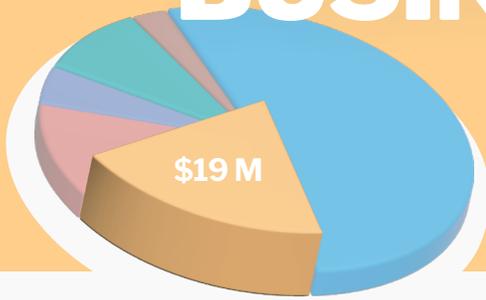




ADDRESSING THE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE:

# BUSINESS



**THE STATE SYSTEM IS SEEKING \$112 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING\***

\$19 million of that amount will be used for financial aid to reduce costs for students pursuing jobs in business

## The POWER of PASSHE:



**13,000** business students at PASSHE universities



**63%** of PASSHE business graduates are working in PA 10 years after graduation



**10%** of PA's business workforce shortage can be filled by PASSHE by 2030

### The Need:

Business graduates are always in high demand and the private sector relies on their education and innovation to drive Pennsylvania's economy. With 8% job growth in business fields anticipated by 2030, the commonwealth will need more than 23,000 additional graduates to ensure businesses can fill jobs and thrive.

### PASSHE Solution:

Business is PASSHE's largest academic program, with more than 13,000 students. Now more than ever, PASSHE universities are ready to prepare more students for high-growth business jobs. The State System is seeking a targeted investment of \$112 million in new funding to produce more graduates in six high-growth jobs, including business. PASSHE plans to use \$19 million to provide direct financial relief to high-need business students, saving them an average of \$5,000 per year.

*\* PASSHE is also seeking \$573.5 million, an inflationary increase of \$21 million (or 3.8%), that combined with the \$112 million in new funding for targeted student support would enable the Board of Governors to consider freezing the basic in-state undergraduate tuition rate for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year.*

### State Support Helps Business Student Earn Degree



**Emely Navarro** credits the General Assembly's investments in the State System and financial aid with helping her overcome many struggles so she could graduate from **Kutztown University** with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Like many Pennsylvanians, the pandemic took a harsh financial toll on Emely and her parents. Even after financial aid, she did not have the means to pay for college. Thankfully, the boost in state funding from the General Assembly last year allowed the university to increase financial aid to students.

The increased aid, along with federal grants and loans and a part-time job, enabled the first-generation college student to continue her education.

"I know that if it wasn't for [the State System and federal grants and student loans], I wouldn't be where I'm at today," Emely said. "I am grateful for the State System funding because I was able to get my bachelor's degree."

Before graduating in December 2022, Emely tapped into the extensive State System alumni network to earn an internship at ADP. Due to her education, internship and hard work, Emely got a full-time job at the company.

### Jaleah Bowman-Blanton: With Patience and Commitment, Anything Is Possible



**Jaleah Bowman-Blanton** is a first-generation college student whose educational path is inspiring.

As a high school sophomore, Jaleah began taking college courses at Delaware County Community College, earning an associate degree before becoming the first Black valedictorian at Coatesville Area Senior High School.

"Education is extremely important to me. My dad always says, 'no one can ever take your knowledge away from you,'" she said. "Those words and

the support of my parents have motivated me throughout my educational journey."

After high school, Jaleah enrolled at **Cheyney University** as a junior majoring in business administration, with a dream of becoming a forensic accountant for the FBI. At Cheyney she is part of an HBCU environment where she feels valued both for her accomplishments and as a person.

"My experience at Cheyney has been great! I understand the environment I am honored to be part of is one of a kind – one that only an HBCU can provide."

After receiving a Keystone Scholarship through Cheyney's Honors Academy, Jaleah knows Cheyney will make her more confident and ensure she is respected and valued in her future career.

"Anything is possible when you have patience and commitment."

### Pennsylvania's High-Growth Jobs and Industries



[www.passhe.edu](http://www.passhe.edu)

**#FundPASSHE4PA**