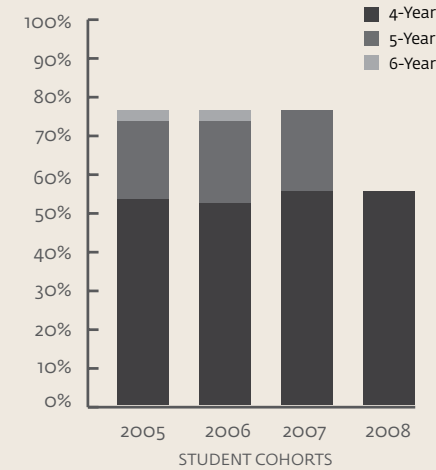


## ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 2011-2012

### I-Promise Graduates



### I-Promise Graduates

In 2012, a total of 91 I-Promise students who entered in 2008 graduated with a B.A., B.S. or B.F.A. degrees. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, there are now 526 alumni.

The chart to the left shows the percentage of I-Promise students in different cohorts (2005-2008) who graduated. Slightly more than half of I-Promise students graduate in four years, with 73-75% graduating within five years. For those cohorts where six-year graduation data are available, an additional three percent of students graduate.

## MENTORING

The purpose of the mentoring program is to help ease the transition to college for freshmen and transfer students. Since its inception in 2009, the mentoring aspect of the program has grown from 29% to 45% voluntary participation by students. Orientation training for mentor and mentees, ongoing support, opportunities to develop skills, and community-building events are features of the I-Promise mentoring program. Mentors make a one-year commitment to serve in this role, but several mentors and students (like Pat Justice with mentee Loreal Latimer in the photo below) continue their connections year after year.



I-Promise mentors and mentees at fall reception, 2011.



# ILLINOIS PROMISE

ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE



“ Illinois Promise has and continues to be more than just a scholarship program. For instance, as an I-Promise ambassador, I gained invaluable experience in public speaking—a competency that will help prepare me for a successful career in academia. As an aspiring professor of higher education, I plan to develop an extensive research agenda to enhance our collective knowledge and understanding of post-secondary access, equity, and achievement among underrepresented communities. Ultimately, it is my hope to empower the lives of underprivileged youth just as I-Promise has done for me.”

- **Mauriell Amechi**, '11 Communication;  
2013 MA Candidate The Ohio State University



“ I thank Illinois Promise for investing into my future and making it possible for me to try. Because I was able to try, I have accomplished much more than I ever knew was possible.”

- **Jacqui Batts**, '12 English and Secondary Education



“ I have never looked at this scholarship as a gift, but rather a goal. I call it this because what better way to impact someone's life than to give something and ask nothing in return; our success is an equal enough payment. I strive to one day be in a position where I can give back financially like the I-Promise scholarship has done for me.”

- **Macy Brusich**, '12 Integrative Biology and Earth Society and the Environment



“ I absolutely adore my mentor. The remarkable thing about our connection is that when we met we were the complete opposites, but three years later we have so many similarities and an inexplicable connection that will last a lifetime. As a senior, I know I would not have made it this far without her. I will be eternally grateful to Illinois Promise for giving me a mentor, a family member, and a best friend.”

- **Loreal Latimer**, '13 Communication

“ Mentoring is not a one-way street. The first time I met with Loreal, I knew that I wanted to be with her for her entire journey through her undergraduate days. She has enriched my life in so many ways not the least of which is to make me more aware of what it is like to be a student on campus. I will miss seeing her on a regular basis when she graduates but I know that we will be friends for life.”

- **Pat Justice**, Mentor

### Research

In 2012, research continued in two areas. First, a study was conducted on how well the mentoring component of the program works, based on mid-year and end-of-year surveys over the past two and a half years. In addition, first-semester GPA and freshmen retention were included as measures. The majority of mentees (70%) reported that their mentor helped in easing the transition to college. Also, students with mentors earned a higher first-semester GPA than did students without mentors. Students with mentors also exhibited a higher freshmen retention rate. However, because the data are correlational, it is not possible to draw firm causal conclusions. Mentoring could enhance

academic performance or, alternatively, better performing students may be more inclined to seek mentors. Further analysis is needed.

