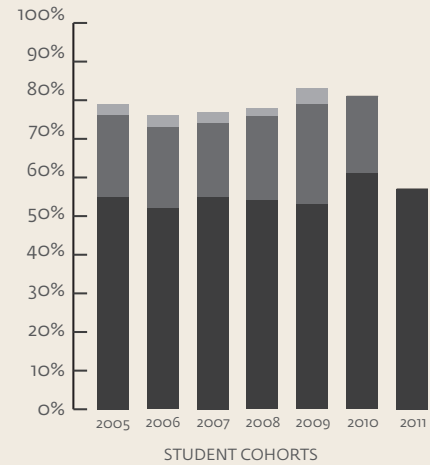


ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I-Promise Graduates



In 2015, a total of 78 I-Promise students who entered fall 2011 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 1117 alumni.

The chart to the left shows the percentage of I-Promise scholars in different cohorts (2005-2011) who graduated. On average, 55% of I-Promise scholars graduate in four years, with this percent increasing to 77% in five years and 79% in six years.

■ 4 years ■ 5 years ■ 6 years



“It did not take long to realize I-Promise is much more than merely financial aid, but a community of good-hearted people who truly care for others. This program completely transformed my life.”

—Allison Laubenstein, '15 Speech & Hearing Sciences; Speech Language Pathologist Assistant and Elementary School Reading Tutor, Colorado Reading Corps.



“The I-Promise scholarship is what has given many students like myself the opportunity to create new endings to the stories of the poor, a new face to what a university graduate looks like.”

—Brian Fernandez, '15 Sociology and Latino/a Studies; Catastrophe Operations Adjuster, The Hartford Insurance Company

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 in academic year 2014-15. They are the third cohort of 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. One additional cohort will be selected next year 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 (like decorating gingerbread houses pictured here).



From left to right: Alejandra Reyes Pena (Junior, Broadcast Journalism); Adrian Guereca (Junior, Human Development and Family Studies); Sally Szeto (Sophomore, Advertising); Arielle Domantay (Sophomore, Media and Cinema Studies); Daniel Vargas (Junior, Accountancy); Jazmin Landa (Junior, Kinesiology); Nelly Casa (Freshman, Kinesiology); Susan Gershenfeld (I-Promise Director); Jessica Williams (Sophomore, Psychology); Melody Wong (Junior, Chemistry); Yuanyuan Wei (Freshman, Chemistry)

MENTORING

With a two-year grant from a private family foundation, I-Promise is piloting an alumni mentoring program for upperclassmen I-Promise scholars to receive one-on-one career guidance and advice in the career or industry they are planning to pursue. In the pilot phase, 17 I-Promise scholars were matched with alums who are primarily based in the Chicago area. Training and ongoing support is provided to the mentee to maximize the potential of the mentoring partnership.



“I am grateful for this mentoring program because I had the opportunity to learn from James. I learned that our academic paths were very similar which made it easy to communicate. James really went above and beyond what I had expected out of this mentor relationship. He made sure that I took advantage of any opportunity that presented itself, and he encouraged my curiosity. He provided me with helpful resources and suggestions for professional advancement as well as supporting my concerns of further education. I would recommend that students seek these mentor relationships because they can shape a person both professionally and personally. This mentorship with James is definitely one of the most meaningful experiences of college that I have had.”

—Kendra Kuehlem, '17, Urban Planning

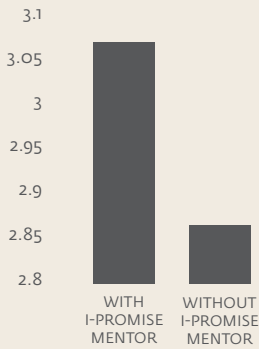


“I have had the tremendous pleasure of mentoring Kendra. I found her to be a very ambitious and tenacious young woman, qualities I have come to admire about her and believe will lead her to great things in the future. Initially I questioned what my role as a mentor would be and how I could best help guide Kendra in the right direction. My apprehension derived from the fact that I am a (somewhat) recent alumni and a (somewhat) nascent planner myself. What I came to realize is that being a mentor came very natural to me as I am the older brother of four siblings. Kendra and I mostly discussed academic and professional goals. I did my best to share my experiences, find resources and impart knowledge. I gained an appreciation for mentorship that I did not previously have. Mentorship is a powerful tool in professional and personal development. The experience and knowledge of others can be an invaluable resource. To relate it to the field of urban planning, mentorship can be a powerful tool in community development as well.”

