

## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Our commitment to Illinois Promise remains strong and our goal remains steadfast: to make sure that we do not hold back bright young adults who want to attend college. I note with pride that this goal is being achieved at a time of great economic hardship in the nation.

I wish you could meet every one of our first graduating Illinois Promise seniors, the Class of 2009. They met every challenge placed before them. They showed us that they were worthy of our faith and support. Now they will change the world.

In June I was humbled to receive recognition by one of the great organizations in the nation, PUSH Excel. PUSH is a tireless advocate for education and mentoring, a calm voice for non-violence on our troubled streets, and an organization that contributes countless college scholarships. I accepted this honor on behalf of the many people who helped make Illinois Promise a reality. But, most of all, I accepted the honor on behalf of the students.

Access to educational opportunities is my passion as chancellor of one of the finest public research universities in the world. I also believe that, "Education will not be adequate until it more fully reflects the face of society." (From a 1955 Harvard University report titled, "General Education in a Free Society.")

With Illinois Promise we plan to be that face.

**Richard Herman**  
Chancellor



(L-R): **Jameese Sykes**, '10 Psychology; **Dr. Julianne Malveaux**, president of Bennett College for Women and PUSH for Excellence; **Dr. Bonita Carr**, National Director of Education, Rainbow PUSH Coalition; **Susan Gershenfeld**, Director, Illinois Promise Student Services; **Anjali Thakrar**, '09 Economics and International Studies; **Cecilia Macias**, '09 Communication; **Samatha Pittman**, '10 Human Development and Family Studies; **Yvette Vazquez**, '09 Elementary Education; **Silvia Gonzalez**, '11 Art Education and Photography; **The Rev. Charles Jenkins**, pastor, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and Chairman of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition; **Chancellor Richard Herman**; **The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.**, Founder and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition; **Quyen Bui**, '11 Community Health; **Robert Holly**, '12 Advertising; **Judge Greg Mathis**, of "The Judge Mathis Show" and Chairman of PUSH Excel; and **Darlene Hill**, FOX Chicago News anchor and reporter.

## MOVING FORWARD

### Mentoring

A pilot mentoring program is being launched in academic year 09/10 to help ease the transition to university life for incoming I-Promise students. Students who desire a mentor will be matched with an upper class peer or an adult mentor from the campus or local community. Sixty mentors currently serve in the pilot program. Outside funding is being sought to support mentoring for any I-Promise student who requests a mentor.



*"How can I choose not to serve as a mentor for the I-Promise Program? As a first-generation college student, I attribute the mentoring and support that I received throughout my education as one of the primary reasons I was able to achieve the confidence necessary for a successful career. It would simply be selfish not to help inspire the next generations of students."*

- **Joseph Martocchio**, Professor, School of Labor and Employment Relations, University of Illinois

### Research

Illinois Promise is deeply committed to an evidence-based approach using data for program evaluation and greater understanding. Two student surveys have been conducted, and during AY 09/10 a longitudinal study will compare educational outcomes for I-Promise students with outcomes for other students. This will help us understand how I-Promise support impacts student success.

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**Susan Gershenfeld**, Director  
Illinois Promise Student Services  
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sgershen@illinois.edu  
217.244.7719

### Alumni Involvement

The first graduating class are now Illinois Promise alums.



*"The University of Illinois has allowed me to get through my four years of college without any financial difficulties. Being part of the I-Promise alumni network will allow me to finally give something back to the university."*

- **Darshil Patel**, '09 Community Health, Physical Therapy doctoral student, University of Chicago

### Programming & Partnerships

Several initiatives are under way in academic year 09/10 to enrich I-Promise students on campus through personal development, community services, and community-building events. Partnerships exist with a number of campus units and community organizations to coordinate these enrichment opportunities, including the Career Center; cultural houses; the Financial Wellness Center; the Illini Union Bookstore; the Leadership Center; the Library; the McKinley Health Center; the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations; the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA); the Office of Volunteer Programs; Talk Mentoring; TCF Bank; and University Housing. For example, the Counseling Center and the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations are training I-Promise mentors; TCF Bank is offering sessions on financial literacy; and OMSA is providing training to I-Promise students in time management skills.



