families.

Relief of Financial Burden

- It made me want to go to college cause I was having doubts because I didn't know how I can pay for it. But now the promise is here I now want to go to college.
- I don't have to worry about paying so much
- It changed it a lot because a lot of people don't have a lot of money for college.
- I can afford to go to college now and pursue my future goals
- Free college
- It is free college now.
- It changed my life because I wanted to become a registered nurse and I was worried at first how I was going to pay for it. Now it's going to be easier.
- I get to go to college as long as I want.
- That I don't have to work more to pay for college.
- Basically free tuition means for me that I can afford college books and pay rents so I'm not like totally homeless trying to get into college

- Well I don't have to pay for 4 years but I still have to pay for books.
- It has made a big difference because college is very expensive and I wasn't sure I could afford it.
- I can go to college for free
- Because I can afford to go to college.
- Gave some financial stability.
- Because I can go to college for free, and I'm closer to home.
- It helped me to pay for college and think about it more sincerely.
- It has made me secure that I will be able to go to college without as much financial difficulties.
- Before the Promise, I knew I wanted to go to college and now affording college will be much easier for me and my friends!
- I can go to college for free now.
- Gave me free college
- I could go to college for free.
- College free
- I'm not going to be in debt.
- I can go to school for cheaper.
- The Kalamazoo Promise just made going to college cheaper for me. That is less work I will have to do for money to pay for college.
- Because I can go to college without having to pay all of that money.
- I don't have to pay for college.
- I can go to college for cheap.
- It has made it a lot easier for me to succeed in life because I really didn't know if I was going to college because I couldn't really afford it.
- Because I didn't know how I was going to pay for college.
- It's helping pay to go to college.
- It has made college more affordable.
- I can now afford college.
- Now I can afford to go to college and still afford to take care of my daughter.
- It changed my life because now I don't need to pay for college and I can get my college degree.
- Not much, more money in my pocket.
- The promise has made it possible to continue my education without having the burden of worrying so much about paying for it.
- The Promise changed my life because now I know I can go to college without paying.
- Well it's opened a door for me to get an education and not to worry about paying money back. But either way I would have had an athletic scholarship.
- I won't be in debt now.
- It has taken an enormous amount of stress off my back by making college much more affordable to me. Without it, there would be about a so/so chance of me affording college (including financial aide, scholarships, and finances/ my parents expected me to cover 50% of the tuition!)
- I don't have to worry about saving money for college.
- Saving money
- Help pay for college
- It has made it so Affording college will be easier for me.
- With the promise I won't have to work too hard to pay for college.
- Free college!

- It gave me a second open door or a back up if I didn't have enough money or scholarships to make it into another college.
- I don't have to pay a lot of money for it now, just books, fees, and dorms.
- I will not have to pay as much when I go to college.
- It has allowed me to go to college for free instead of searching for other scholarships to fund my education.
- I can wait to pay for tuition.
- It will make it so I can get a great education for free.
- Will not have to take out a loan.
- Now I will not have as much financial aide bills to pay after college.
- Well it just took care of the money problems I would've had when I did attend college.
- It has allowed me to not have to worry about paying for college.
- The Kalamazoo Promise now just lets me worry about books and housing.
- I appreciate it, it's just made my life a lot easier money wise.
- It's going to give me money for college.
- I can have more "pocket money" when I go to college.
- Now I know I won't need to get a job to help pay for college.
- I get almost free college.
- The Kalamazoo Promise changed my life because now as we get this gift we don't have to pay for it. Also it's helping me out because only thing I need to do is get good grades and I will be there.
- I just get free college.
- Um nothing really but I don't have to pay a big bill after college.
- It lets me know for sure that I can afford college. I'm less stressed.
- I can go to college and not worry about money.
- Now I get free college and don't have to work as much.
- It has made me have more money for school. I get 75% of the Promise, FAFSA, MEAP scholarship, and the TIP scholarship. I was going to college either way.
- I won't have to take out as many student loans now that I have the Promise.
- It has allowed me to be stress free about having the funds to attend college.
- I have to stay here to go to college and it's free.
- It's going to make my life complete! I can go to college and not be in debt for half my life. I can put that money to use for other things.
- The K-Promise has changed my life by putting the stress and work for college money on hold for this remaining time.
- Since I'm qualified for 100% tuition, the Promise has secured a way for more to pay for college.
- It lightens the financial burden.
- The money that I was plan on spending for college can be spent for other things
- I am less concerned about the cost
- Made me sure that I will be able to go to school / college.
- Yes, I have a 4.0 GPA but even with scholarships I wouldn't have been able to afford college.
- I was already going to college before, it'll just be much easier now.
- I now get 65% off college in Michigan which is nice.
- It hasn't really that much except that we remodeled our house and got a big screen plasma TV and went on a cruise.
- It made it easier to afford college.
- Now I know that I can go to college without spending a lot of money.

