



# U Prep CEO Co-Chairs the Detroit Drives Degree Leadership Council

In 2015, the Detroit Drives Degrees Leadership Council set two ambitious goals for our region:

- 1. Increase the number of residents with a post-secondary credential or degree to 60% by 2030.**
- 2. Close the racial equity gap by half in that same time period.**

The work of the council has evolved and formalized these goals into the Detroit Regional Talent Compact, a collective commitment among educational institutions, businesses, philanthropy, and nonprofits to break down barriers to postsecondary educational attainment. Danielle Jackson, CEO Detroit 90/90 and U Prep Schools is one of 39 key leaders in Detroit involved in this initiative. Other leaders involved include; M. Roy Wilson, President Wayne State University, Patti Poppe, President & CEO Consumers Energy, Paul Glantz, Founder & Chairman Imagine Entertainment, Peter Quigley, President & CEO Kelly, amongst others.

The collective is proud of the work they have done to date since setting their original goals in 2015. The collective has increased postsecondary attainment by more than three percentage points; received national recognition through designation as a Talent Hub; and obtained the commitment of Gov. Whitmer to adopt the 60% goal for the state of Michigan.

Despite these efforts, the work that lies ahead is critical to filling the talent shortages that exists in our region. In 2019, the Detroit Regional Chamber released its inaugural State of Education report that showed leaks in the education pipeline exists at all stages of the education continuum. Of 100 Detroit students who start in the 9th grade, only 57 will go on to enroll in college within 12 months of graduating high school, and only 30 will ultimately earn a postsecondary credential in six years. When disaggregated by race or ethnicity, these disparities are even greater, with Black students completing credentials at half the rates of their White and Asian peers. If aggressive action is not taken, Detroit will not meet the goals set in 2015.

Danielle and the co-chairs of the Detroit Regional Talent Compact, endorsed strategies that are dedicated to seeing the work through to 2030. They have committed to hold each other accountable to implementing the strategies outlined in the regional master plan, and to driving institutional change through organizational action plans. They welcome other fellow business education, and community leaders to join them in this ambitious task of working collectively and systematically to increase our region's postsecondary attainment and reduce our equity gaps. Their mantra is, "Education is a game-changer!" <https://www.detroitchamber.com/>

