



Summer Newsletter



A Message from the Executive Director

"Reaching New Heights with Education"

As the 2025-2026 school year came to a close, Partners in Progress has reflected on a wonderful year of growth. Our student ambassador program took off with great success! Students from almost every high school teamed up with PIP to bring awareness, create media content, and volunteer their time. Most importantly, relationships were built.

We are excited to bring on more students from every high school for the 2026-2027 school year. Follow the "PIPS" on our new Instagram account @pips_sc.

PIP school visits helped more students learn about local college opportunities. Whether it was in an auditorium, cafeteria, or the press box at GPHS football stadium, we shared the news about Partners in Progress. PIP has grown so much this year!

Six PIP scholarship recipients graduated May 2026 from ETSU, and one student is graduating Summer 2026. Congratulations to these students for their great accomplishments! We are proud of your hard work! (Read more about these students below).

Partners in Progress has two fundraising events coming up. Please join us in raising money for our student scholarships by joining one or both events. Student numbers are the highest they've been since 2021. Every donation helps!

Our 5th annual Scholarship Clay Shoot tournament is Friday, September 18th and our 10th annual Mayor's Lunch is Tuesday, October 20th. (More information below on supporting these events).

Thank you for the continued support as a business, friend, or volunteer. PIP is ready for another great year of helping more students reach new heights with education!

[Partners in Progress Website](#)



Scholarships

Dual Enrollment and ETSU scholarship totals for the 2025-2026 school year.

Fall 2025= \$63,937.80

Spring 2026= \$84,960.30

Summer 2026= \$11,524.00

Total Scholarships awarded since 2016= **\$1,424,749.56**

Thank you to the business donors and individuals who make this possible!

[**Donate Today**](#)

Sevier County Partners in Progress presents



CNB Scholarship Shoot Sporting Clays Tournament September 18, 2026



Register Here

Money raised at this event will provide scholarships for young people in Sevier County. **Help us make a difference!**

Two flights – Space for 30 teams each flight

1st Flight: 9–11:30am • **Shrimp Boil Lunch**: Noon–1pm • 2nd Flight: 1:30–4pm

4-person Team – \$600 • Single Shooter – \$150 • Additional Cart – \$25

Make checks payable to Sevier County PIP and mail to:
321 Court Ave., Sevierville, TN 37862



Iron Mountain Sporting Clays, East 410 Hardin Road, Kodak, TN 37764

Questions? Call 865-428-2212 or email info@SevierCountyPIP.com. SevierCountyPIP.com/scholarship-shoot



Anakeesta • Company Distilling • Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance

Additional Sponsorships Available!
Call 865-428-2212 for details.

Scholarship Clay Shooting Tournament

Join us for a competitive day of clay shooting at Iron Mountain. Whether you're new to the sport or an avid shooter, we will make sure you have fun while raising money for student scholarships.

There are many ways to join! Register a team or single shooter, sponsor our event with your business, or help as a volunteer. Email Ishanton@seviercountyttn.org or call 865-428-2212 with questions.

Date: Friday, September 18th, 2026

Morning and Afternoon flights available with breakfast, chef created lunch, door prizes- including a Beretta shotgun, and more!

[Clay Shoot Event Page](#)

10th annual Mayor's Lunch



Our 10th annual Mayor's Lunch is a great way to join other local businesses and partnerships who support PIP. We enjoy sharing stories of PIP scholarship graduates. We will also recognize each mayor who serves on the PIP board of directors and our major donors of the year.

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Table sponsorship is \$5,000

Half Table is \$2,500

[Mayor's Lunch Event Page](#)

2026 ETSU Graduates



Will Ray

Will graduated from Sevier County High School and graduated with an Elementary Education (K-5) degree from ETSU. He is starting his first year teaching at Jones Cove Elementary School, 5th grade and working on his Master's Degree in Educational Technology and Instructional Design.



Katherine Kelly

Katie graduated from Pigeon Forge High School and completed her Business Management degree from ETSU. Katie has volunteered at every PIP fundraiser and event during her Senior year. She was also selected to join the Business blah blah program at ETSU.



Eli Bohanan



Adam Dillner

Adam went to Gatlinburg Pittman High School. He has now earned a Business Management degree from

Eli graduated from Pigeon Forge High School and earned his Business Management degree from ETSU.

*Not Pictured

Baylee McDowell- GPHS graduate with Nursing degree from ETSU.

Hunter Lott- Seymour High School with Psychology degree from ETSU.

ETSU. Adam will be pursuing his Masters degree in Finance at MTSU in the Fall.



Kloe Allen

Kloe attended Sevier County High School. She has completed her work at ETSU with a degree in Early Childhood (PK-3).



Student Spotlight

Stephen Cain

Stephen Cain is a former student of Sevier County High School where he graduated in 2023. Stephen is entering his Senior year at ETSU to earn a degree in Business Management with a focus in Human Resources. After graduation, Stephen plans to apply for a graduate assistant position or quality control at a college for football. Stephen is a PIP ambassador student and has helped with creating content for social media, along with attending fundraisers like the Mayor's Lunch and Pancake Dinner. Stephen enjoys hiking, working out, and studying football.



New Board Member

Pablo Chavez

Pablo Chavez is the U.S. Regional Manager for Aquariums and Attractions. Originally from Ecuador, South America, Chavez grew up in Orlando Florida. He worked for Seaworld for a long time prior to joining Ripley's believe it or not world entertainment. Chavez lived in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for a long time operating Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach. Then he moved to Tennessee to run the aquarium and attractions and also operate all US attractions.

Chavez is married to wife, Kristin and has two children, Lucas and Madison.



New Board Member

Wendy Patterson

Wendy Patterson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, a Master of Science degree in curriculum & instruction from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and an Educational Specialist degree in administration & supervision from Lincoln Memorial University. She has worked in Sevier County Schools since 1994, teaching at Pigeon Forge Middle School and Caton's Chapel Elementary School, serving as instructional coach and assistant principal at Caton's Chapel Elementary School, and as principal at Pittman Center Elementary School and Pigeon Forge Intermediate School. Wendy moved to the Central Office as the Director of Educator Talent and Effectiveness in 2024 and was most recently appointed Interim Director of Schools in July of 2026.



Partners in Progress is looking forward to another year of supporting students with their collegiate goals. We will be visiting schools and sporting events, and continuing partnerships with the community. Please join us at one of our fundraisers or ask how you can become a monthly donor!

Also, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see weekly updates.

Have a great rest of your summer!

Lindsey Shanton
Executive Director



Sevier County Partners in Progress Education Fund | 321 Court Avenue | Sevierville, TN 37862 US

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