- It hasn't really just gave me a safety net just in case
- It has made me more confident in the fact that I'm going to college regardless of financial problems.
- It has changed my life because I won't have to worry about loans as much.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has ensured my future. It puts me on a good start, not being so down in debt starting off.
- I can now go to college for free and use the money for something else like an apartment or something,
- I can go to college for free.
- Hasn't really changed it. I already planned on going to college by getting scholarships.
- Because I know I don't have to pay for it. It's free.
- It's saved me a ton of money and it's awesome that I'm not going to have to pay back a ton of student loans. It's like having a jumpstart to my life after and before college.
- I don't have to pay for college.
- Less stress about having to pay back student loans for the next 40 years of my life.
- I can get free college I don't gotta pay.
- Free college
- I now am confident about going to college and being able to afford it. Success is closer.
- It will let me go to college almost free
- Now with the Kalamazoo Promise I feel more confident that I am going because I don't have to pay for all of it.
- It was a wonderful gift and it will help tremendously when it comes to the financial aspect of college. It has changed my life in a positive way.
- I will be able to go to college without going into debt.
- It hasn't really, I always planned to go to college, but now I am certain I have a way to pay for it.
- It's easier I guess.
- Now I know I can go to college for sure and now I can use other money for housing and food and not for tuition.
- Go to college costing less money.
- I don't have to pay for tuition (part of it) so I can use scholarship money for books.
- It has given me the chance to save some dough.
- It has made paying for college much easier.
- I am more confident I can afford it.
- Well it changed my life because I won't have to pay for college the Promise will and that's better for me.
- It changed my life because I can have free college tuition.
- I don't have to worry about paying for college and that is a big weight off my shoulders.
- I get to go free.
- In many ways I won't be able to spend a lot of money.
- I now don't have to worry about how I am getting to college. I can just focus on my schooling and what I want to do with my life.
- The Promise just made it easier for me to go to college.
- It has changed my life because I thought I wouldn't have enough to go to college but I'm glad I will now.
- It's easier than ever to go to college and it's a wonderful gift.
- I can afford college easier
- Free College.
- I can save money for books and tuition

- It provides financial security that assures me that I will have money to pay for the most expensive part of college.
- I won't have any loans to take out for undergrad.
- I can actually pay for college and no worry about loans and debt.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has given me reassurance that I can attend and not worry about money.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has allowed me to stop worrying so much about the cost of college and more about my goals. Even without the Promise, I know I would be going to college in the fall; however, the Promise makes it a lot less stressful.
- It has helped me be able to afford college without worrying about it.
- It has helped pay for my college so I don't have to worry about a lot of money for college cost.
- It made college possible to afford.
- Makes college less stressful within a financial perspective. Thank you!
- Not much. I have always planned and prepared for college but now I know that I will do undergrad work in Michigan to save some money for grad school.
- Need less money to go to college.
- It not change my life because I was always going to go to college. But I'm happy we have it because now I can afford it.
- It has made college a little more affordable.
- KP has made it less difficult to afford my education, now I won't have to work my first year more then I want to.
- It gave me more confidence and reassurance that I really could go to college and be a nurse without having to worry about so much debt.
- Now I can go to college. Before it would have been so hard because there is low job opportunities for teens and my parents wouldn't be able to help so much. Now I can be a dental hygienist and not have loans up the wazoo to pay for the rest of my life! Thank you Promise People!
- It changed my life. I don't have to worry about paying college.
- I no longer have to worry about not being able to pay for college. I can focus on school...and just being a teenager and enjoy it.
- It made college more affordable.

