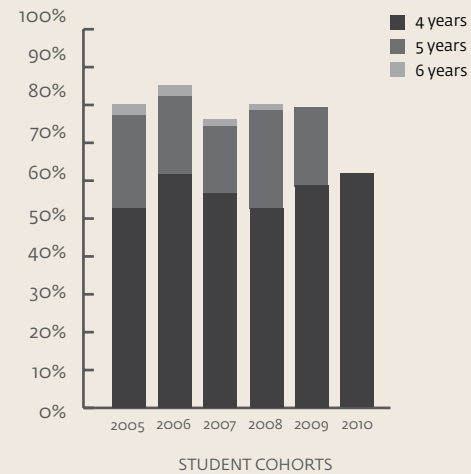


## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### I-Promise Graduates



In 2014, a total of 103 I-Promise students who entered in fall 2010 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 962 alumni.

The chart to the left shows the percentage of I-Promise students in different cohorts (2005-2010) who graduated. On average, 56% of I-Promise students graduate in four years, with this percent increasing to 74% in five years and 80% in six years.



“ Illinois Promise was more than just financial assistance; it allowed me the opportunity to experience meaningful relationships, connect with campus resources, and focus on the development of my career. As a first generation graduate, I will always be grateful for the unique support I received in my transition from the academic to the professional world.”

—**Silvia Gonzalez**, '11 Art Education and Photography; Teaching Artist, Village Leadership Academy; Part-Time graduate student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; [silviaigonzalez.com](http://silviaigonzalez.com)



“ I am taken back by the generosity of donors. I feel so loved by those who have given up their hard earned money just to give me a chance at a better life. Now that I have graduated, I look forward to all the ways I can pay it forward in society. To begin that journey, I will soon commence a year of environmental service with AmeriCorps on the Pacific coast.”

—**Nick Musso**, '14, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences - Human Dimensions; Park Safety Officer at Brookfield Zoo



“ Illinois Promise has played a pivotal role in shaping me into the confident person I am today, acting as a role model not only to my family, but to my peers.”

—**Renato Yutuc**, '14, Chemical Engineering; R&D - Chemical Process Engineer, ELANTAS PDG, INC.

### First-Generation Coca-Cola Scholars

Through the generosity of the Coca-Cola Foundation, six freshman I-Promise scholars were selected as First-Generation Coca-Cola Scholars in academic year 2013-14. They are the second cohort of First-Generation Coca-Cola Scholars. To be chosen, the students had to meet additional criteria, which included being first in their families to attend college and meeting certain academic standards. Two additional cohorts will be selected over the next two years and each cohort benefits from financial support of Coca-Cola during their four years in college. In addition to the benefits available to all I-Promise students, First-Generation Coca-



From left to right (back row): Joseph Ratliff (Agricultural and Consumer Economics), Sally Szeto (Advertising), Arielle Domantay (Psychology), and Daniel Vargas (Accounting). Middle row: De'jenea Shaw (Human Development and Family Studies), Adrian Guereca (Human Development and Family Studies), Melody Wong (Chemistry), and Timothy Morris (Psychology). Front row: Jasmine Colon (Communication and Political Science), Alejandra Reyes Pena (Broadcast Journalism), and Nashae Roundtree (Business).

Coca Scholars are matched with mentors, receive academic monitoring and participate in targeted community-building activities.

## MENTORING

The purpose of the mentoring program is to help ease the transition to college for freshman and transfer students. During the academic year, 84 students were matched with mentors, with 77% of the students choosing adult mentors rather than peer mentors. Orientation training, ongoing support, opportunities to develop skills, and community-building events are features of the I-Promise mentoring program. Tracking of first-semester GPA and one-year retention rates are strong for students with mentors, as illustrated in the two bar charts (though there is self-selection involved in these numbers). Mentors make a one-year commitment to serve in this role, but several mentors and students continue their connection year after year (like Robin Kaler and Awien Mayar below).



Awien Mayar (right) with her mentor, Robin Kaler.

“ Having Robin as a mentor was one of my ultimate Illinois experiences. Throughout my academic career, Robin made sure I was doing my best in school and also enjoying my time at Illinois. She was always there to lend a hand, whether it was teaching me how to drive or sending care packages to me in Morocco. I'm grateful for I-Promise in not only providing financial assistance to further my education, but for also providing me with an awesome, amazing and kindhearted role model like Robin.”