The second research project examined graduation rates of underrepresented and/or low-income students admitted to Illinois in 2005 and 2006. Preliminary results suggest that the first-semester GPA is crucial in predicting graduate rates. At present, interventions occur when students are on academic probation (generally at or below a 2.0 GPA). This study revealed that students with a first-semester GPA in the range of 2.0 to 2.3 also are at risk of not graduating. Future work will explore GPA throughout the first two years to better understand when academic support is most needed.

### 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 and Student Affairs; the Leadership Center; the Illini Union Bookstore; TCF Bank; University Housing; and the cultural houses.

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### Visit Us Online:

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



## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



In 2012, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act – the law that led directly to the 1867 founding of the University of Illinois. That legislative act created a door to educational opportunity that this campus has been pushing further open every single year. We have built this university on the idea that access to learning and to the Illinois experience isn't based on where you come from, what your parents did, or the size of your bank account.

The Illinois Promise program is among the proudest examples of that commitment on this campus. These students come to us with great expectations and high aspirations. We have an obligation to make sure they depart as lifelong members of the Illinois family.

In this report, I think you'll see that here and now, with these students and with those who will join this community in the years to come - we are delivering on our founding promise.

That's the Illinois Promise.

### Phyllis M. Wise

Vice President, University of Illinois  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## DONORS – AY 11/12



“It is truly a great pleasure to participate in the I-Promise program. I very much enjoy the opportunity to share in the identification, support, and development of these students. I learn a great deal from watching and participating with them as they grow and mature personally, intellectually, and professionally.”

- Clarence Shelley



“TCF Bank has had the pleasure of partnering with the University of Illinois and providing scholarship support to the I-Promise program for six years. It is rewarding to know our support is giving students the opportunity to pursue their education and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in life.”

- Mark Jeter, Managing Director of Branch Banking

### Donors \$1,000 – \$4,999

- Mr. C. Donald Ainsworth and Mrs. Marilyn M. Ainsworth
- Mr. J. Brian Barnett and Mrs. Kathleen R. Barnett
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- Ms. Cierra D. McDonald
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- Mr. Ramon Ocasio, III and Ms. Norma G. Ramirez
- Ms. Deborah M. Owen
- Ms. Michelle Speller-Thurman

## 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, 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 at Urbana-Champaign, 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 24 and admitted as a freshman or transfer student
- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (\$22,350 for a family of four)
- 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 students receive federal, state, institutional and/or private grants and scholarships for which they qualify. The Illinois Promise award is based on the difference between the students' cost of attendance and other financial aid received. I-Promise funding is provided from institutional resources as well as private funding from individuals and corporate donors. In academic year 11/12, Illinois Promise funding totaled \$4,162,939; the average award per student was \$6,505.



“The I-Promise program, its supporters, and the student/alumni mentors are truly making a difference on campus. The program encourages students to form lifetime relationships with mentors and students and empowers students to excel academically. I am grateful that I had I-Promise as a resource, and I am excited about the continued success and impact the program will have on students.”

- Jimmy Danzy, '12 Accounting



“My goal in life was simple - I wanted to be a teacher. Nothing I have accomplished would have been possible without Illinois Promise. They allowed me to go to college, succeed academically, and gain necessary skills to have for a lifetime. I am also happy and comforted to know that once my loan bills start coming, I will not be up to my eyeballs in debt. Illinois Promise has really paved the way for me.”

- Meghan Hosken, '12 Elementary Education

### Donors \$5,000 – \$9,999

- Ms. Peggy L. Cullen
- Mr. William D. Forsyth III and Mrs. Martha J. Forsyth
- Ms. Elizabeth Friedland
- The Lazzara Family Foundation
- New Frontiers Foundation
- Mrs. Mary F. Rayis and Mr. John D. Rayis
- Mr. Marvin Smollar and Mrs. Robin Smollar
- Mr. P. Wayne Ziebell and Mrs. Patricia A. Ziebell

- Mr. G. Gregory Taubeneck and Mrs. Anne D. Taubeneck
- Mr. James R. Viereggs and Mrs. Mary L. Viereggs