No Change

- It hasn't really.
- Almost none
- It hasn't really. I have the same goals and the same ideas I did before.
- It hasn't.
- It hasn't. My plans are exactly the same.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has not changed my life because I do not see myself staying in Michigan. I have big dreams to become a lawyer and go to school out of state.
- I do not get the Kalamazoo Promise.
- It didn't really change my life cause I was already planning to go to college but it's good for some people who are unable to pay for college.
- It hasn't changed my life because I did not know what the Kalamazoo Promise was until Feb.
- It hasn't. I'm still the same me I just know that I could go to college for free or less money than I would need if the Promise wasn't here.
- Nothing, I do not qualify for the Kalamazoo Promise.

- It has not significantly affected me because paying for college was not a huge issue. As of right now I am not sure if I will attend a private university or a public Michigan college.
- Not very much at all
- It has had little influence.
- Nothing has changed, my parents were responsible and had money saved anyway.
- It hasn't changed my life in any way.
- None at all - I do not qualify.
- It hasn't - I already had my plans set out.
- Not at all
- It hasn't.
- Hasn't really. It's nice though.
- It hasn't changed my life
- It hasn't cause they won't let me get it so now I have to struggle trying to pay for college.
- It really hasn't because I was going to go regardless.
- I'm not really sure. I planned to go to college before the Promise. I don't know if I would beat a public school though.
- It has not changed it, I've always had a plan now it's just gonna be easier.
- It hasn't really changed my life. I worked hard in school and knew I wanted to go to college before the Promise. But I am still grateful for the Promise and it makes things much easier.
- It hasn't really changed my life. I know a lot of people and many of them are annoyed by the fact that the Promise is like a savior. The Promise is really good, but it shouldn't be glorified.
- I haven't I would go to college with or without. Now I just pay less.
- No my life is still the same.
- It hasn't really.
- It hasn't.
- None, it hasn't
- Not a thing. I feel happy for who is receiving it.
- Has not
- It hasn't
- It has not changed my life that much because I was going to college anyways but it has helped.
- It hasn't, I still don't know much of it.
- It has not changed. I just didn't know about it because I'm new here.
- It hasn't.
- My life is the same. I had already planned on college.
- No, I was still going to college.
- When I first heard about the Promise, in a way I was excited but at the time I was not enrolled in Kalamazoo Schools so I wasn't sure if I was going to get any part of it because I went to KPS schools in elementary, but left during middle school. So the Kalamazoo Promise has not really affected me very much. So that is why I am looking for scholarships to help me with college.
- Don't have Kalamazoo Promise.
- No, because It doesn't qualify for me.
- It hasn't.
- It has not.
- Beyond saving 60% in college tuition money, my life is staying it's original course.
- No change. This entire survey doesn't apply to me. I have to pay for college on my own.

- No, because I will always work hard and if the Promise doesn't pay for everything I will find a way on my own.
- It really didn't change it.
- It really hasn't, my goals are still the same.
- It really didn't because I was doing good with or without.
- Kalamazoo Promise made me think about going to Western but my decision would probably be a college out of state.
- The Promise hasn't effected me too much but my brother gets 100% free college.
- It hasn't changed my life.
- Very little.
- In no way at all.
- It didn't.
- It hasn't.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has not changed my life but I will take advantage of it and can stay in Michigan for college.
- It hasn't
- It hasn't changed my life.
- It hasn't.
- It hasn't I was still planning to go to college even without the Promise, but it gives me more hope that I'm going to get in.
- It has not changed anything.
- It really didn't change my life.
- It has not really changed my life.
- Honestly it hasn't, only because when my grandpa died he left my brother and I money for college.
- The Promise really didn't change my life because I was already doing good before the Promise even came.
- It hasn't changed my life.
- It hasn't
- Hasn't
- It hasn't
- Really it hasn't but it has helped me with college.
- It really hasn't.
- It hasn't really - I know college is expensive but if you work hard and earn a rewarding career, paying off student loans isn't a big deal. The Promise made me realize how oblivious adults/teachers/administrators are to students' mindsets and knowledge.
- It hasn't done anything to change my life, I don't get it.
- The promise didn't change my life yet I'm only a freshman. But I'm sure it will in the future.
- It really hasn't. Except that some of my friends who wouldn't have been able to go to college before can go now. So, I am thrilled for them!
- The Kalamazoo Promise really hasn't changed my life all that much.
- It hasn't
- It hasn't.
- It has not.
- It hasn't really and I don't care for it.
- hasn't
- It hasn't changed.