—**Awien Mayar**, '14 Global Studies

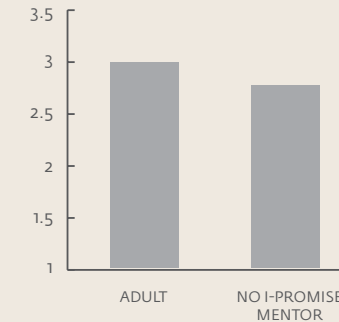
“ Getting to know Awien has been one of my greatest joys of being part of the Illinois family. When we met, I thought my role was simply to connect her to university resources. It didn't take long to realize that it was really more about listening and being there. Whether we were having ice cream or practicing driving, we made sure she had the tools and support she needed to succeed. I also know she will use her Illinois education to make the world a better place.”

—**Robin Kaler**, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs at Illinois

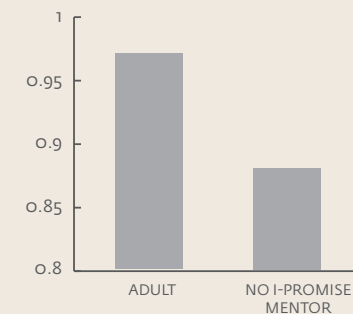
### Special Thanks

Partnerships exist with a number of campus units and community organizations to coordinate I-Promise enrichment opportunities. Special thanks to the Counseling Center, The Career Center, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Leadership Center, the Illini Union Bookstore, TCF Bank, University Housing, and the cultural houses.

### First-Semester GPA AY 2013-14 I-Promise Cohort



### One-Year Retention: AY 2013-14 I-Promise Chort



### Office of Student Financial Aid

620 E. John St.  
Champaign, IL 61820  
[finaid@illinois.edu](mailto:finaid@illinois.edu)  
217-333-0100

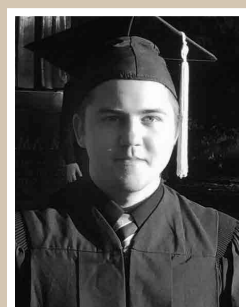
**Susan Gershenfeld**, Director  
Illinois Promise Student Services  
Office of the Provost  
703 S. Wright St., 3rd Floor, Room 44  
Champaign, IL 61820  
[sgershen@illinois.edu](mailto:sgershen@illinois.edu)  
217-244-7719

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[vcia.illinois.edu/giving/illinoispromise.html](http://vcia.illinois.edu/giving/illinoispromise.html)



# ILLINOIS PROMISE

ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE



## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



This fall the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign inducted 293 new I-Promise scholars, our largest class in the eight-year history of the program, and we couldn't be more pleased. It's no exaggeration to say that these promising young students are some of the brightest, most talented students in the nation. We are so happy they have chosen to be part of the Illinois family.

Since Illinois was founded in 1867, we have been charged with creating transformative, world-class educational opportunities that are accessible to anyone with talent, passion and diligence. The I-Promise program so directly and visibly demonstrates this heritage and mission. I would like to sincerely thank our generous donors for investing in the futures of our scholars and for believing in the power of an Illinois education.

As you read through this report, I am sure you will be moved by our scholars' accomplishments – what they achieved at Illinois. But even more impactful is their potential. We look forward to seeing how Illinois can help them make an impact on the world, and we are excited to see what they will accomplish.

### Phyllis M. Wise

Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## DONORS, ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014



Michael Goldstein, '65 LAS, has established the Cora Kallis Goldstein Scholarships through a generous gift to Illinois Promise. Here is why he has chosen to support the program:

*“Because I want to ensure access to an Illinois education for high-achieving students from all economic and social backgrounds, I am funding scholarships in the Illinois Promise program specifically for underrepresented students from Cook County, where for several generations my family's business provided me with so much. I am especially impressed that the program covers tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies for scholarship recipients. I sincerely hope my donation will enable these students to feed their interests, find out who they are, what they can do, and fall in love what they do for a living.”*

–Michael Goldstein

### \$1,000–\$4,999

- Mr. C. Donald Ainsworth and Mrs. Marilyn M. Ainsworth
- Dr. Edward M. Bohn and Mrs. Okemah K. Bohn
- Mr. Orazio A. Buzza and Mrs. Julie A. Buzza
- Prof. Peter Wai Chan
- Ms. Cynthia J. Cook and Mr. James C. Cook
- Mrs. Elaine D. Cottey and Mr. Paul T. Cottey
- Mrs. Susan S. Enlow and Mr. William R. Enlow
- Mr. Richard J. Erickson
- Ms. Madeline C. Haine and Mr. James M. Haine
- Ms. Heather L. Holland
- Mr. Lee E. Jackson and Mrs. Carol J. Jackson
- Ms. Anna E. Jensen and Mr. Terry C. Jensen
- Prof. Douglas A. Kibbee and Prof. Josephine Z. Kibbee

