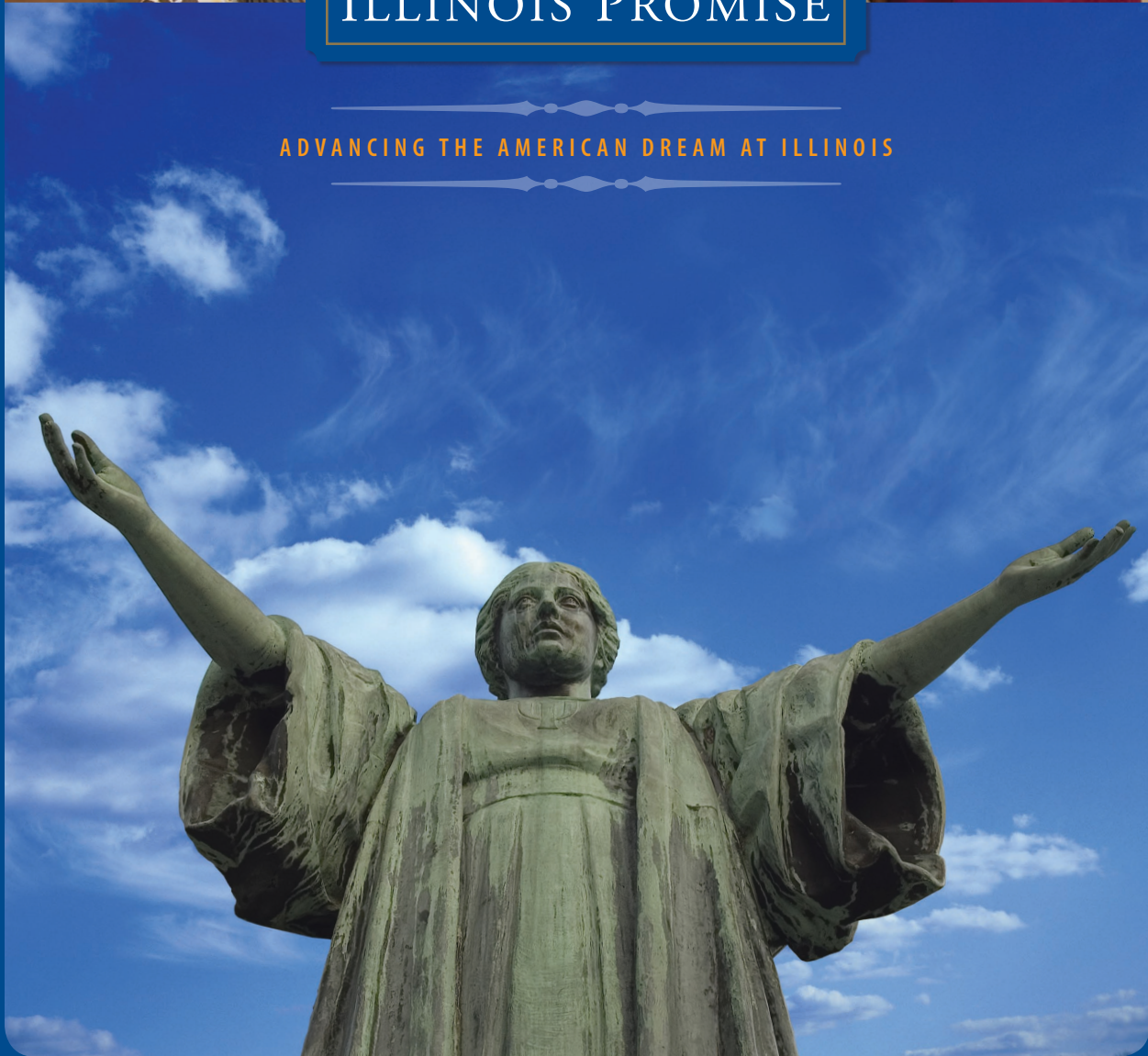


ILLINOIS PROMISE

ADVANCING THE AMERICAN DREAM AT ILLINOIS





"Illinois Promise is a commitment we made three years ago to Illinois students to ensure that cost would not be a roadblock to reaching their potential."