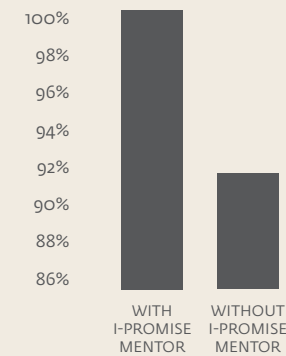
—James Harris, Land Use Planner, Cook County

The alumni mentoring pilot complements the mentoring program offered for incoming students to help ease their transition to college. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 113 students voluntarily selected an adult mentor (faculty, professional staff, graduate students, and community leaders) and 10 students voluntarily chose to be matched with a peer mentor. Orientation training, ongoing support, 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).

First-Semester GPA 2014 Cohort



One-Year Retention: 2014 Cohort



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

Office of Student Financial Aid
620 E. John St., Champaign, IL 61820
finaid@illinois.edu | 217.333.0100

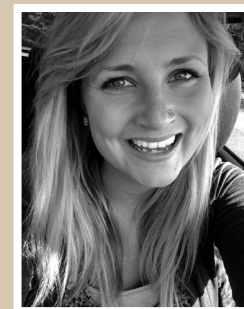
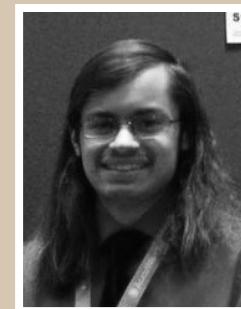
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ILLINOIS PROMISE

ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



This fall the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign inducted 309 new I-Promise scholars, our largest class in the ten-year history of the program. These students are bright, ambitious and talented. They represent some of the newest members of our campus family, and we are grateful they have chosen to make Illinois their home.

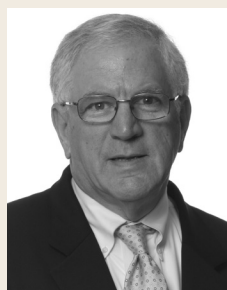
As part of our land-grant heritage, we pride ourselves on offering transformative educational experiences that are both world-class and accessible. Our success depends upon recruiting the best and brightest students to Illinois. I-Promise plays a vital and public role in delivering on that promise. And it is our I-Promise donors who make that success possible.

Our Illinois I-Promise scholars represent some of the best of our new class. They have big dreams, innovative ideas and ambitious plans. The impact of their Illinois experience shines through in these pages. I think you will enjoy hearing about their journey so far. I hope you find their stories as inspiring as I did.

Barbara Wilson

Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DONORS, ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015



“The Illinois Promise is an important and wonderful program that helps those who are less fortunate attend the University of Illinois. It provides much needed financial assistance, guidance, mentoring and other important benefits to these young people as they enter their next level of education. I am a proud sponsor of the Illinois Promise program and enjoy being a mentor to many of its students.”

– Ron Filler, '70 LAS

\$1,000–\$4,999

- Mr. C. Donald Ainsworth and Mrs. Marilyn M. Ainsworth
- Dr. Anupam Basu and Mrs. Naida Basu
- Mrs. Maureen J. Beck and Mr. Robert E. Beck
- Dr. Edward M. Bohn and Mrs. Okemah K. Bohn
- Mr. Orazio A. Buzza and Mrs. Julie A. Buzza
- Mr. Richard L. Chavez
- Mrs. Elaine D. Cottey and Mr. Paul T. Cottey
- Mr. William R. Enlow and Mrs. Susan S. Enlow
- Mr. James M. Haine and Mrs. Madeleine C. Haine
- Dr. Richard H. Herman and Mrs. Susan M. Herman
- Dr. A. J. Hildebrand
- Mr. Michael S. Hughes
- Mr. Terry C. Jensen and Ms. Anna E. Jensen
- Mr. Nattapol Kemavaha