- Dr. David C. Kleiman
- Ms. Margot L. Kramer
- Loichle Family Foundation
- Ms. Marjorie S. Mizes
- Dr. Jeremy R. Nighohossian
- Mr. Ramon Ocasio, III and Ms. Norma G. Ramirez
- Mr. Dan C. Peterson and Mrs. Mary Ellen Peterson
- Mr. Stephen Bruce Shafer
- Mr. Harold L. Strauss
- Mr. G. Gregory Taubeneck and Mrs. Anne D. Taubeneck
- Mrs. Mary L. Viereggs and Mr. James R. Viereggs
- The Wagner Foundation
- Dr. Tat-Kwan Edgar Yu

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Illinois Promise** is an access scholarship program initiated in 2005 to provide high-achieving, low-income students an opportunity to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Educational expenses including tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies are covered. In addition, enrichment programs are offered to foster student success.

**Students do not apply to become an I-Promise scholar.** Rather, students gain admittance to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Office of Student Financial Aid then determines eligibility based on the following criteria:

- Illinois residency
- Under the age of 24 and admitted as a freshman or transfer student
- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (\$23,550)
- Family assets of less than \$50,000 (does not include the home)
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to \$0

- Minimum enrollment of 12 credit hours during fall and spring semesters

**Funding the program takes a team approach.** I-Promise scholars receive federal, state, institutional and/or private grants and scholarships for which they qualify. The I-Promise award is based on the difference between the student's cost of attendance and other financial aid received. I-Promise funding is provided from institutional resources as well as privately from individuals and corporate donors. In the 2013-2014 academic year I-Promise funding totaled \$6,203,470; the average award per student was \$7,180.



*“I-Promise is the pivotal point of my life. This turning point signifies that there are loving people in the world who care.”*

– Rachel Loyd, '14, Broadcast Journalism; 1st Grade Teacher/Teach For America Corps Member.



*“Being an I-Promise scholar has given me the confidence that I can reach my dreams.”*

– Dalmina Arias, '14 Community Health; Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy candidate, University of Illinois at Chicago.

### \$5,000–\$9,999

- Ms. Stacey Modlin Anderson
- Dr. J. L. Divilbiss
- Estate of Constance L. Etter
- Mr. Michael N. Jaffe and Mrs. Laurie A. Jaffe
- Mr. Thomas M. Krigas and Mrs. Mary S. Krigas
- Timothy G. and Mary R. Lyne
- New Frontiers Foundation
- Dr. David C. Norman
- The Lazzara Family Foundation
- Mrs. Mary F. Rayis and Mr. John D. Rayis
- Mr. Clarence Shelley and Mrs. Sharon L. Ormsby-Shelley
- Mr. Marvin Smollar

### \$10,000–\$24,999

- Mr. J. Brian Barnett and Mrs. Kathleen R. Barnett
- Ms. Peggy L. Cullen
- Ms. Virginia S. Tarika
- Mr. John M. Seral and Mrs. Anne C. Seral
- Mr. P. Wayne Ziebell and Mrs. Patricia A. Ziebell
- Mr. William A. Shiner and Mrs. Jacelyn A. Shiner

### \$25,000–\$49,999

- Mr. Mark G. Barmann
- Mr. Stephen J. Drake and Mrs. Shirley A. Drake
- Mr. Edward R. Haben and Mrs. Mary Kay Kretch Haben

## PROFILE

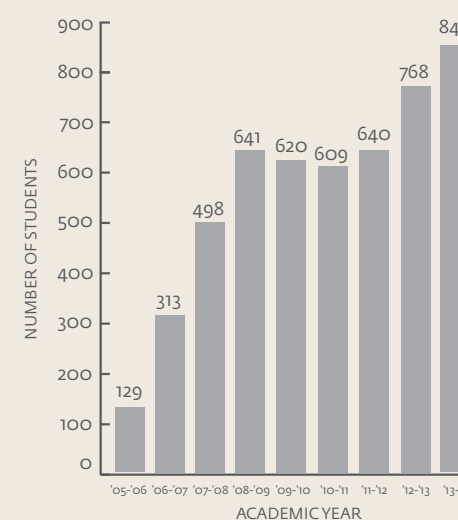
### I-Promise Student Profile, Academic Year 2013-2014

