I-Promise students, First-Generation Coca-Cola Scholars. To be chosen, the students had to meet additional criteria, as illustrated in the two bar charts (though there is self-selection involved in these numbers). Mentors make a one-year commitment to serve in this role, but several mentors and students continue their connection year after year (like Robin Kaler and Awien Mayar below).

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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. Two additional cohorts will be selected over the next two years, and each cohort benefits from financial support of Coca-Cola during their four years in college. In addition to the benefits available to all I-Promise students, First-Generation Coca-Cola Scholars are matched with mentors, receive academic monitoring and participate in targeted community-building activities.

**MENTORING**

The purpose of the mentoring program is to help ease the transition to college for freshman and transfer students. During the academic year, 84 students were matched with mentors, with 77% of the students choosing adult mentors rather than peer mentors. Orientation training, ongoing support, opportunities to develop skills, and community-building events are features of the I-Promise mentoring program. Tracking of first-semester GPA and one-year retention rates are strong for students with mentors, as illustrated in the two bar charts (though there is self-selection involved in these numbers). Mentors make a one-year commitment to serve in this role, but several mentors and students continue their connection year after year (like Robin Kaler and Awien Mayar below).

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

**I-Promise Graduates**

In 2014, a total of 103 I-Promise students who entered in fall 2010 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 626 alumni.

**I-Promise Illinois Graduates (2005-2010)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>4 years</th>
<th>5 years</th>
<th>6 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Semester GPA**

AY 2013-14 I-Promise Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester GPA</th>
<th>0.0</th>
<th>0.5</th>
<th>1.0</th>
<th>1.5</th>
<th>2.0</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>3.0</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**One Year Retention: AY 2013-14 I-Promise Cohort**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retention Rate</th>
<th>0.8</th>
<th>0.9</th>
<th>1.0</th>
<th>1.1</th>
<th>1.2</th>
<th>1.3</th>
<th>1.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Mentor Testimonials**

**Silvia Gonzalez:** Artist, Village Leadership Academy; Part-Time graduate student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; silviaigonzalez.com

“I am taken back by the generosity of donors. I feel so loved by those who have given up their hard-earned money just to give me a chance at a better life. Now that I have graduated, I look back on all the ways I can pay it forward in society. To begin that journey, I will soon commence a year of environmental service with AmeriCorps on the Pacific coast.”

**Nick Munas:** ya, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences - Human Dimensions; Park Safety Officer at Brookfield Zoo

“I was selected as a First Generation Coca-Cola Scholar and it was the best decision ever made for my future. The I-Promise program has provided me with opportunities and people that have helped me in my development. I am forever grateful for this program.”

**Renato Yutuc:** Dimensions; Park Safety Officer at Brookfield Zoo

“Having Robin as a mentor was one of my ultimate Illinois experiences. Throughout my academic career, Robin made sure I was doing my best in school and also enjoying my time at Illinois. She was always there to lend a hand, whether it was teaching me how to drive or sending care packages to me in Morocco. I’m grateful for I-Promise in not only providing financial assistance to further my education, but also providing me with an awesome, amazing and kindhearted role model like Robin.”

**Awien Mayar:** Global Studies

“Getting to know Awien has been one of my greatest joys of being part of the Illinois family. When we met, I thought my role was simply to connect her to university resources. It didn’t take long to realize that it was really more about listening and being there. Whether we were having ice cream or practicing driving, we made sure she had the tools and support she needed to succeed. I also know she will use her Illinois education to make the world a better place.”

**Robin Kaler:** Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs at Illinois

**vcia.illinois.edu/giving/illinoispromise.html**

Office of Student Financial Aid

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217-244-7719

Visit Us Online

illinois.edu/illinoispromise.html
This fall the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign inducted 293 new I-Promise scholars, our largest class in the eight-year history of the program, and we couldn’t be more pleased. It’s no exaggeration to say that these promising young students are some of the brightest, most talented students in the nation. We are so happy they have chosen to be part of the Illinois family.

Since Illinois was founded in 1867, we have been charged so directly and visibly demonstrates this heritage and mission. I would like to sincerely thank our generous donors for investing in the future of our scholars and for believing in the power of an Illinois education.

As you read through this report, I am sure you will be moved by our scholars’ passion for what they can do, and fall in love with what they do for a living.”

Michael Goldstein, ICASL, has established the Cora Kalli Goldman Scholarships through a generous gift to Illinois Promise.

Because I want to ensure access to an Illinois education for high-achieving students from all economic and social backgrounds, I am funding scholarships in the Illinois Promise program specifically for underrepresented students from Cook County, where for several generations my family’s business provided me with so much. I am especially impressed that the program covers tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies for scholarship recipients. I sincerely hope my donation will enable these students to feed their interests, find out who they are, reach my dreams.”

Rachel Loyd, ’14, Broadcast Journalism, 1st Grade Teacher/Teach For America Corps Member.

Being an I-Promise scholar has given me the confidence that I can reach my dreams.
-Dalmina Arias, ’14, Community Health, Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy candidate, University of Illinois at Chicago.

I-Promise is the pivotal point of my life. This turning point signifies that there are people in the world who care.
-Rachel Loyd, ’14, Broadcast Journalism, 1st Grade Teacher/Teach For America Corps Member.

I-Promise Student Profile, Academic Year 2013-2014

• 848 total I-Promise scholars
• 293 I-Promise scholars in the incoming class
• 57% are transfer students
• 44% Illinois residents
• 33% out of state
• 33% from Chicago
• 30% from suburban counties
• 25% from collar counties
• 20% from rural counties
• 15% from Cook County

Diversity of I-Promise Scholars, Academic Year 2013-2014

This chart combines student responses indicating that they were “happy,” “very happy,” or “thrilled” with the sense of community within I-Promise.

Enrollment of I-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Liberal Arts | 378 | 44.4%
| Business | 112 | 13.3%
| Science | 121 | 14.4%
| Social Work | 43 | 5.1%
| Medicine | 35 | 4.2%
| Engineering | 23 | 2.7%
| Fine & Applied Arts | 20 | 2.4%
| Education | 18 | 2.1%
| Media | 12 | 1.4%

I-Promise scholars receive federal, state, institutional and/or 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 2013-2014 academic year I-Promise funding totaled $6,203,490; the average award per student was $7,180.

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I-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 compete for 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 (313,990)
- Family assets of less than $50,000 (does not include the home)
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to or

• Minimum enrollment of 12 credit hours
during fall and spring semesters

Funding the program takes a team approach. I-Promise scholars receive federal, state, institutional and/or 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 2013-2014 academic year I-Promise funding totaled $6,203,490; the average award per student was $7,180.

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