### Donors \$10,000 – \$24,999

- BP Corporation North America, Inc.
- Mr. Ira R. Cohen and Mrs. Debra Jo Cohen
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Mr. William A. Shiner and Mrs. Jacelyn A. Shiner
- Mr. Tom D. Wippman

### Donors \$25,000 – \$49,999

- Mr. Edward R. Haben and Mrs. Mary Kay Kretch Haben
- TCF Bank

### Donors \$50,000 – \$99,999

- Private Family Foundation

## PROFILE

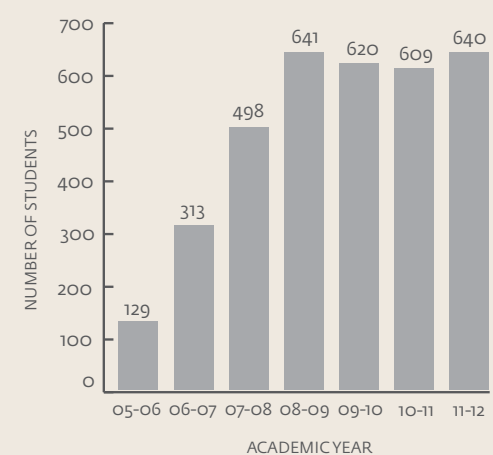
### Illinois Promise Student Profile – Academic Year 11/12

- Incoming class: 192 students (18% are transfer students)
- Total students: 640
- 58% are female
- 77% are residents of Cook County, with students representing 39 other counties in Illinois

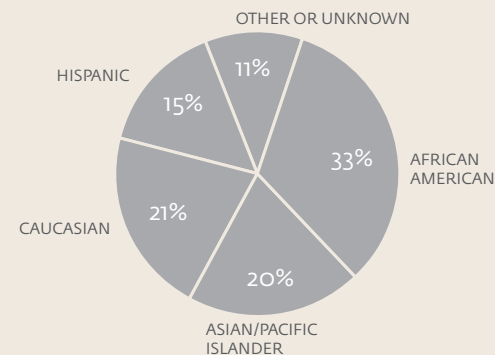
\* Based on spring, 2012 Illinois Promise Student Survey

- 72% are racial minority
- 79% of students applied to and were accepted at other colleges in addition to the University of Illinois\*
- 77% are first-generation college students\*

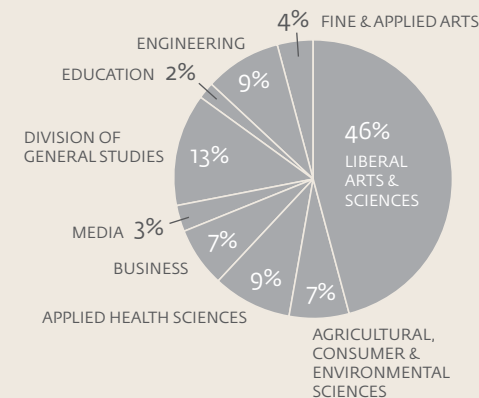
### Students Served in the Illinois Promise Program



### Diversity of Illinois Promise Students – Academic Year 11/12



### Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by College – Academic Year 11/12



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

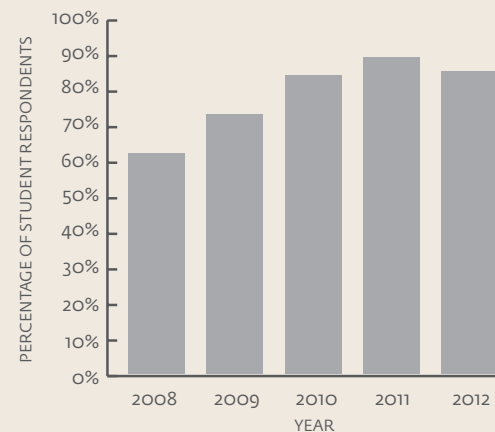


Chart combines student responses indicating they were "happy", "very happy" or "thrilled" with the sense of community within I-Promise.

### Donors \$100K+

- State Farm Companies Foundations

### Endowment Funds that Support Illinois 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
- J. Crawford Hill Estate Fund