- 848 total I-Promise scholars
- 293 I-Promise scholars in the incoming class (7% are transfer students)
- 44 Illinois counties represented
- 70% Cook County residents

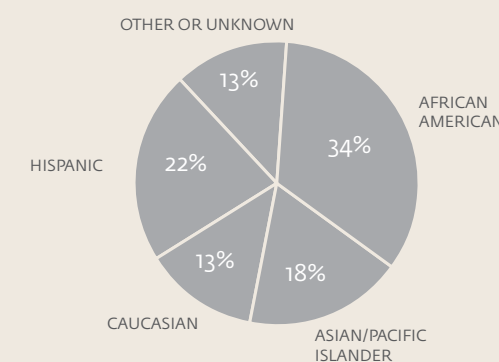
- 56% female
- 71% racial minority
- 84% accepted to other colleges\*
- 77% first-generation college students\*

\* Based on Spring 2014 I-Promise Student Survey.

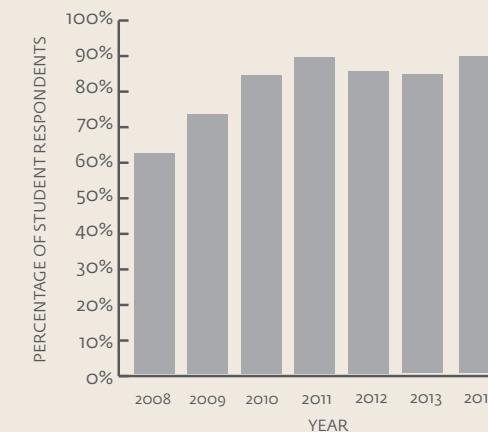
### Students Served in the I-Promise Program



### Diversity of I-Promise Students, Academic Year 2013-2014

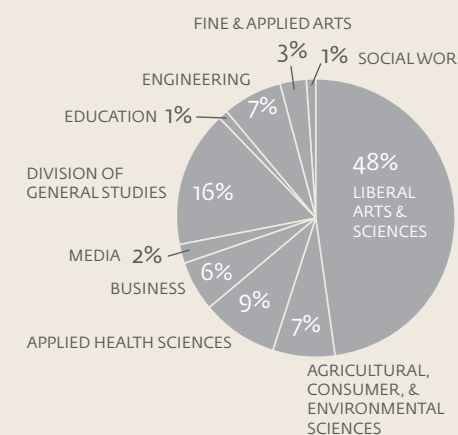


### Students' Sense of Community within I-Promise



This chart combines student responses indicating that they were "happy," "very happy," or "thrilled" with the sense of community within I-Promise.

### Enrollment of I-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2013-2014



### \$1,000–\$4,999

- Mr. C. Donald Ainsworth and Mrs. Marilyn M. Ainsworth
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### \$25,000–\$49,999

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- Mr. Stephen J. Drake and Mrs. Shirley A. Drake
- Mr. Edward R. Haben and Mrs. Mary Kay Kretch Haben

### \$50,000–\$99,999

- Mr. Michael L. Goldstein
- TCF Foundation

### \$100,000+

- Private Family Foundation
- State Farm Companies Foundation

### Endowment Funds that Support I-Promise

- Janice Kisten Campbell Scholarship Fund
- Hathorne and Hummer Family Scholarship Fund
- Seral Family Endowment for Illinois Students
- P. Wayne and Patricia A. Ziebell Illinois Students Fund
- Tom D. Wippman Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund

- Timothy G. and Mary R. Lyne Scholarship Fund
- Lorraine and Robert C. Olson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- Arthur N. and Barbara S. Alderson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- Joseph W. Bohn Memorial Fund for Illinois Promise
- Mark G. Barmann Endowed Scholarship Fund for Illinois Promise
- William A. and Jacelyn A. Shiner Fund in Support of the Illinois Promise Program
- Richard L. Chavez Scholarship Fund
- Clarence Shelley Scholarship Fund
- Michael A. Harring '72 and Lois Dal Santo Harring '73 Fund for Illinois Promise
- Stephen J. and Shirley A. Drake Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund