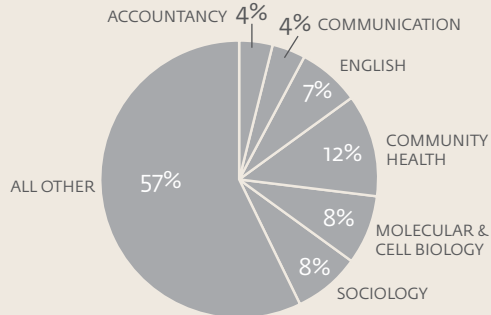


## ACCOMPLISHMENTS — 2009-2010

### Academics

In May, a total of 112 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 247 I-Promise alums. Among the 2010 graduates, 39% applied to graduate school.

### Most Popular Majors Among 2010 I-Promise Graduates\*



\* In order to be considered a popular major, a minimum of five I-Promise students earned a degree in that major.

“Four years ago, I made a promise to myself and to my child that I would not quit. My commitment to my education is the same that Illinois Promise makes to its students. With Illinois Promise, it can become an entirely ordinary, everyday thing for all of us to succeed, because a chance at success is really what the University of Illinois has promised us through this program.”



- **Stephanie Birch**, 2010 graduate in Art History, entering graduate school in the fall of 2010 for a M.A. in History at the University of Illinois Springfield

### 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 eligible students; 2) students who did not qualify for Pell but who received other financial aid (FAFSA non-Pell); and 3) those students who received no financial aid (no FAFSA). Matching was based on

cohort, gender, ethnicity/race, composite ACT scores, and, when possible, first-generation to attend college status. Analyses to date show no statistical differences (0.05 significance level) 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 FAFSA 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 summarized 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 POP and created a culture that accepts and encourages innovation. For these reasons, the Illinois Promise exemplifies a promising practice.*

### eNewsletter

I-Promise is proud to have launched a student-initiated electronic newsletter in spring semester, 2010, with two inaugural issues.



### Class Matters Forum

In partnership with the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, I-Promise organized and hosted a forum on social class that was open to the university community. It included an interactive poll, group brainstorming, and a question-and-answer session with a four-person panel that featured two I-Promise students and two faculty members. A total of 75 students from across campus participated in a frank and rich discussion of their perceptions of class differences on campus and their own personal experiences on issues of class.

## MENTORING

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. Mentees had the choice of selecting their mentor 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 at the university 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, 60% will serve as mentors to a new set of incoming I-Promise students during the next academic year.



Harry Triandis, Professor Emeritus, Samantha Fox, '13 Psychology, and Pola Triandis

“It has been a real pleasure for us to be able to introduce our mentee to a variety of new experiences: opera, ballet, exotic foods. It is a joy to be able to share in her enthusiasm. It's also wonderful to see a student take full advantage of everything the university has to offer.”

- **Pola and Harry Triandis**, adult mentors

“I was blessed to have two mentors this past year, and I cannot express enough not only how helpful and insightful they have been, but also how caring, warm, and genuine. My mentors, Pola and Harry, made my first year at the U of I a wonderful experience!”

- **Samantha Fox**, mentee



Stephen J. Lyons, Assistant to the Chancellor for Communications, with mentee Christopher James, '13 Division of General Studies

“Spending time with an inspiring young man like Chris was a rare pleasure. I was honored to be his mentor and, most importantly, to now call Chris a friend.”

- **Stephen Lyons**, adult mentor



Brittany Cooper, '13 Division of General Studies and Jarron Farmby, '11 News Editorial & Political Science

“The value of the I-Promise mentoring program can not be explained through a monetary price, but the price of providing limitless opportunities for students who would otherwise not have been so fortunate. These opportunities prove that hard work does pay off.”

- **Jarron Farmby**, peer mentor

### 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 Intercultural Relations; the Office of Minority Student Affairs; TCF Bank; and University Housing.

#### Office of Student Financial Aid

620 E. John St.  
Champaign, IL 61820  
finaid@illinois.edu  
217.333.0100

#### Susan Gershenfeld, Director

Illinois Promise Student Services  
Office of the Provost  
807 S. Wright St., Suite 320C  
Champaign, IL 61820  
sgershen@illinois.edu  
217.244.7719

#### 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



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)



Pictured above are mentors, mentees, and other volunteers who participated in the end-of-the-year I-Promise reception at Memorial Stadium.

Donors \$1K+  
(Includes gifts in honor of Richard and Susan Herman)

- William and Carolyn Adams
- Ilesanmi and Patience Adesida
- C. Donald and Marilyn Ainsworth
- Joan M. Anderson
- Venanzio P. Arquilla
- Mark Barmann
- J. Brian and Kathleen Barnett
- Richard Leskosky and May Berenbaum
- Chicago Community Foundation

- Ira and Debra Jo Cohen
- Cynthia Cook
- Paul T. and Elaine D. Cottey
- Leon Dash, Jr. and Vernita Fort
- RR Donnelly Foundation
- David and Leigh Ann Dorris
- Robert and Cheryl Easter
- Larry and Barbara Field
- Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld and Susan Gershenfeld
- Phillip and Beverly Goldstick
- Mark and Lee Ann Gossett
- Gutman Family Foundation

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 24 and admitted as a freshman or transfer student
- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (\$22,050 for a family of four)
- Assets of less than \$50,000 (does not include your home)
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to \$0
- Minimum enrollment of 12 credit hours during fall and spring semesters



“Programs like these need no debate or discussion as they are absolutely paramount to first-generation and minority student well-being in a collegiate environment. I am enormously grateful and so joyful for this four-year experience.”

