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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: Commit's Summer Highlight Newsletter

Summer Highlight Newsletter

School may be out for the summer, but things haven't slowed down at Commit.
Here are some highlights from the past several months.

Upcoming Events

- August 18th: For Oak Cliff Back to School Festival
 - October 4th: Early Matters Dallas Breakfast Briefing
 - October 18th: 2018 Education Investors Meeting
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Summer 2018 Highlights

- Our first class of high school seniors participating in the [Dallas County Promise](#) have completed their Promise Pledge, filled out their FAFSA forms, and are ready to start college classes in August! Cohort one consisted of 31 high schools and nearly 10,000 students. So far, this initial group has produced tremendous results. 96% of eligible students signed the Promise pledge, and 62% completed their financial aid application by the March 15th priority date, which was a 15% increase over the prior year and a \$5 million increase in public funding, assuming an average Pell grant of \$3,750/year.

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-600\pnl\cont\pnindent240 -600\pnl\cont\pnindent240Student accepts their Promise certificate

- Additionally, JP Morgan Chase has partnered with Dallas County Promise through the New Skills for Youth Program with an investment of \$3 million. This funding will assist Dallas County Promise's goal of supporting more Dallas County students in obtaining certificates and degrees and access to high paying living wage jobs.

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- In related news, Commit released the podcast episode titled [Access > Affordability](#). This episode looked at the many obstacles (beyond affordability) that many students face in persisting through college to obtain their degree. Current Commit employee and recent first-generation college graduate, Karla Garcia, shares her personal story and the challenges she overcame to go from Dallas ISD to successfully graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- Commit has also recently welcomed **four new members** to our Board of Directors. Each brings with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to guide the Commit team's efforts in Dallas County and the surrounding areas.
- The Commit Partnership also had several featured speakers at the first annual **Elevated Conference** presented by the Holdsworth Center which was held on June 4th at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The ElevatEd conference explored the intersection of education and our economy. Featured presenters from Commit included **Regen Fearon**, Chair of the Governing Board of Early Matters Dallas; Dallas County Promise Managing Director, **Eric Ban**; and new board member **Robert Kaplan**, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, was also a participant on a power packed panel.
- We are also excited to announce the ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony of the **For Oak Cliff** community center in South Oak Cliff. The community center opened on Juneteenth, June 19th, and is intended to provide a welcoming place where community members can gather, learn, and create. For Oak Cliff is working to improve educational outcomes for kids in the Dallas Superblock of 75216.

Grand opening of the For Oak Cliff Community Center

Interested in getting involved with Commit? Learn more about investing, connecting with us, or joining the partnership here.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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The Commit Partnership is a community navigator and connector, working to ensure that all DFW students receive an excellent and equitable education that prepares them to flourish in college and career.

[Learn More](#)