- The Kalamazoo promise hasn't really changed my life. If I were staying than it would effect it because college would be so much better.
- Hasn't
- Hasn't changed at all.
- It has not.
- None, because I'm not eligible for it!
- Not really anything. I planned to go to MSU and I had money to go, now it's just free.
- None, whatsoever.
- It hasn't, I don't receive the Kalamazoo Promise.
- Has not changed my life.
- Has not! But has given my friends hope so in a way it's a good thing.
- It hasn't
- I don't get the Promise.
- Hasn't changed it at all.
- It hasn't
- It really hasn't
- It has not, but it will probably because I won't be so poor through college.
- It hasn't really.
- It hasn't. I don't get it. I have only been here for 1 year.
- Not at all.
- Not really, I plan on going to college anyway.
- It really hasn't
- No because I planned to go to college before the Promise.
- I don't have the Kalamazoo Promise.
- Not really. I'm happy.
- It hasn't.
- No, I don't get any percentage.
- It hasn't.
- It hasn't. I was going to school regardless.
- It really hasn't changed my life because I'm going to still do the same thing I was doing before.
- It hasn't changed my life.
- I'm not going to use the Promise so I don't really care.
- It hasn't very much
- Not a lot.
- It hasn't.
- It hasn't changed my life at all, I still get As and Bs, because I don't even want to go to college in Michigan.
- It really hasn't changed my life because I've been planned on going to college.
- It hasn't really.
- It really hasn't
- It hasn't.
- Really it hasn't changed my life.
- Same
- It really hasn't changed it has been the same.
- It didn't

- It hasn't.
- Overall, it has been a very good thing for my peers and I. I, however, intended to go to college beforehand, but many of my peers had their lives change by the Promise.
- It really hasn't changed my life, just the fact that I don't have to have 65% more money.
- To be honest Kalamazoo Promise really didn't change my life but it helped me to get good grades and have the best GPA then I can feel more happier to attend the Kalamazoo Promise.
- It hasn't!!!
- It didn't change at all.
- Not me personally at all.
- It really hasn't changed much because I don't really know much about it.
- I am fortunate enough that I will have the opportunity to go to college and the Promise has not directly affected me.
- It made me briefly consider rejecting a scholarship.

College as a Possibility

- Now I'm sure that I'm going to college and I can get in any University in the state of Michigan.
- It has made college an option.
- I'm going to college now; without it I wasn't going to.
- I know now that I can go to college.
- I get to go to college.
- To go to college
- It's going to help me go to college.
- It has given me hope for my future
- It has changed it a lot but only for the better. I plan to go to college and become an electrician. I want to work for Consumer's Energy. Tell everybody that is helping provide to the promise that I said "Thank you!"
- It just makes me want to go to college more now and helps me believe I can really go for my dreams.
- I'm able to attend college.
- Now I can think about my future in college with the K-zoo promise.
- It has given me the honor to go to college and pursue my goals for my future.
- Yes, now I can go to college.
- Now I might go to college but only qualify for 65% of it.
- Yes because I know I can go to college
- It's giving me the chance to go to college.
- I get free college and I can do whatever I want now.
- Motivated me to go to college more.
- It has changed my life in so many ways. It seems like my dreams are easier to reach now.
- Didn't think I could go to college before. Now I've got it 100% covered and with my test scores I can pretty much pick and choose what college I want to go to.
- Before the Kalamazoo Promise I knew that I wouldn't have been able to go to college but now I can. It's literally a miracle for me.
- I can go to college now and have a higher education.
- It has given me another way to pay for college b/c I didn't think I was going at first. But thanks to the Promise I know I am.
- It gave me the chance to think about going to college and see what it has to offer.
- It has motivated me more to go to college and a relief that it is being paid for.