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# ILLINOIS PROMISE

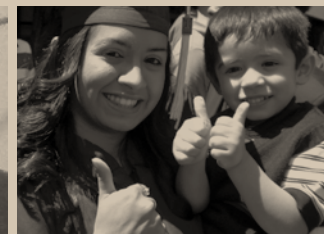
ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE



**Lhea Randle**, '09  
Political Science and Communication



**Darshil Patel**, '09  
Community Health



**Yvette Vazquez**, '09  
Elementary Education



**Quintin Scott**, '09  
Kinesiology

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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



“ Many I-Promise students such as me realize the meaning of being given something. We optimize our experience with what we have, and we push to move beyond the ordinary, because we know the challenge is worth it.”

- **Anjali Thakrar**, '09 Economics and International Studies; Vice President - Talent Management, AIESEC in the Sultanate of Oman

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

- Illinois residency
- Freshman or transfer-student status
- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (\$21,200 for a family of four)
- Assets of less than \$50,000 (does not include your home)
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is equal to \$0
- Minimum enrollment of 12 credit hours during fall and spring semesters

**Students remain eligible** for Illinois Promise if they continue to meet the criteria stated above (or are federal Pell Grant eligible) and have satisfied the college's GPA requirements.

**Funding the program takes a team approach.** I-Promise students receive federal, state, institutional and/or private grants and scholarships for which they qualify. The difference between the covered costs and these awards is provided from institutional resources as well as private funding from individual and corporate donors. In academic year 08/09, Illinois Promise funding totaled \$2,284,855; the average award was \$3,581.



“ Because I was helped through scholarships, I feel I should reciprocate for others as this was done for me.”

- **Richard Chavez**, Donor

## Donors - FY 08/09

### \$1K+

- Mr. Mark G. Barmann
- Ms. Cynthia J. Cook
- Ms. Elaine D. Cottey
- Ms. Peggy L. Cullen
- Ms. Beverly Joann Garrott
- Ms. Virginia Guthrie
- Mr. Matthew Joyce
- Mr. Stephen J. and Mrs. Karen K. Malkin
- Ms. Damayanti Vasudevan
- Ms. Jackie Williams

### Donors \$5K+

- Mr. Richard Chavez
- Mr. Edward R. and Mrs. Mary Kay Haben
- Mr. James N. Heiligenstein
- Ms. Betsy Hendrick
- Mr. Milton and Mrs. Barbara Hieken
- Mr. Bill and Mrs. Jaceyln Shiner

### Donors \$10K+

- Mr. Tom and Mrs. Elizabeth Wippman

### Donors \$25K+

- Mr. John & Mrs. Anne Seral
- Mr. P. Wayne & Mrs. Patricia Ziebell

### Inaugural Donors:

- Mr. Robert and Mrs. Barbara Hathorne
- Mr. Louis and Mrs. Sybil Mervis

### Foundation and Corporate Supporters:

- Grand Victoria Foundation
- New Frontiers Foundation
- RR Donnelley Foundation
- Private Family Foundation - \$500,000 Challenge Grant
- State Farm
- TCF Bank

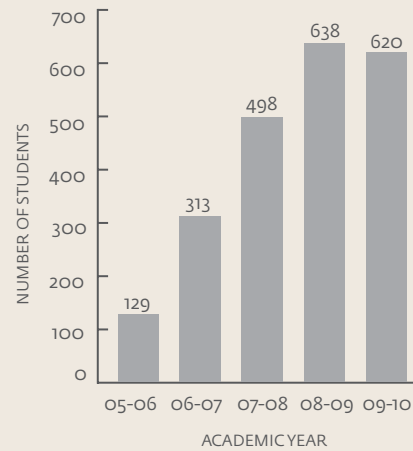
# PROFILE

## Illinois Promise Student Profile - Academic Year 08/09

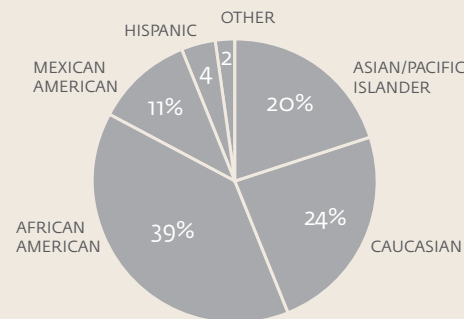
- 100% live in Illinois, representing 40 counties; 67% are residents of Cook County
- 82% of students applied to other colleges in addition to the University of Illinois\*
- 67% are first-generation college students\*
- 60% are female
- 7% are transfer students