- Prof. Douglas A. Kibbee and Prof. Josephine Z. Kibbee
- Dr. David C. Kleiman
- Ms. Margot L. Kramer
- Mr. Thomas M. Krigas and Mrs. Mary S. Krigas
- Dr. Kenneth R. Luehrsen
- Mrs. Mary E. Nightingale
- Mr. Ramon Ocasio III and Ms. Norma G. Ramirez
- Mr. Dan C. Peterson and Mrs. Mary Ellen Peterson
- Dr. Vicki J. Schnadig
- Mr. Stephen Bruce Shafer
- Mr. Travis M Smith and Ms. Kara Sherman
- Mr. G. Gregory Taubeneck and Mrs. Anne D. Taubeneck
- Mr. James R. Vieregg and Mrs. Mary L. Vieregg

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, 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 complete 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 (\$23,850 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 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 2014-15 academic year, I-Promise funding totaled \$7,357,520; the average award per student was \$7,777.51



“As a result of being an Illinois Promise scholar, I acquired a vast number of friends and individuals that I could relate to, but most important of all, that I could depend on.”

– Asilah Patterson, '15, Communication; Masters of Human Resources and Industrial Relations candidate; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



“I-Promise has meant that I can achieve my academic goals with the right resources, no matter my background.”

– Steven Naegele, '15, Atmospheric Sciences; MS candidate in Meteorology, Penn State University

\$5,000–\$9,999

- Mr. William D. Forsyth III and Mrs. Martha J. Forsyth
- Mr. Michael N. Jaffe and Mrs. Laurie A. Jaffe
- The Lazzara Family Foundation
- Mrs. Mary F. Rayis and Mr. John D. Rayis
- Mr. Marvin Smollar and Mrs. Robin Smollar

\$10,000–\$24,999

- Ms. Stacey Modlin Anderson
- Mr. J. Brian Barnett and Mrs. Kathleen R. Barnett
- BP Products North America, Inc.
- BP Corporation North America Inc.
- Ms. Peggy L. Cullen
- Ms. Elizabeth A. Friedland
- David C. Norman, MD

- Ms. Virginia S. Tarika
- Mr. Mark A. Wisthuff and Mrs. Susan E. Wisthuff
- Mr. P. Wayne Ziebell and Mrs. Patricia A. Ziebell

\$25,000–\$49,999

- Mr. Stephen J. Drake and Mrs. Shirley A. Drake
- Mr. Ronald H. Filler and Mrs. Paula Parker Filler
- Mr. Edward R. Haben and Mrs. Mary Kay Kretch Haben
- Mrs. Pamela A. Joseph
- Mr. Timothy G. Lyne and Mrs. Mary R. Lyne
- Mr. William A. Shiner and Mrs. Jacelyn A. Shiner

\$50,000–\$99,999

- Michael Goldstein
- TCF Foundation

PROFILE

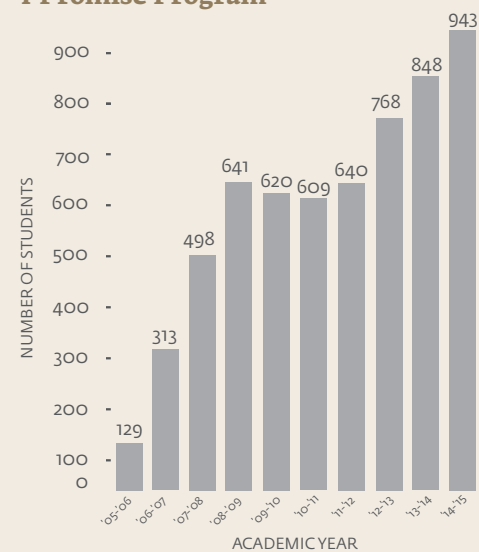
I-Promise Student Profile, Academic Year 2014-2015