- Made it easier to go to college!
- The Kalamazoo Promise changed my life because now I work harder for what I got. Now I know I will definitely go to college because of the Kalamazoo Promise instead of worrying about will I or won't I go to college.
- It lets me know I'm going to college.
- It has given me more hope to go to college.
- Because before the Kalamazoo Promise I did not think I was going to go to college
- The Kalamazoo Promise has changed my life by now letting me go to college for sure.
- I am more hopeful about college. I feel like I now have more of an opportunity to do what I want to do.
- It gives me an opportunity to go to college.
- By giving me a chance to go to college
- It has changed my life because now I know that I will be able to go/afford college. I get 100% of the promise so I'll be going to college no matter what.
- It's help me realize that I have a chance.
- I have higher hopes about college.
- It has actually given me a chance to have a future.
- I'm permanently going to college for sure.
- Because without it I would not be able to go to college.
- It made college available for me. Now worries have gone out the window. Only thing I worry about is the classes I'm going to take.
- I can actually go to college without worrying about how I'm going to pay for it.
- I can now attend college.
- Makes success easier.
- Yes, A lot I wouldn't be able to go to college without it!
- It has allowed me to secure my future
- It has made me more confident that I will attend college.
- Now I can get half of it paid so I can go to college.
- It has changed my life because I was scared about not going to college.
- Because now I know I would be able to attend college
- I'm going to have a better life so I can be something after college.
- It made it possible for me to go to college.
- I know I can go to college for a fact and that is all I was worried about but now I don't have to.
- Now I can go to college just like... well my parents didn't go but I am.
- I know that I can more likely get into college.
- It made me believe I could go to college and learn.
- It has made college easier to get into.
- The Promise has changed my life because I moved over to this district and enrolled in this school, and now I look forward to going to college.
- It changed my life because before I couldn't go to college but now I can.
- It makes me want to really go to college now.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has given me more of and opportunity in life! I was most likely not going to go to college because I couldn't afford it but now I get most of it paid for. I am so happy that this has happened.
- Gives me a chance to get a degree.
- I will definitely go to college.

- I knew I would be able to go to college and not have to really worry about anything.
- The promise was a blessing for me. But, because my teachers and members of the staff at my school think so highly about it, my education has been #2 to them. They're teaching but not making sure we're learning. All I hear is put downs about how if I do this, I won't get it or when I did that it affected my chance of getting it. And if this is how my education process is going to be for the next 3 years of high school, then I'd rather not have this Kalamazoo Promise. Free college tuition is a once in a life time miracle, but I'm more concerned about my education because I won't succeed in college if I'm not getting my education now!!
- It has guaranteed that I am going.
- What more could I ask for?! I'm going to college! My life will be better and I will succeed more because of the promise!!
- It has changed my life cause I didn't know if I could go to college before that and now I thank you
- The Kalamazoo promise has made it easier for me to go to college.
- The Kalamazoo Promise changed my life because now I am possible I can go to college and achieve all the goals in my life that I have set for my self.
- I know I will definitely go to college more ensured. I knew I would always go to college.
- Promised me going to college
- Now I know I can go to the collage I want to.
- I can go to college now!
- It allows us to go to college
- I have a guarantee way into college.
- It guarantees I can go to college, same with my sister. I cried I was so happy.
- It has helped me make sure I will go to college and succeed.
- It has changed my life because I am guaranteed to go to college now, more than I used to be before the promise popped up.
- I will be given a chance that a lot of kids can only dream about.
- I am now able to go to college.
- I can go to college now!
- Yes because at first I wasn't sure if I was going to college but now I know.
- Well now I have the opportunity to go to college and I'm going to take it.
- I can go to college.
- It has given me a chance to actually go to college and do something with my life.
- Now I will go to college for a fact.
- I get to go to college. I won't be on well fare paying off student loans in 10 years.
- It has allowed me to pay for college and it will better my future.
- I know I can go to college now!
- Made it more eligible for me to go to college.
- Before I wasn't positive about college but now I am going for sure.
- I'm going to college!
- I'm going to college.
- I will be the first child of my parents to graduate from college.
- It took me from "most likely" going to college to "definitely" going. Changed the way students behave, has changed for the better.
- It has let me go to college.
- I am going to college.
- Now I am sure I can go to college.

- I'm 100% I'm going to college now.
- It has allowed me to think more about college and my future after high school.
- It changed it a lot because it would have been a 50/50 chance of me going to college.
- The Kalamazoo Promise made it possible for me to go to college since I don't have money to afford it.
- Now I am sure I'll be able to go to college and I won't need to depend on getting a scholarship.
- It ensured my college dream!!
- It has changed my life by letting me go to college!
- I get a chance to go to college.
- I can go to college now.
- The Promise has changed my life by letting me know for sure that I am able to go to college.
- I was unsure about college but now I am positive that I will be going to school. My family needs more financial assistance with room and board. I wish that was included.
- It made me realize that dreams do come true!
- It made me change my mind because at first I was all stressed out telling myself I'm not going to make it and how was I going to be able to pay for that.
- It has actually made me want to go to college. I thought I wasn't able to go at first, but now I can.
- I can go to college.
- I probably was not going to be able to go to college but now I get 100% paid for!
- I can now go to college! -Thank you.
- I wasn't sure I could go to college before the Kalamazoo Promise, but now I know I can.
- I really wasn't sure about going to college and now with the Kalamazoo Promise I'm able to go.