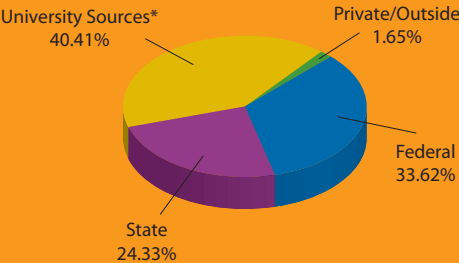
— Chancellor Richard Herman

A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY
EDUCATION FOR HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS FROM
ALL BACKGROUNDS

Current economic circumstances threaten the affordability of higher education, particularly for students from the lowest economic levels. Even the highest achieving students from low-income backgrounds are significantly less likely to attend college than their high-income peers. Illinois Promise is dedicated to changing this reality in Illinois.

Through a combination of federal, state, and university support, Illinois Promise assures eligible students financial support to cover their estimated cost of tuition, fees, room and board, and books and supplies.

Illinois Promise 2007-08 Award Year (\$10.8M)



* Tuition grants, Illinois Promise, President's Award Program, Campus Merit, and institutional grants



NO ILLINOIS STUDENT WHO QUALIFIES IS TURNED AWAY



"I am the first generation in my family in America and the first generation to attend college. It is an important step for me as well as my family."

Baozhen Li, Sophomore
Industrial Design

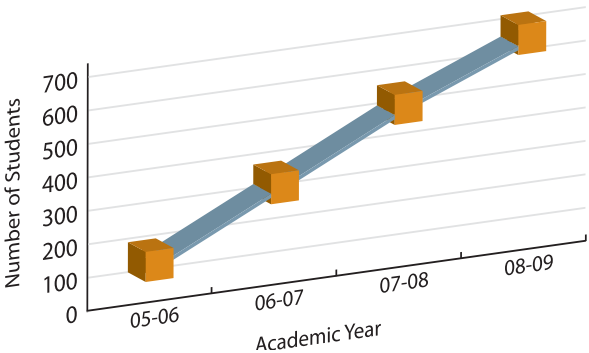
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Parent(s) and student must be Illinois residents
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) determined through the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must equal \$0
- Family income must be at or below the federal poverty level (\$21,200 for family of four in 2008)

RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Parent(s) and student must be Illinois residents
- Received Illinois Promise in the prior year and eligible for Federal Pell Grant

Students Served in the Illinois Promise Program



Front cover: *Tichina Moore, Junior, Psychology; Darshil Patel, Senior, Community Health; Vanessa McKinney, Junior, Community Health; Quyen Bui, Sophomore, Community Health; Hannah Rothe, Senior, Animal Sciences; Krista Wilkins, Senior, Speech and Hearing Sciences*

Inside front cover (left, front): *Dolapo Olorode, Junior, Finance; Phillip E'xander Young, Sophomore, Communication; Aggie Jooyoung Nob, Senior, Sociology; Justin Weaver, Sophomore, Division of General Studies; Baozhen Li, Sophomore, Industrial Design; Silvia Gonzalez, Sophomore, Art Education and Photography.*



"I-Promise has shown me hope, trust, and opportunity for my future. It is set proof that there are people willing to invest in my future endeavors who hope, trust, and give me the opportunity to prove anything is possible with a goal mindset and a community of support."