- 943 total I-Promise scholars
- 309 I-Promise scholars in the incoming class (10% transfer students)
- 43 Illinois counties represented
- 73% Cook County residents

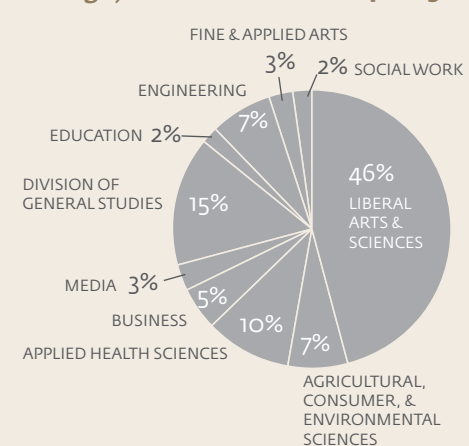
- 58% female
- 76% racial minority
- 82% accepted to other colleges*
- 74% first-generation college students

* Based on Spring 2015 I-Promise Student Survey.

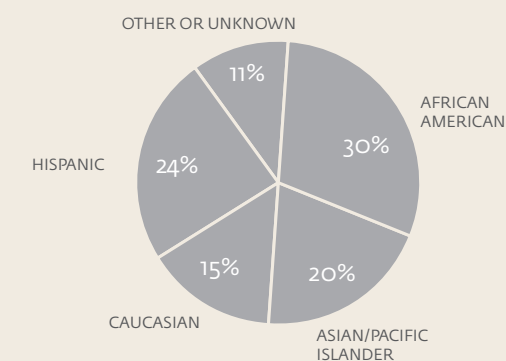
Students Served in the I-Promise Program



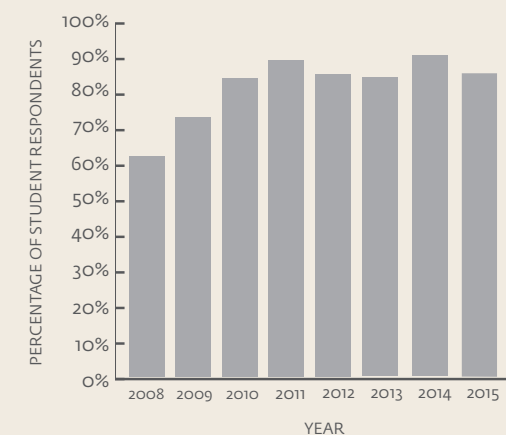
Enrollment of I-Promise Scholars by College, Academic Year 2014-2015



Diversity of I-Promise Students, Academic Year 2014-2015



Students' Sense of Community within I-Promise



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

\$100,000+

- Private Family Foundation
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- State Farm Companies Foundation

Endowment Funds that Support I-Promise

- Arthur N. and Barbara S. Alderson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- Mark G. Barmann Endowed Scholarship Fund for Illinois Promise
- Joseph W. Bohn Memorial Fund for Illinois Promise
- Janice Kisten Campbell Scholarship Fund
- Richard L. Chavez Scholarship Pledge Fund/IL Promise
- Stephen J. and Shirley A. Drake Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund

- Ronald H. Filler Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- Michael A. Harring '72 and Lois Dal Santo Harring '73 Fund for Illinois Promise
- Hathorne and Hummer Family Scholarship Fund
- Illini Leadership Council Endowed Fund for Illinois Promise
- Timothy G. and Mary R. Lyne Scholarship Fund
- Lorraine and Robert C. Olson Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- Seral Family Endowment for Illinois Students
- Clarence Shelley Scholarship Fund
- William A. and Jacelyn A. Shiner Fund in Support of the Illinois Promise Program
- Tom D. Wippman Illinois Promise Scholarship Fund
- P. Wayne and Patricia A. Ziebell Endowment for Illinois Students Fund