

LEADERS OF TOMORROW



(From left to right) Jamie Dalton, Amber Floyd, Alexxis Franklin, Chancellor Robert J. Jones, Kendra Kuehlem, Grace Procopio, David Stage

Illinois community by their outstanding accomplishments, served as an example for others to follow, and pursued their vision for a most promising future. Seven honorees were recognized by Chancellor Jones at the congratulatory in April.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jamie Dalton, Double Major: Supply Chain Management and Marketing

Based in Chicago, traveling the country frequently, as an Analyst at Huron Consulting Group within their Higher Education Practice implementing software for universities.

Amber Floyd, Social Work

Graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Family Services. Also serving as a Resident Advisor in University Housing and Graduate Coordinator for America Reads America Counts.

"I am currently working at the National Football League (NFL) Headquarters in New York City in their Junior Rotational Program. This is full-time role where each employee rotates through 3-4 areas of the company over 2 years. I currently work in the Community Relations and Communications/Public Relations departments and will rotate to a new department once the season is over. My role allows me to work and lead various projects dealing with our key initiatives including, but not limited to, Salute to Service (military appreciation), PLAY 60 (youth health and wellness), and Crucial Catch (cancer awareness and risk reduction). I owe all of my success to IP. Without this amazing program, a foundation to set my dreams would not have existed."

- Alexxis Franklin, Recreation, Sport & Tourism

Gabriela Garay, Double Major: Psychology, Latina/Latino Studies (not pictured)

Employed in Chicago as a Site Coordinator for a Loyola University achievement program Target New Transitions (within the College of Education). This program aids high school freshmen with a goal of selecting and pursuing a graduate program in the near future.

Kendra Kuehlem, Urban and Regional Planning

Associate Planner for the Village of Plainfield, Illinois working on administration of the Village comprehensive plan, code development and review, and other projects. Also pursuing certification with the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Grace Procopio, Interdisciplinary Health

Intern/Spiritual Mentor working for Cru (a Christian campus ministry) in Champaign, focusing on spiritual development of student leaders and faith sharing.

David Stage, History and Secondary Education

Teaching English language and American culture to 3rd to 6th graders on Kinmen Island, south of China, thanks to the support of a Fulbright award. Plans to attend law school upon return to US.

In 2017, Illinois Promise proudly introduced the Emerging Leader Award. This award recognizes graduating scholars who demonstrated a commitment to transformational learning by engaging in experiences such as internships, research, study abroad, service, and leadership activities while maintaining a high level of academic achievement. The selected recipients represent a variety of fields of study and professional goals but share common threads among them – they enriched the

PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

I-Promise welcomed a new full-time staff member in March 2016 with the hire of Program Coordinator, Krystle Richard. Partially funded by the generous support of a private family foundation, the newly configured position allows the program to expand its efforts at preparing scholars for careers or graduate school. Throughout the spring and summer months, Krystle focused on research and development of the new Promising Professionals Program (P3) which is being launched in Fall 2017.



P3 will include opportunities such as:

Like a Pro Series:

Monthly programs offered in collaboration with campus partners designed to build awareness of resources and encourage development of transferable skills through research, study abroad, and much more.

The Academy:

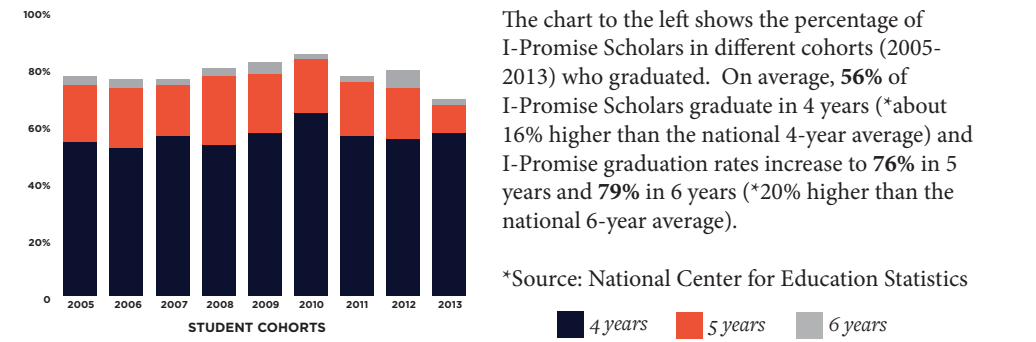
An intensive, one-year professional development cohort program aimed at increasing knowledge and experience with the critical career competencies identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

Scholars Net:

An online directory of I-Promise alumni and donors made available to current I-Promise Scholars who wish to explore a career path and/or graduate or professional program through brief inquiries, informational interviews, or job shadowing.