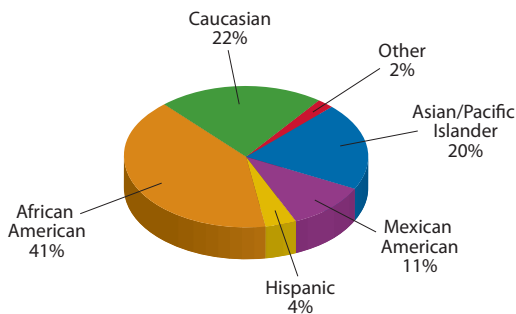
Silvia Gonzalez, Sophomore
Art Education and Photography

ILLINOIS PROMISE STUDENT PROFILE

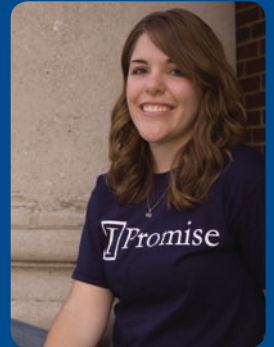
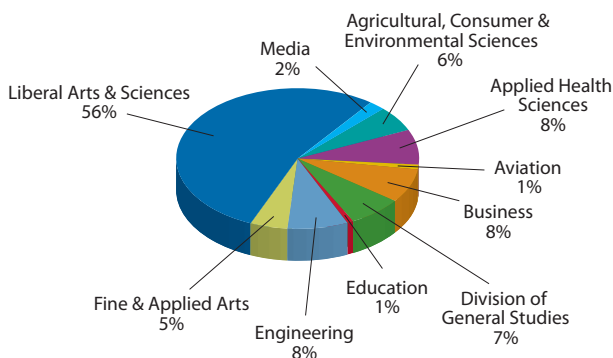
- Approximately 650 Illinois Promise students are enrolled on campus in AY 2008-09
- 100% live in Illinois, representing 39 counties
- 71% are residents of Cook County
- 72% applied to colleges in addition to U of I, and of those, 97% were accepted to other colleges*
- 79% of Illinois Promise students are first generation college students*
- 58.5% are female; 41.5% are male

**data based on 2008 Illinois Promise Student Survey*

Diversity of Illinois Promise Students



Illinois Promise Students Enrolled by Colleges 2005-2008



"I-Promise has given me a chance to attend a major university that would otherwise not have been possible, and it has given to me not only financial aid, but also hope that there is always someone there to help. It is now my wish to try to give back."

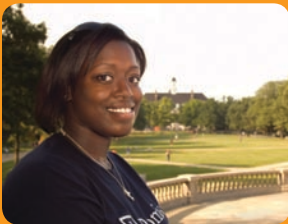
Hannah Rothe, Senior
Animal Sciences



Quyen Bui, Sophomore, Community Health

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Eighty percent of Illinois Promise students in a 2008 survey indicated that receiving financial support through this program was very important or essential in their decision to attend the University of Illinois.



"Through this program, the needed resources are provided to enable students to better their lives and community."

Vanessa McKinney, Junior
Community Health

"I know with tools I have been given I have the responsibility to give back to my community in any way possible. I want to inspire students to go for the gold and appreciate the silver linings."

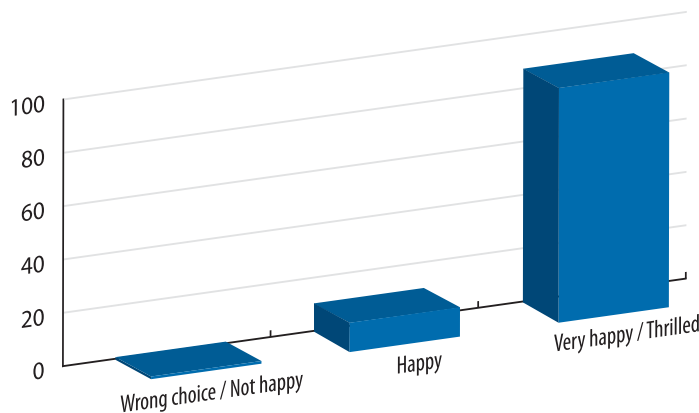
Silvia Gonzalez, Sophomore
Art Education and Photography

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Evidence to date reveals that Illinois Promise students are successful at the University of Illinois.