\* Based on 2009 Illinois Promise Student Survey

## Students Served in the Illinois Promise Program



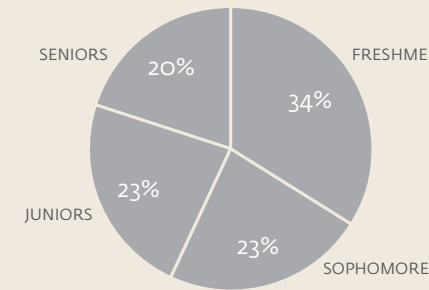
## Diversity of Illinois Promise Students - Academic Year 08/09



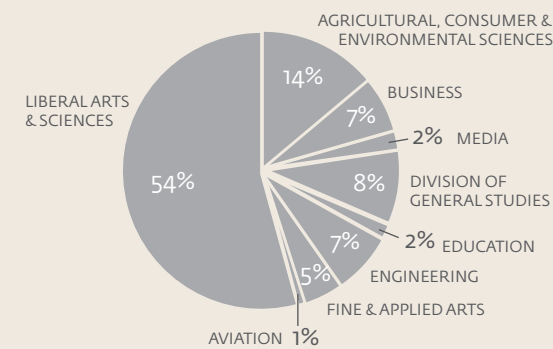
“ I-Promise embodies a variety of unique individuals who have the potential and individual motivation to succeed against all adversities. We come from a variety of diverse backgrounds, and we understand the need for higher education. We will be the leaders of tomorrow because we know what true challenges are and how to overcome them.”

- **Yvette Vazquez**, '09 Elementary Education, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher, Learn Charter School, Chicago

## Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by Class - Academic Year 08/09



## Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by College - Academic Year 08/09



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 2008-2009

Academics	Illinois Promise Students	All Illinois Students
4-Year Retention*	82%	83%
4-Year Graduation Rate*	66%	66%
Estimated 5-Year Graduation Rate	85%**	80%
Applied to Graduate School	43%**	34%
Studied Abroad	24%**	27%
Average 4-Year Debt Load	\$11,708	\$19,421

\* Retention rate is the total percentage of students who returned to the University of Illinois going into their senior year. Graduate rate is students completing degree requirements at the end of four years.

\*\* Based on survey results

## Class Gift



“ The gratitude we have as the first graduating class of I-Promise students toward the program and its donors needed to be shown with something more than just the words thank you. The funds we raised for a paver as a class gift is a tangible way to express our deep gratitude and leave our collective mark on the University. Illinois Promise truly did touch the lives of all who received support from the scholarship program.”

- **Lhea Randle**, '09 Political Science & Communication, Intern, Illinois General Assembly Legislative Research Unit

## Deferred Billing for Textbooks

In partnership with the Illini Union Bookstore, a pilot program was launched that enabled I-Promise students to purchase books and supplies for up to \$600 per semester and defer payment until midterms. This program allowed students to earn funds through Federal Work Study early in the semester and avoid having to purchase books through a loan or on a credit card. The partnership will continue in the next academic year.

## National Recognition

On June 29, 2009, Chancellor Herman received recognition from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition for his leadership with Illinois Promise. I-Promise students attended at this gala event as well as trustees, donors, and University administrators.



“ The Illinois Promise program is the actual fulfillment of a promise--the fulfillment of hope and possibility. The program is substantial and not simply PR. It changes lives. It is good for students, Illinois, and the future of our nation.”

- **The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr.**, Founder and President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition

## Public Voice

Thirty Illinois Promise students had the opportunity to serve as a public voice for the program in the print media, through video, and by speaking or representing the program at public events.



“ Being a part of I-Promise granted me the opportunity to attend college. It was not only a financial support; it became a family to me! The least I could do was be a voice for it.”

- **Cecilia Macias**, '09 Communication, Volunteer, Mercy Smiles Ministries, Andhrpradesh, India

## Student Involvement

In 2008 an I-Promise Registered Student Organization was formed to build community among I-Promise students, with several events scheduled throughout the year. In addition, I-Promise students participated in personal development activities focused on financial literacy and community service on campus and in the greater Champaign-Urbana community. I-Promise students also had leadership opportunities by serving on the I-Promise Student Outreach Committee, the Planning Committee for the Senior Reception, and as an ambassador or public voice for the program.