

Palmer Scholars is pleased to announce its new Palmer Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship (PPPA) program will begin its first cohort in September 2021.

PPPA is a part of Palmer Pathways, a two-year-old initiative that serves low-income young adults of color between the ages of 18-26 who are interested in pursuing a career in the trades or other “under-emphasized” or “under-accessed” career paths.

Responding to the growing workforce needs in Pierce County, Palmer Pathways utilizes a long-established, holistic approach to guide Scholars into meaningful family-wage careers, by providing intensive career readiness training, one-to-one support from a Career Navigator and a trained professional Mentor, financial assistance, and ongoing socio-emotional support.

The program will serve a total of 40 low-income young adults across two cohorts. The program guides young adults through six weeks’ worth of general career exploration and soft skills development training. Young adults may then choose to pursue postsecondary education, enter the workforce, or continue on to PPPA’s eight weeks of intensive, construction trades pre-apprenticeship training, geared towards preparing young adults for entry into a full-blown apprenticeship program. Young adults who complete the PPPA program will have preferred or direct entry into a number of partner apprenticeship programs.

Palmer Pathways is an initiative of Palmer Scholars, an organization that for nearly 40 years has committed to supporting underrepresented Pierce County students of color to overcome the financial, cultural, and social barriers in their pursuit of higher education. Since 1983, Palmer Scholars has achieved an overall postsecondary graduation rate of 85%. To qualify for the PPPA program, young adults must be Pierce County residents between the ages of 18 and 26 years old, not currently enrolled in a postsecondary program and demonstrate financial need. Young adults of color are strongly encouraged to apply.