Increased Options

- I'm able to go to college for 4 years instead of only 2!
- I'm no longer thinking of military service to pay for college.
- It allows me to choose the college I want, not my parents.
- It changed what colleges I looked at and applied to
- It made it better
- I can now go to the college I want to become a vet assistant.
- Before the Promise, I was going to join the military so I could get money for college. That was something I really didn't want to do. Now with the Promise I don't have to join the military in order to pay for my college.
- I was going to go out of state, now maybe not.
- It's allowed me to go to U of M almost for free.
- The Promise has made me look harder at in-state school. I will probably end up at one.
- I am now looking more closely at Michigan schools. Furthermore I will be attending a Michigan school if no scholarship options become available.
- It made the decision to turn down U of M more difficult.
- Gave me more opportunities
- It has made it so I can go to a nicer college than Valley.
- I really don't know if I'm qualified, but if I am I will attend a university. If I am not qualified I would go to a community college.
- I can have more opportunities.
- I have more interest in Michigan colleges.
- It made it easier for me to go to a good college.

- I was hoping to go out of state for college, but now I am going to attend a university that qualifies.
- It helped me to decide whether to go to a community college or a high public university.
- It made me decide to stay in KPS district. Before the Promise I wanted to go to Portage because I hated my high school. Now I have an incentive to stay.
- I am now able to go to the college of my choice with no worries about paying for tuition.
- It has made it easier to stay in Michigan for college.
- I am going to Michigan Tech instead of Western.
- More colleges have opened up.
- It has given me more college choices.
- Gave me a better opportunity for college.
- Now I can go to college for 4 years I was only going for 3.
- It has given me options for college.
- I am now leaning towards attending the University of Michigan
- Gives me a better opportunity to get in college.
- I'm going to Western instead of Valley.
- Going to Michigan rather than a cheaper school.
- It is giving me a chance to go to a good college that I would like and help motivate me to do good in school. 4 years of pre-med!
- It's allowed me to go to a better more expensive college.
- It has given me money many more options for college.
- More opportunities (diversity of colleges)
- It gave it a better opportunity than I had before.
- It's made more colleges available for me to apply to. Given my parents a financial break.
- It has opened up more college opportunities and has given my parents a financial break.
- I was planning to attend many in NY for school now MSU.
- It allows me to have a wide school range.
- I'm definitely going to college IN MICHIGAN now.
- It is very amazing, it's made things brighter in many people's future. And even if I end up going to a college out of state I will still be thankful for how its helped others so much.
- I think it's a great opportunity and I thank the person who gave it to us and all the people that helped.
- Well, before I knew I was going to college with the Promise or not. But now with the Promise I feel more confident on which college I want to go to.
- The Promise has allowed me a successful entry into college and I have a high opportunity level and I can succeed in life.
- I was initially going to attend an out of state college but now since the Promise I've decided to save my parents money and go to an in state college.
- It opened up more opportunities of where to go.
- I don't have to pay for college and can go to Michigan Tech instead of Western Michigan.
- By really helping me get into a good college (University)
- Given me a chance to go to a great college.
- Before I was unsure about paying for college and now I know I can not only go, but go to my college of choice.
- I was planning on going to the military so the Promise kind of saved my life in a sense. Now I didn't have to enroll to gain money for college because I get 100% of the Promise.
- I've actually realized I have lots of options for the future now. No limits.
- I'm going to U of M.