- For the 2005 cohort, 95% of students supported by Illinois Promise return for their sophomore year (compared to 93% for all freshmen); 84% continued at Illinois after their sophomore year (compared to 88% for all students).
- This level of academic persistence and achievement is particularly impressive in light of the significant challenges faced by many Illinois Promise students.

Pleased with Decision to Attend University of Illinois



"The door to a good education at Illinois has been opened. Despite the loss of my grandmother/guardian my senior year in high school, I am able to still attend my #1 college of choice due to the generous support of I-Promise."

Mauriell Amechi, Sophomore
Division of General Studies



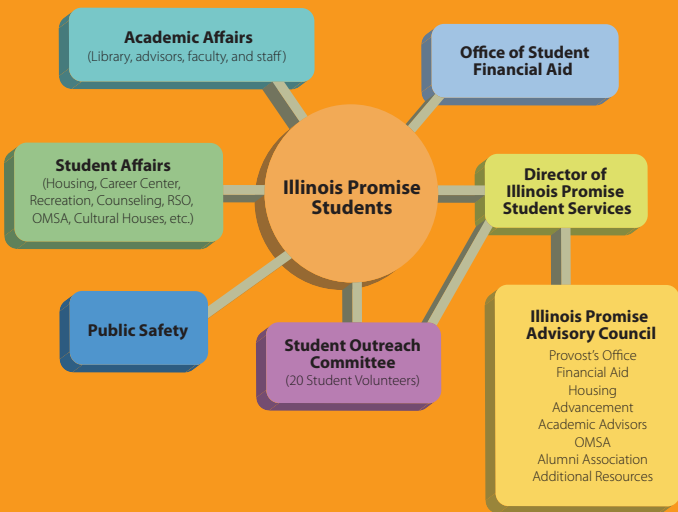
"My knowledge and experience I've gained at U of I will not only help me, but my whole family to be able to improve our lives. As I get older, I have been able to contribute to my family financially and emotionally. My knowledge and experience already have impacted me and my family to seek a better life."

Aggie Jooyoung Noh, Senior
Sociology



Alex Muhammad, Sophomore, Psychology; Janese Nolan, Sophomore, English.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENSURING SUCCESS



“As great as financial support is, it does not guarantee success in college. Guidance by peers and mentors is one of the essential tools that all students must utilize to have a meaningful experience in college.”

Darshil Patel, Senior
Community Health

Recent survey results revealed two out of every three Illinois Promise students on campus are interested in participating in programmatic activities, such as networking events, personal development opportunities, and peer or intergenerational mentoring programs.

ILLINOIS PROMISE

"Together we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students and their families. Through Illinois Promise we are giving them a chance at the American dream. And isn't that the greatest gift we can give?"

Chancellor Richard Herman

"I-Promise for me literally means a promise, not only to myself; but to others who are doing self-less acts and helping out someone else."

Yvette Vazquez, Senior
Elementary Education

"An education from U of I will enable me to pursue my goal to become a successful businessman, entrepreneur, as well as manager of a not-for-profit organization that supports disadvantaged youth. The principles and beliefs of leadership instilled at U of I will shape me into a professional role model for these young people. My education and experiences will allow me to instill them with wisdom and hope so they too can pave their own destiny despite their early setbacks in life. My degree with a strong foundation of values will allow me to succeed in helping people in my community, which is my American Dream."

Mauriell Amechi, Sophomore
Division of General Studies

"I will be among the first in my entire generation to graduate from college, even among my extended family. This is something my family looks to for both strength and encouragement. The impact I-Promise makes reverberates all the way through my family and back to me personally."

Lhea Randle, Senior
Political Science

"I-Promise is necessary and simply makes sense. It lends a helping hand to the future."

Phillip E'xander Young, Sophomore
Communication

"Attending Illinois will completely change the lives of my family and me. Being an immigrant is a challenge in itself. Achieving that 'American Dream' and giving back to my family is something I strive for."

Darshil Patel, Senior, Community Health

www.osfa.illinois.edu/aid/promise.html

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Susan Gershenfeld, Director
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ILLINOIS