Leaders of Tomorrow

In 2017, Illinois Promise proudly introduced the Emerging Leader Award. This award recognizes graduating scholars who demonstrated a commitment to transformational learning by engaging in experiences such as internships, research, study abroad, service, and leadership activities while maintaining a high level of academic achievement. The selected recipients represent a variety of fields of study and professional goals but share common threads among them—they enriched the Illinois community by their outstanding future. Seven honorees were recognized by Chancellor Jones at the congratulatory event in April.

Where Are They Now?

Jamie Dalton, Double Major, Supply Chain Management and Marketing

Based in Chicago, traveling the country frequently, as an Analyst at Hilton Consulting Group within their Higher Education Practice implementing software for universities.

Amber Floyd, Social Work

Graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Family Services. Also serving as a Resident Advisor in University Housing and Graduate Coordinator for America Reads America Counts.

Gabriela Garay, Double Major: Psychology, Latina/Latino Studies (not pictured) employed in Chicago as a Supervisor for a Loyola University achievement program Start New Transitions (within the College of Education). This program aids high school freshmen with a goal of selecting and pursuing a graduate program in the near future.

Kendra Kuehlem, Urban and Regional Planning

Associate Planner for the Village of Franklin, Illinois, working on administration of the Village comprehensive plan, code development and review, and other projects. Also pursuing certification with the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Grace Procopio, Interdisciplinary Health

Intern/Supervisor working for Cru (a Christian campus ministry) in Champaign, focusing on spiritual development of student leaders and faith sharing.

David Stage, History and Secondary Education

Teaching English language and American culture to 3rd to 6th graders on Kinmen Island, south of China, thanks to the support of a Fulbright award. Plans to attend law school upon return to the US.

Outcomes

In 2017, a total of 153 I-Promise students who enrolled in Fall 2013 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 1,536 alumni.

- 4 years
- 5 years
- 6 years

The chart to the left shows the percentage of I-Promise Scholars in different cohorts (2005-2013) who graduated. On average, 56% of I-Promise Scholars graduate in 4 years (about 1%/0.5% higher than the national 4-year average) and 1-Promise graduation rates increase to 78% in 3 years and 79% in 6 years (20% higher than the national 6-year average).

Scholars Net:

An online directory of I-Promise alumni and donors made available to current I-Promise Scholars who wish to explore a career path and/or graduate or professional program through brief inquiries, informational interviews, or job shadowing.

Preparing for Life After Graduation

I-Promise welcomed a new full-time staff member in March 2016 with the hire of Program Coordinator, Krystle Richard. Partially funded by the generous support of a private family foundation, the newly configured position allows the program to expand its efforts at preparing scholars for careers or graduate school. Throughout the spring and summer months, Krystle focused on research and development of the new Promising Professionals Program (P3) which is being launched in Fall 2017. P3 will include opportunities such as:

- Like a Pro Series: Monthly programs offered in collaboration with campus partners designed to build awareness of resources and encourage development of transferable skills through research, study abroad, and much more.

The Academy:

An intensive, one-year professional development cohort program aimed at increasing knowledge and experience with the critical career competencies identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

PREREQUISITE CHALLENGES

- Personal/Professional Development
- Relationships with Coworkers
- Leadership
- Stress Management
- Communication
- Career Exploration
- Self-Esteem

The Employment Guarantee:

I-Promise will continue to prepare students for work and life beyond graduation. Much more.

Outstanding alumna

Adding to the Illinois Promise alumna, meetings with a variety of employer representatives, an online directory of I-Promise alumni and donors, and an online alumni mentorship program.

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 Office of Undergraduate Research, the Office of Extension Financial Wellness Program, the Office of Volunteer Programs, Illinois Alumni and Global Exchange, the Office of Student Financial Aid, the Career Center, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Illinois Leadership Center, the Illinois Union Bookstore, and University Housing.

ILLINOIS PROMISE

Great work, Illinois Promise! Thank you for your dedicated service to our students. The following list of donors made possible the 2017-2018 Illinois Promise program. We are grateful for their continued support.

- Illinois Alumni Association
- Illinois Alumni Foundation
- Illinois Board of Trustees
- Illinois Students

Annual Report 2016-2017
THE PROMISE

Illinois Promise is much more than a financial scholarship. It’s a commitment by the campus to create an enriching and supportive educational environment that fosters personal and professional success. It’s a commitment by donors to open doors of opportunity to high achieving students to join the Illinois family as they make their way toward a bright future. It’s a commitment by scholars to make the most of the experience, to aspire for greatness, and to pay it forward every step of the way.

CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE

This fall marks the twelfth year of the Illinois Promise program here at Illinois. More than 360 new Illinois Promise scholars joined our freshman class and became part of the largest total undergraduate student body on record. We’re proud to welcome this new class to the campus, and we are excited to watch them follow in the footsteps of the 1,200 Illinois Promise graduates of the last decade. These smart, strong, and accomplished students continue to make us proud long after they graduate. As graduates, they become leaders in their chosen professions and communities, their bright minds propelled forward by their Illinois education and the support of the Illinois community. With you and with Illinois, these students have the opportunity to change the world.

Robert J. Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

THE SUPPORT WE OFFER

In addition to financial support, the 1-Promise opportunity includes a variety of programs and initiatives aimed to ensure scholars have the resources and information necessary to propel their academic and professional futures.

Academic Outreach

1-Promise staff monitor midterms and final grades, course registration, and overall academic progress and meet individually with students to discuss and offer support and resources.

Programs and Events

From housing info sessions to final exam survival workshops, orientation meetings to senior congratulatory banquets, there are a variety of events that bring scholars together throughout the year.