- It has given me the opportunity to pursue an Engineering degree at WMU. It has also opened up such options as study-abroad.
- It has made me think about staying in Michigan.
- The Promise has given me more options in which college I should attend.
- The Kalamazoo Promise did not affect my goal of going to college nor did it affect my course load or study habits. What it did affect, however, was my outlook on college and my ability to focus on getting the best education that I can, and for that, I am eternally grateful.
- It will let me go to college for far less cost, and let me have a more diverse choice of schools to consider.
- It opens the doors to more possible colleges for me.
- I don't have to pay as much to go to college. I think I have better opportunities.
- I was going to have the military pay for my college.
- Instead of going to KVCC, I can go to a University.
- It hasn't affected me all that much because I plan on receiving a scholarship for volleyball. But it has persuaded me to stay in state for a college.
- By letting me choose which college I'm going to without any limitations (other than being in state).
- I have more options, as far as the school I will be attending in the fall.
- It has made me consider in-state colleges very seriously.
- More options for college
- I planned to go to KVCC the first 2 years because it was cheaper but now I can go to Western Michigan University all four years.
- It has given me some opportunity.
- It has made in-state college more of an option for me and I am more likely to go to college in-state now.
- It has confirmed my decision to go to school near home.

Self-Improvement

- It's made me work harder and realize how important my education is.
- It has gave me more confidence especially since I I'm getting help now.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has encouraged me even more so to try harder to reach my goal. It has given me the opportunity useful for my success and I am thankful for it and I am looking forward to putting it to use.
- It gives me more of a motive to attend college.
- Harder worker
- Makes me want to go to college.
- Getting better grades in school
- I plan on using it all and getting through college.
- I started to get better grades.
- Because now I think I can achieve in life and make a better person of my self.
- I can go to college and become a better person than my mother.
- It made me pursue my education
- It makes me more confident.
- I plan on going to college and having a good career.
- I'm going to save money now.
- Now I study harder, swim faster, and run quicker.
- Nothing but motivate me more to go to college.

- Nothing, but just gave me more confidence to get in college.
- I know now that if I get my good grades I know for sure that I will go to college because of the Promise.
- It has changed my life because now I know I am going to college no matter what.
- I became more focused on my school work.
- It's made me less stressed about paying for college.
- So I can be someone.
- Before I was pretty sure I wasn't going to college because I was sure I had no way to pay for me to go and my grades wouldn't be good enough to get scholarships. But now, since the Promise would pay for 100% of my tuition, I'm working harder to have grades that colleges could accept; because I AM going to college.
- Makes it a lot easier to work on students not worrying about more expenses.
- Gave me hope.
- It really Didn't I just know to work harder than before.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has changed my life because now I am sure that I can go to college and that gives me more reasons to succeed and something to look forward to. It is a great opportunity for us.
- I am less stressed about college.
- It's made me more motivated.
- It pushes me to work a little harder so I can get into a good college for a lot less money. I strive for better grades.
- A weight has been lifted off my shoulders.
- I still feel better about myself and know I can go to college without worrying about struggling with the needs to go to college.
- I work harder and have better grades.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has changed my life as well as my peers. Although I have many scholarships it made me push myself more to always do better. Also I want to take advantage of this opportunity it only comes around once.
- Well when I heard about the Kalamazoo Promise I was more eager to finish school and not worry about being able to afford it, and my family pushes me to do better.
- Make me happy!
- Makes me wanna push to go to college even more.
- Help me more to really get on the ball and go to college.
- I want to work harder in school and get into a good college.
- Now there is no excuse not to go to college.
- now I have more confidence b/c I know I'm going to college b/c I qualify 100%
- It has pushed me harder to get better grades and really go to college.
- Made me want to work harder!
- It made me take school more seriously and to try harder know that if I do good my college tuition is payed off.
- Made it easier if I work hard
- It made me focus harder to get good grades so I can get into the college I want
- I feel more confident in going to college
- You can get their easier and learn more.
- It's made my parents & family expect more of me because I'm going to be on my own in 2-4 years.
- I've changed my ways a lot. I am now more focused on school.
- It made me happy.

- Made life easier
- Made me start looking into colleges earlier than I was going to. More motivation.
- It has had a big increase of going to college and keeping my grades good and at not working and studying more and encouraging others to do well to qualify for the Promise.
- It makes going off to college a lot easier to handle.
- It made me actually try to go to college, so I don't have to worry about paying the money back so much. I can concentrate on the rest of my life as opposed to what's going on right now.
- It took pressure to succeed off.
- Made me stronger.
- It has made the college process less stressful and a lot easier.
- Made me focus more on college possibilities.
- It has given me the final push towards going to college.
- It has given me hope that I can be successful.
- It has given me more opportunities to tell others about my beliefs and plans for the future.
- I've made new friends, moved, met new teachers.
- I feel that some of the pressure put on me for college has been relieved.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has changed my life because now I am 100% positive about college and it motivates me to do more and do better in school. The Promise is a gift and I am going to take full advantage of it despite what my peers may say or do. The Promise is and should be motivation for all students and I plan to take full advantage.

