

# Owner to Owner Podcast Notes



## Community Transformation Through Education

Episode #25

### Summary:

Felicia Harris, Founder, and CEO of EverythingHR and EverythingHR Financial Services has her HR Manager Joseline Bolden interview Cyekeia Lee, Director of Communication Collaboration at The Kalamazoo Promise. Cyekeia Lee shares the ways that The Kalamazoo Promise is transforming its community through education. She also discusses the efforts used to create pathways for students and how businesses can pair with the foundation to expand those efforts.

### Episode Highlights:

- Cyekeia Lee talks about her educational and professional career.
- What is The Kalamazoo Promise?
- What types of results has The Kalamazoo Promise generated?
- Why was The Kalamazoo Promise created?
- What are the requirements to receive The Promise?
- How long do students have to use their Promise?
- How much money has The Kalamazoo Promise paid out thus far?
- What are some of the popular colleges and universities that students from The Kalamazoo Promise have attended?
- What ways can businesses partner with The Kalamazoo Promise?
- Are there other similar programs in the state of Michigan?
- What are some career pathways that The Kalamazoo Promise can outline for students?
- Cyekeia Lee provides a recap of the important points she has already shared.
- Where does Cyekeia Lee see the future of The Kalamazoo Promise heading?
- What methods does Cyekeia use to work with other promise programs?
- How did she come into the role of championing The Kalamazoo Promise?
- Cyekeia Lee shares the ways that The Kalamazoo Promise has made changes in students' lives.
- What ways does The Kalamazoo Promise work with business organizations?

### 3 Key Points:

1. The Kalamazoo Promise is funded by anonymous donors.
2. The Kalamazoo Promise has spent over \$124 million in tuition and fees for over 5,700 students from Kalamazoo, Michigan.
3. There is no GPA minimum that students have to have when they finish high school or any family financial minimums.

## **Tweetable Quotes:**

- “I believe that education can be a pathway for students to achieve their dreams. As a first-generation college student myself, I know the importance of having equal access to post-secondary programs.” – Cyekeia Lee
- “Although we are paying for tuition for students, they still have the opportunity to get any kind of federal financial aid, any institutional aid, any other scholarships.” – Cyekeia Lee
- “When we come to students of color, 88% of our African-American students that are eligible to receive The Promise go off to college at some point in the 10 years that we allow them.” – Cyekeia Lee

## **Resources Mentioned**

### **Podcast**

<http://elshaddaiconsulting.net/everythinghr-owner-to-owner-podcast.html>

### **Twitter**

<https://twitter.com/everythinghr1>

### **LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/everythinghr1/>

### **Connect with Felicia Harris**

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## **Cyekeia Lee Contact Information**

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