OUTCOMES

In 2017, a total of 153 I-Promise students who enrolled in Fall 2013 graduated with a BA, BS, or BFA degree. Combined with other cohorts of I-Promise graduates, including transfer students, there are now 1,536 alumni.



According to the Illini Success Survey of Illinois graduates, 2016-2017 I-Promise grads have already reported securing employment at places like:

- AbbVie
  - Accenture
  - Frasca International
  - PespiCo
- General Mills
  - Google
  - The National Football League
  - PricewaterhouseCoopers

In recent years, additional I-Promise employers have included Amazon, Boeing, Caterpillar, Rush University Medical Center, John Deere, US Bank, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. In addition, recent grads are pursuing further education at places like Princeton, Washington University, Northwestern, University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul, American University of Paris, and Loyola.

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 Office of Undergraduate Research, U of I Extension Financial Wellness Program, the Office of Volunteer Programs, Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange, the Office of Student Financial Aid, The Career Center, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Illinois Leadership Center, the Illini Union Bookstore, and University Housing.

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# ILLINOIS PROMISE

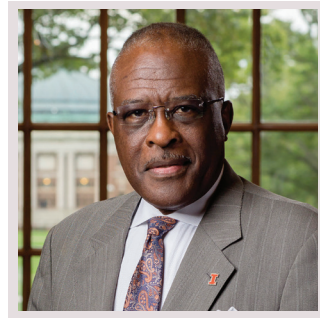
ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE



THE PROMISE

Illinois Promise is much more than a financial scholarship. It's a commitment by the campus to create an enriching and supportive educational environment that fosters personal and professional success. It's a commitment by donors to open doors of opportunity to high achieving students to join the Illinois family as they make their way toward a bright future. It's a commitment by scholars to make the most of the experience, to aspire for greatness, and to pay it forward every step of the way.

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



This fall marks the twelfth year of the Illinois Promise program here at Illinois. More than 360 new Illinois Promise scholars joined our freshman class and became part of the largest total undergraduate student body on record. We're proud to welcome this new class to the campus, and we are excited to watch them follow in the footsteps of the 1,500+ Illinois Promise graduates of the last decade. These smart, strong, and accomplished students continue to make us proud long after they graduate. As graduates, they become leaders in their chosen professions and communities, their bright minds propelled forward by their Illinois education and the support of the Illinois community. With you and with Illinois, these students have the opportunity to change the world.

Robert J. Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Illinois Promise is an access scholarship program initiated in 2005 to provide support for high achieving University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students with the greatest amount of financial need. The scholarship is designed to cover a student's cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies. Funding is provided by institutional and private sources, including individual and corporate donors.

There is no application to become an Illinois Promise Scholar. Instead, the Office of Student Financial Aid reviews a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and determines eligibility using several criteria:

- Family income at or below the federal poverty level (\$24,250 for a family of four)
- Family assets of less than \$50,000 (does not include home)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equal to \$0
- Illinois residency
- Under age 24 at time of admission

In return, recipients must maintain eligibility for the scholarship by earning a minimum 2.0 grade point average and enrolling full-time (12 hours or more), among other criteria. As part of the award package, they are also offered a limited amount of student loans each year as well as the opportunity to secure a Federal Work Study position and earn income bi-weekly through part-time employment on campus.

Support for I-Promise Scholars also involves much more than the financial award. Scholars join a diverse community of students who benefit from uniquely tailored resources and programs throughout their time on campus. To learn more about Illinois Promise, visit [ipromise.illinois.edu](http://ipromise.illinois.edu).

THE SUPPORT WE OFFER

In addition to financial support, the I-Promise opportunity includes a variety of programs and initiatives aimed to ensure scholars have the resources and information necessary to propel their academic and professional futures.

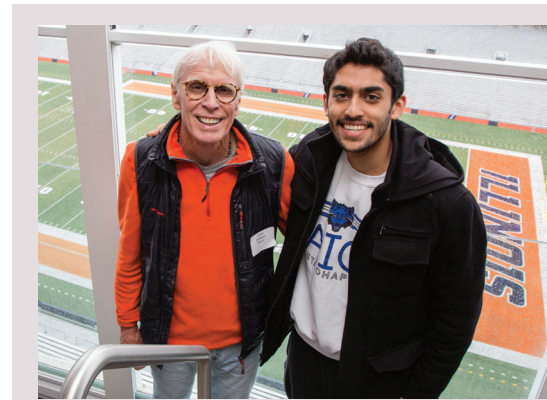
**Academic Outreach**  
I-Promise staff monitor midterm and final grades, course registration, and overall academic progress and meet individually with students to discuss and offer support and resources.