Community Building

Scholars engage with one another at monthly meetings, monthly social events, and an 1-Promise sponsored service activity every semester.

IP 52 Student Bulletin

Twice per month, scholars receive an electronic newsletter with campus and community news and information that is hand-picked with their needs in mind.

Leadership Opportunities

Scholars have the chance to lead Illinois financial aid programs and initiatives as they apply and are selected to become Executive Board members in the 1-Promise student organization, 1-Promise Ambassadors, or sponsored participants at an annual leadership retreat hosted by the Illinois Leadership Center each winter.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Illinois Promise is an access scholarship program initiated in 2005 to provide support for high achieving University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students with the greatest amount of financial need. The scholarship is designed to cover a student’s cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies. Funding is provided by institutional and private sources, including individual and corporate donors.

There is no application to become an Illinois Promise Scholar. Instead, the Office of Student Financial Aid reviews a student’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and determines eligibility using several criteria:

- Family income at or below the federal poverty level ($24,250 for a family of four)
- Family assets of less than $50,000 (does not include home)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to $0
- Illinois residency
- Under age 24 at time of admission

In return, recipients must maintain eligibility for the scholarship by earning a minimum 2.0 grade point average and enrolling full-time (12 hours or more), among other criteria. As part of the award package, they are also offered a limited amount of student loans each year as well as the opportunity to secure a Federal Work Study position and earn income bi-weekly through part-time employment on campus.

Support for 1-Promise Scholars also involves much more than the financial award. Scholars join a diverse community of students who benefit from uniquely tailored resources and programs throughout their time on campus. To learn more about Illinois Promise, visit ipromise.illinois.edu

GIVING TO ILLINOIS PROMISE

“We all grew up in Champaign-Urbana and went to Illinois together. We’ve all done very different things and gone very different places since then... But one thing we’ve always had in common is what our Illinois experience meant to us and a desire for others to have the same opportunity. The Free Health Fundraiser’s contributions to 1-Promise are a way to bring that opportunity to other students for whom a great college education might not be within reach.”

Mark Van, John Hansen, Chuck Nichols, Darren McClure, and Ken Brownfield

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

While 1-Promise scholars qualify for and receive federal, state, institutional and/or private grants and scholarships, for many, that aid does not match their full need. The 1-Promise award closes the gap between a student’s cost of attendance and the other financial aid they received. In the 2016-2017 academic year, 1-Promise funding totaled $8,940,800.15.

$30,706 – $35,710

Total cost of an Illinois Education (per year) (including tuition, fees, room & board costs and other expenses)

$6,275.55

Average 1-Promise Award Per Student (per year)

On average, 23% of a 1-Promise Scholar’s educational expenses are covered by donor funding.

I-PROMISE MATTERS

No one has overcome more significant obstacles to achieve their dreams. Many have overcome significant challenges in their paths toward a college education and have dreams and aspirations of making a difference in their lives. 1-Promise support offers them a chance to receive a world-class education and make their dreams a reality.

Celia Glenn, Social Work

Being a mother and also a mother is certainly challenging at times but the 1-Promise Program has been a huge help through my career. My basis has been outstanding and they gave me a foundation of individuals that are always there to assist me in any struggles that I may face. The 1-Promise Program has been an influential part of my life because it allowed me to continue my education. It has truly been the best decision that I have made for myself and for that is I am forever grateful.

Claudia Kubarys-Hosnowska, Instrumental Music

I was so scared when I applied to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I had been told that I would not be able to attend this great university despite all the hard work and financial aid that I had planned to use to pay for it. Illinois Promise made this a reality. I am now pursuing my lifelong goal of entering the military as a doctor. Illinois Promise has helped me keep my promise to my mom and for that I am even more grateful.

Brian Gutierrez, Political Science

I am currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I have been working full-time since I was 14. I applied for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010 but was denied entrance. I started as a freshman at a community college, where I was exploring some health sciences and it really affected me. The Illinois Promise award has granted me the opportunity to have a great educational experience at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With 1-Promise, I’ve been able to successfully start my own pediatric health technology company (Pediatrician’s First Aid). I am able to apply the knowledge and skills that I have learned to further my education and make a positive impact in the community.

Amaya Saulsbury, Undeclared

Opening up the South Side of Chicago to a bed a instruments student, I watched my peers struggle while providing for their own brothers and I. As the age of 14, I was able to start my own music education program, to provide quality education to students in an underserved community. My education is critical to our future and I want to make a difference for the students in my community. I-Promise has granted me the opportunity to further my education and inspired me to work harder and make my dreams a reality. Illinois Promise has granted me an opportunity to be here and work constantly on making a better life for my family. With 1-Promise, I’ve been able to successfully start my own pediatric health technology company (Pediatrician’s First Aid). I am able to apply the knowledge and skills that I have learned to further my education and make a positive impact in the community.

I-Promise Ambassador

I-Promise mentor for 10 years

Enrollment of 1-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2016-2017

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<th>College</th>
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<td>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</td>
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<td>ARTS &amp; LIBERAL SCIENCES</td>
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<td>DEAN'S GENERAL STUDIES</td>
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<td>GENERAL STUDIES</td>
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Percentage:

- 12.5% BIO/MED
- 22% ENVIRONMENTAL
- 44.5% ARTS & LIBERAL
- 8.5% DEAN'S GENERAL
- 17% SOCIAL WORK
- 3% BUSINESS
- 31% GENERAL
- 29% OTHER

Diversity of 1-Promise Students, Academic Year 2015-2017

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<th>Categories</th>
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Percentage:

- 17% CAUCASIAN
- 29% HISPANE
- 31% ISLANDER
- 20% ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
- 7% OTHER