**ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 2009-2010**

**Academics**

In May, a total of 12 I-Promise students graduated with B.A., B.S., or B.F.A. degrees. Combined with the first cohort of graduates from 2009, there are now 42 I-Promise alumni. Among the 2010 graduates, 39% applied to graduate school.

In May, a total of 112 I-Promise students graduated. Approximately one-third of the incoming class of I-Promise students (66 students) chose to participate in the I-Promise pilot mentoring program to help ease their transition to college. Mentors had the choice of selecting their mentee either from a pool of upperclassmen I-Promise students (peers) or from a pool of adult mentors. The latter group included retired and current faculty and academic professionals as well as community leaders. Mentor training, ongoing support, and community-building opportunities were available during the academic year. In the year-end evaluation, a positive impact was reported by all mentees and, importantly, 54% requested a desire to continue meeting informally during the next academic year. In addition, 61% will serve as mentors to a new set of incoming I-Promise students during the next academic year.

**Research**

This year, a longitudinal study comparing educational outcomes for I-Promise students with other students was launched. Each I-Promise student (from the first cohort in 2005 to the present) was matched with two other students from three control groups. The control groups were defined according to income brackets and included: 1) Pell; 2) students who did not qualify for Pell (non-Pell); and 3) those students who received no financial aid (non-PASS). Matching was based on cohort, gender, ethnicity/race, composite ACT scores, and, when possible, first-generation status to attend college status. Analyses to date show no statistical differences (at 0.05 significance levels) among these student groups in terms of key outcome data such as mean cumulative GPA and graduation rates. However, there are significant differences in the retention rates in years two, three, and four—mostly between I-Promise students and non-Pell students. I-Promise students experienced a higher retention rate. Next-step analyses will focus on educational outcomes according to race, gender, and majors.

**Regional Recognition**

I-Promise was one of three "Promising Practices" included in a report from the Wisconsin Center for Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE) entitled "New Approaches to Improving College Access, Persistence, and Success: Three Exemplary Postsecondary Opportunity Programs." The authors summarize lessons from the Illinois Promise as follows:

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of I-Promise is the staff’s willingness to adapt and improve over time. The addition of student support services and rigorous evaluation has strengthened this program and created a culture that accepts and encourages innovation. For these reasons, the Illinois Promise exemplifies a promising practice.

**Class Matters Forum**

In partnership with the Office of Inclusion and Intercollegiate Relations, I-Promise organized and hosted a forum on social class that was open to the staff and internal and external audiences.

**Special Thanks**

Partnerships exist with a number of campus units and community organizations to coordinate I-Promise enrichment opportunities. Special thanks is extended to the following: the Career Center; the Counseling 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 Intercollegiate Relations; the Office of Minority Student Affairs; TCF Bank; and University Housing.

**Office of Student Financial Aid**

140 S. John St.
Champaign, IL 61820

217.333.1000

**Contact Us Online:**

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

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Chancellor’s Message

The Illinois Promise program has this amazing ripple effect that goes beyond jobs and careers. These bright young women and men are mentors to their family members and to the greater community in which they live. Furthermore, their hard work and idealism embody the very spirit of hope. Their lives have been transformed through their experience in Illinois Promise and, because of that transformation, the world will be a better place.

I have now had the pleasure of witnessing two graduating classes of Illinois Promise students. When I talk with them, they tell me that they are so excited to begin their professional lives. Each and every one of these graduates cannot wait to use their education in a constructive manner that will benefit all of society. That’s why I have no doubt that all of us will hear from them again when they tackle the grand challenges of our day as the next generation of leaders in our nation.

I thank all of you who have generously contributed to this extremely valuable scholarship program. For those of you who are just learning about Illinois Promise, I urge you to consider supporting these amazing young women and men on their journey toward the American Dream.

Robert A. Easter
Chancellor and Provost (Interim)

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.

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 the following criteria:

- Illinois residency
- Under the age of 18 and admitted as a freshman or transfer student
- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (See tables for a family of four)
- Assets of less than $50,000 does not include your home
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to zero
- Minimum enrollment of 15 credit hours during fall and spring semesters

Programs like these need support from individuals and corporate donors. Funding the program takes a team approach. Illinois 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 or as private funding from individuals and corporate donors. In academic year 09/10, Illinois Promise funding totaled $6,823,316; the average award was $4,964.

Profiles

Lorraine and Robert C. Olson truly were the salt of the earth who wanted the best for everyone. They believed that people should not go without because of insufficient financial means or challenging personal circumstances beyond their control. We established these Illinois Promise scholarships to help provide deserving and hopeful individuals with the education to challenge their minds and to provide them with all of the opportunities afforded by an exemplary Illinois education.

-Joe Martocchio and Brad Olson, donors

Donors

Donors $5K+

Includes gifts in honor of Richard and Susan Herman

- William and Carolyn Adams
- Rebecca and William Adesida
- C. Donald and Marilyn Armworth
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- Charles Zukotis and Barbara Morgan

Donors $1K+

- L. Ruiz
- Nancy M. Conley

- Louise M. Corley

Donors $100K

- Todd A. Ford Foundation
- Mark and Cecila Meier
- P. Wayne and Patricia Ziebell

Diversity of Illinois Promise Students – Academic Year 09/10

- African American
- 19%
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4%
- Hispanic
- 5%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2%
- Caucasian
- 52%
- Gender
- Female
- 58%
- Male
- 42%
- Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by College – Academic Year 09/10

- AGRICULTURE, NURSING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
- 16%
- BUSINESS
- 11%
- COMMUNITY SERVICES & LIBERAL ARTS
- 25%
- EDUCATION
- 10%
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
- 5%
- ENGINEERING
- 16%
- HEALTH PROFESSIONS
- 11%
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- 10%

Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by College – Academic Year 09/10

- Commuter
- 49%
- On Campus
- 51%

Donors $50K+

- Edward R. Haben and Mary Kay Krehl Haben
- Betsy Hendrick, Hendrick House
- Fimmbee and Mary’s Joy
- Joseph Martocchio and Brad Olson
- State Farm Companies Foundation
- TCF Bank

Donors $10K+

- Private Family Foundation