Family Disposable Income

- It has helped me get my future ready and it has helped out me and my family.
- The Kalamazoo has helped me out a lot because my family, even combined, does not make enough money to support me in my college years. The Kalamazoo Promise has given me the opportunity to go to college and succeed in life.
- I know my parents and I can definitely pay for the rest of college now.
- Now I don't have to worry my parents on how I am going to pay for college. I got a full ride.
- By helping my grandma out so she doesn't have to pay tuition.
- My parents are happier about our finances.
- It will save my family and I a lot of money.
- Now I won't feel the burden of making my parents pay tuition for college.
- My parents will have an easier time paying for college.
- I can go to college. It is a big relief for my parents. Thank you for giving us the Promise
- College has never been an option, it has been a MUST. But I knew my family would suffer to send myself and sister to college. With the Promise I can use all of my saved money and hopefully scholarship money for other purposes.
- It's been able to shift the family college fund money to help my brother through college.
- Because I wasn't even gonna go to college because me and my mom don't really have money for that.
- My family (dad) never had any money to save for my college education, so this helps greatly!
- Just easier for my parents, didn't effect my goals/future plans too much.
- It change my life because my mom had the money but she didn't have it all.
- My mom and dad don't have to pay for me to go to college.
- The Kalamazoo promise has insured my collage tuition is Paid for. I have an older brother and we are one year apart and my parents weren't sure if they could come up with the extra money for me to go through collage because I also have too sisters currently in collage now.

- My dad has retired earlier so that's cool.
- To be honest, it hasn't really changed much. My parents would've payed for me to get into college anyway. So, its changed my parents life more because they can keep the thousands of dollars they would've needed to pay.
- Before I knew that I could go to college, but the costs would probably be hard on my parents. Now, I am not worried about that.
- The Kalamazoo Promise has helped my family. I have two older brothers who graduated from the University of Michigan. Due to the Kalamazoo Promise, my parents will be able to give more financial help towards my brothers' student loans.
- The Promise helped my parents stay financially fit as well as give me an advantage in being enrolled in college. Also college coaches see the Promise as a plus for them and maybe persuade their decision about my athletic status.
- Nice having free college, changes what my parents spend money on.
- I don't have to worry about how I'm going to pay college loans off. Takes stress off my mom.
- It has made it much easier for my family to afford my education.
- It hasn't changed mine but it's changed my parents and my little brothers and sister.
- It allowed my parents to not have to pay so much for my college education.
- My parents don't have to pay for it.
- It is a lot easier for my family to send my brother, sister, and me to college now. However, it more or less rules out our opportunities for a private college because it is too good a gift to turn down. Unless someone qualifies for an amazing scholarship the Promise is very hard to turn down.
- I get 65% of my college tuition paid...makes me want to dance! It will take a very large load off my parents because I have 2 brothers, one already in college... it's a wonderful thing!

Negative Impact

- It has forced me to go to college in MI.
- I now have to stay in Michigan, thanks...
- It kept me from going to my dream school and shoved me into this sucky one.
- It didn't change my life it made it harder.
- No way really. It increased the property value of my house.
- It is more difficult to choose a school.
- It has not changed it at all. I don't feel motivated in fact I feel less motivated. I'm doing more poorly in school even though I'm learning my grades don't show it.
- I was planning on moving out of Michigan as soon as I could, but now I have to stay here.
- Now I have to go to school in Michigan instead of new York
- HAS NOT, MAD ME ANGRY!
- It's done nothing but show me that I don't need a "handicap!!"
- It has done nothing to change my life except keep me in Michigan longer.
- It made things complicated.
- It has limited my college options because if I want to go out of state my parents will no longer help me but free tuition here. Yay!
- It's made sure you get yelled at if you don't get good grades. Just because you get the Promise doesn't mean you're gonna go. It's great and all but it hasn't changed my outlook on college.
- It limited most of the colleges I would have liked to attend to mostly ones not of interest to me and has forced me to stay in state.
- Actually may have restricted university choices from national to Michigan as the Promise would be hard to give up.