**Programs and Events**  
From housing info sessions to free final exam "survival" packs, orientation meetings to senior congratulatory banquets, there are a variety of events that bring scholars together throughout the year.

**Community Building**  
Scholars engage with one another at monthly meetings, monthly social events, and an I-Promise sponsored service activity every semester.

**IP Picks Student Bulletin**  
Twice per month, scholars receive an electronic newsletter with campus and community news and information that is hand-picked with their needs in mind.

**Leadership Opportunities**  
Scholars have the chance to hone leadership skills if they apply and are selected to become Executive Board members in the I-Promise student organization, I-Promise Ambassadors, or sponsored participants at an annual leadership retreat hosted by the Illinois Leadership Center each winter.



**Mentoring Program**  
A staple of Illinois Promise is its first-year mentoring program, designed to ease the transition to college for new freshmen and transfer students. During the 2016-2017 academic year, 98 students elected to participate and were matched with a mentor (academic professionals, faculty, retired faculty, graduate students, and community members). Mentors and mentees participate in skill-building and community activities throughout the one-year commitment and many choose to connect year after year.

"I have truly loved being associated with the I-Promise program at the U of I. Working with my mentee is amazingly rewarding, and being associated with such a well-planned out and well-run organization has been a constant pleasure."

**James G. Dobbins, Ph.D.,**  
Consultant Epidemiologist;  
Retired epidemiologist from CDC and WHO;  
Former professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch

"Jim has acted like a second father to me. He's always there for me whenever I need him and always supports me through any decision I make. I am blessed and honored to have such a great mentor in my life."

**Ali Hasan,**  
Undeclared, Class of 2020

GIVING TO ILLINOIS PROMISE

"We all grew up in Champaign-Urbana and went to Illinois together. We've all done very different things and gone very different places since then. But one thing we've always had in common is what our Illinois experience meant to us and a desire for others to have the same opportunity. The Five Hands Foundation's contributions to I-Promise are a way to bring that opportunity to other students for whom a great college education might not be affordable."

(From left to right) Micah Yairi, John Hauser, Chris Nicholas, Gaeron McClure, and Ken Brownfield



YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

While I-Promise scholars qualify for and receive federal, state, institutional and/or private grants and scholarships, for many, that aid does not match their full need. The I-Promise award closes the gap between a student's cost of attendance and the other financial aid they received. In the 2016-2017 academic year, I-Promise funding totaled **\$8,940,800.15**.



I-PROMISE MATTERS

I-Promise Scholars are some of Illinois' most remarkable students. Many have overcome significant challenges in their path toward a college education and have dreams and aspirations of making a difference in their lives. I-Promise support offers them a chance to receive a world-class education and make their dreams a reality.

**Celia Glenn, Social Work**  
Being a student and also a mother is extremely challenging at times but the I-Promise support I have received through my career here has been outstanding and has given me a foundation of individuals that are always there to assist me in any struggles that I may face. [With I-Promise], I've had the ability to have a great education at a school that I thought would be out of my reach due to financial costs. I-Promise has really been so wonderful to be a part of!

**Claudia Kubarycz-Hoszowska, Instrumental Music**  
Before my mom passed away, she constantly reminded me to do one thing: continue to work hard and exceed at school. I kept my promise to her and have worked hard in hopes that I would one day be able to attend a great university despite not having parents to pay for it. Illinois Promise made this hope a reality. I am now pursuing my lifelong goal of mastering the violin at a top university. Illinois Promise has helped me keep my promise to my mom and for that I am forever grateful.

**Brian Gutierrez, Political Science**  
When I moved to the U.S. on my own from Jalisco, Mexico at the age of 16, I hoped that after working full-time I could be able to pursue my passion in law. When I found out I was admitted to the University and to the [I-Promise] program I was exhilarated. It has allowed me to continue my education and to place a greater focus on my academic and professional goals. The support I have received from the staff, and the experiences sponsored by the program are invaluable. I feel extremely grateful towards everyone that makes this opportunity possible and I intend to make the most of it.

**Amaury Saulsberry, Undeclared**  
Growing up on the South Side of Chicago in a 2 bedroom apartment, I watched my parents struggle while providing for my four brothers and I. At the age of 14, I was able to start working on my own. Later, coming to college, my mother was experiencing some health scares and it really affected me. The Illinois Promise award has granted to me the opportunity to be here and work constantly on making a better life for my family. With I-Promise, I've been able to successfully start my own pediatric health technology company, grow and expand my network of professionals and friends, and also continue to inspire students here at the University who are from a poverty stricken background like myself.