- **Tichina Moore**, 2010 graduate in Psychology, now an assistant event planner for Juan and Only Events, Chicago

**Students remain eligible** for Illinois Promise if they continue to meet the criteria (or are federal Pell Grant eligible) and have satisfied the college's GPA requirements.

**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 difference between the covered costs and these awards is provided from institutional resources as well as private funding from individuals and corporate donors. In academic year 09/10, Illinois Promise funding totaled \$2,633,323; the average award was \$4,254.

DONORS – AY 09/10



“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 I-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

- Peter and Kim Fox
- Richard and Susan Herman
- Kathleen Holden
- Charles and Barbara Hundley
- Matthew and Sara Joyce
- William Cope and Mary Kalantzis
- Shahid and Ann Khan
- Harris Lewin
- Lee and Jan Loichle
- Helen Martocchio and Mark Bryant
- William and Audrey Mass
- Louis and Sybil Mervis

- Sidney S. Micek
- Anthony Petullo Foundation
- Richard Powers
- Thomas and Michelle Ramage
- Mary F. and John Rayis
- Gene and Julia Robinson
- Ed Rust
- Kenneth and Maureen Schmidt
- James and Kathy Schroeder
- William Shilts
- Marvin and Robin Smoller
- Steven M. Taslitz

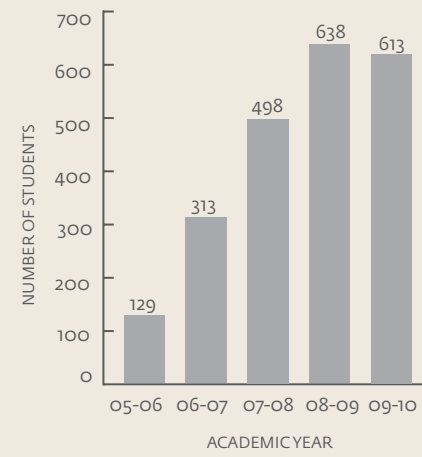
PROFILE

Illinois Promise Student Profile – Academic Year 09/10

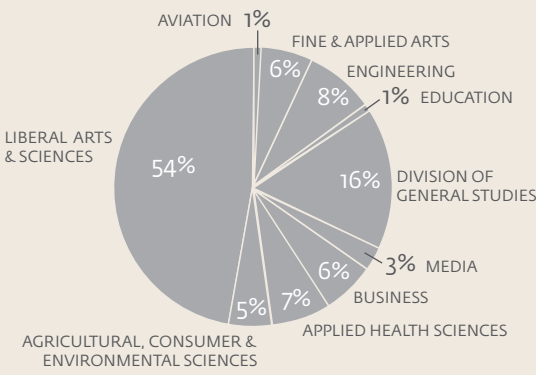
- 100% live in Illinois, representing 36 counties;
- 70% are residents of Cook County
- 80% of students applied to other colleges in addition to the University of Illinois\*
- 69% are first-generation college students\*
- 58% are female
- 6% are transfer students

\* Based on spring, 2010 Illinois Promise Student Survey

Students Served in the Illinois Promise Program



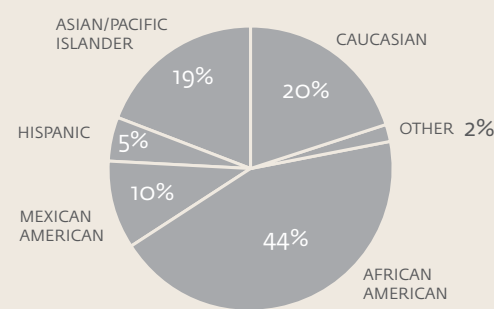
Enrollment of Illinois Promise Students by College – Academic Year 09/10



“I-Promise embodies a variety of unique individuals who have the potential and individual motivation to succeed against all adversities. We come from a variety of diverse backgrounds, and we understand the need for higher education. We will be the leaders of tomorrow because we know what true challenges are and how to overcome them.”

- **Yvette Vazquez**, 2009 graduate in Elementary Education, now a teacher and track coach in the Chicago Public Schools

Diversity of Illinois Promise Students – Academic Year 09/10



Students' Sense of Community Within I-Promise

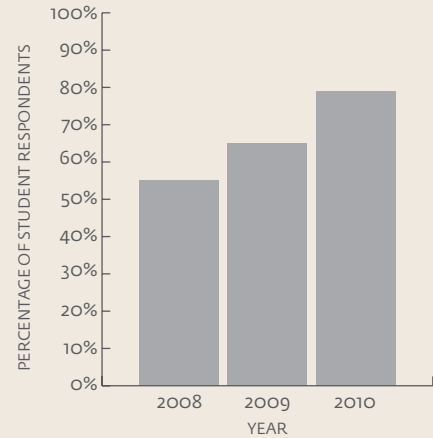


Chart combines student responses indicating they were “happy”, “very happy” or “thrilled” with the sense of community within I-Promise.

Donors \$25K+

- Edward R. Haben and Mary Kay Kretch Haben
- Betsy Hendrick, Hendrick House
- Timothy and Mary Lyne
- Joseph Martocchio and Brad Olson
- State Farm Companies Foundation
- TCF Bank

Donors \$150K+

- Private Family Foundation

- Steven Veazie and Margaret O'Donoghue
- Robert Young and Ruth Watkins
- Jacqueline Williams
- Carl and Gabriella Woese
- Charles Zukoski and Barbara Morgan

Donors \$5K+

- Leslie M. Corley

Donors \$10K+

- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- William and Jacelyn Shiner
- P. Wayne and Patricia Ziebell