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. 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. One additional cohort will be selected next year and each cohort benefits during their four years in college. In 2015, a total of 78 I-Promise students who entered fall 2011 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 117 alumni.

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The bars to the right show the percentage of I-Promise scholars in different cohorts (2005-2011) who graduated. On average, 33% of I-Promise scholars graduate in four years, with this percent increasing to 75% in five years and 79% in six years.

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The chart to the left shows the percentage of I-Promise scholars who graduate in different academic years (2005-2011). On average, 55% of I-Promise scholars graduate in four years, with this percent increasing to 75% in five years and 79% in six years.

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**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**I-Promise Graduates**

**MENTORING**

With a two-year grant from a private family foundation, I-Promise is piloting an alumni mentoring program for upperclassmen I-Promise scholars to receive one-on-one career guidance and advice in the career or industry they are planning to pursue. In the pilot phase, 17 I-Promise scholars were matched with alumni who are primarily based in the Chicago area. Training and ongoing support is provided to the mentee to maximize the potential of the mentoring partnership.

**Mentoring Program Benefits**

- **Career Guidance:** mentees receive career advice in the career or industry they are planning to pursue.
- **Mentorship:** mentors provide guidance and support, helping mentees make connections and gain insights into their chosen field.
- **Accountability:** mentees are encouraged to set and achieve career goals.

**I-Promise Scholars to Alumni Mentoring Program**

- **Mentees:** 17 I-Promise scholars selected in academic year 2014-15.
- **Mentors:** alumni from the Chicago area, Chicago and Evanston, University Housing, and the cultural houses.

**620 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.244.7719**

**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, Office of Minority Student Affairs, Leadership Center, Illini Union Bookstore, TCF Bank, University Housing, and the cultural houses.

**Office of Student Financial Aid**

404 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820

friendsof.illinois.edu | 217.244.7719

**I-Promise Director**

Mary Wright, J.D., 5th Floor

Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.244.7719

**Visit Us Online**

vica.illinois.edu/giving/illinoispromise.html

**Illinois Promise**

**ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE**

**Annual Report 2014-2015**
**Chancellor’s Message**

This fall the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign inducted 309 new I-Promise scholars, our largest class in the ten-year history of the program. These students are bright, ambitious and talented. They represent some of the newest members of our campus family, and we are grateful they have chosen to make Illinois their home.

As part of our land-grant heritage, we pride ourselves on offering transformative educational experiences that are both world-class and accessible. Our success depends upon recruiting the best and brightest students to Illinois. I-Promise plays a vital and public role in delivering on that promise. And it is our I-Promise donors who make that success possible.

Our Illinois I-Promise scholars represent some of the best of our new class. They have big dreams, innovative ideas and ambitious plans. The impact of their Illinois experience shines through in these pages. I think you will enjoy hearing about their journey so far. I hope you find their stories as inspiring as I did.

Barbara Wilson
Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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**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 (25% for a family of four)
- Family assets of less than $51,000 do not include the home
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to 0
- Minimum enrollment of 6 credit hours during fall and spring semesters

Funding the program takes a team approach. I-Promise scholars receive federal, state, institutional and 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 2014-15 academic year, I-Promise funding totaled $10,151,304; the average award per student was $7,777.51.

**Profile**

- **I-Promise Student Profile, Academic Year 2014-2015**
  - 94% total I-Promise scholars
  - 91% I-Promise scholars in the incoming class (92% transfer students)
  - 41 Illinois counties represented
  - 396 Cook County residents

- **DONORS, ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015**
  - Mr. Ronald R. Ralph 
  - Mr. John R. and Mrs. Mary Ellen Stalker
  - Mr. Robert C. Olson and Mrs. Lorraine C. Olson
  - Mr. Arthur N. and Barbara S. Alderson
  - Ms. Marilyn A. Driscoll
  - Mr. and Mrs. William D. Houghton

- **Students Served in the I-Promise Program**
  - Enrollment of I-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2014-2015
    - 10% ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSUMER, & AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, & AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, & AGRICULTURAL
    - 40% SCIENCES
    - 15% ARTS & LIBERAL SCIENCES
    - 2% MEDIA
    - 46% BUSINESS
    - 0% SOCIAL WORK
    - 50% EDUCATION
    - 3% ENGINEERING

- **Enrollment of I-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2014-2015**
  - 641 electrical engineering
  - 441 Mechanical Engineering
  - 398 Computer Science

- **Student’s Sense of Community within I-Promise**
  - 76% racial minority
  - 58% female
  - 15% first generation college students
  - 30% transferred to other colleges
  - 46% accepted into graduate programs

- **Students’ Sense of Community within I-Promise**
  - 95% Communication, Masters of Human Resources and Industrial Relations candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Program Overview**

  - As a result of being an Illinois Promise scholar, I acquired a vast number of friends and individuals that I could relate to, but most important of all, that I could depend on.”
  - Aishah Patterson, ’15, Atmospheric Sciences; MS candidate in Meteorology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Ron Filler, ’80 LAS**

  - The Illinois Promise is an important and wonderful program that helps those who are less fortunate attend the University of Illinois. It provides much needed financial assistance, guidance, mentoring and other important benefits to these young people as they enter their next level of education.

  - I am a proud sponsor of the Illinois Promise program and enjoy being a mentor to many of its students.”

- **Ms. Virginia S. Tariku**

  - Mr. Mark A. Vrashoff and Mrs. Susan A. Vrashoff
  - Mr. P. Wayne Ziebell and Mrs. Patricia A. Ziebell

- **$1,000,000+**
  - Private Family Foundation
  - Coca-Cola Foundation
  - BP Products North America, Inc.

- **Endowment Funds that Support I-Promise**
  - Arthur N. and Barbara S. Alderson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
  - Mark G. Barmann Endowed Scholarship Fund for Illinois Promise
  - Stahl Farm-Maneaux Foundation Fund
  - Lorraine and Robert C. Olson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund

- **Ronald R. Ralph Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund**

- **Mr. Ronald R. Ralph**

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