

Annual Report
2018-2019



ILLINOIS PROMISE

ACCESS TO THE ILLINOIS EXPERIENCE

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CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

The Illinois Promise program is one of our most significant scholarship programs at Illinois. For nearly fifteen years, we have provided funding, mentorship, and opportunity to over 2,000 students who have gone on to do amazing things.

We are very excited to report that we were able to extend an Illinois education to even more students this year. In fact, we welcomed over 480 new Illinois Promise students this fall! I am extremely proud of our students, and I admire their hard work and ambition. I am also proud that so many alumni and donors share our desire to support these students as they embark on one of the most life-changing journeys of their lives. Thank you!

With you and With Illinois, these students will change the world.

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



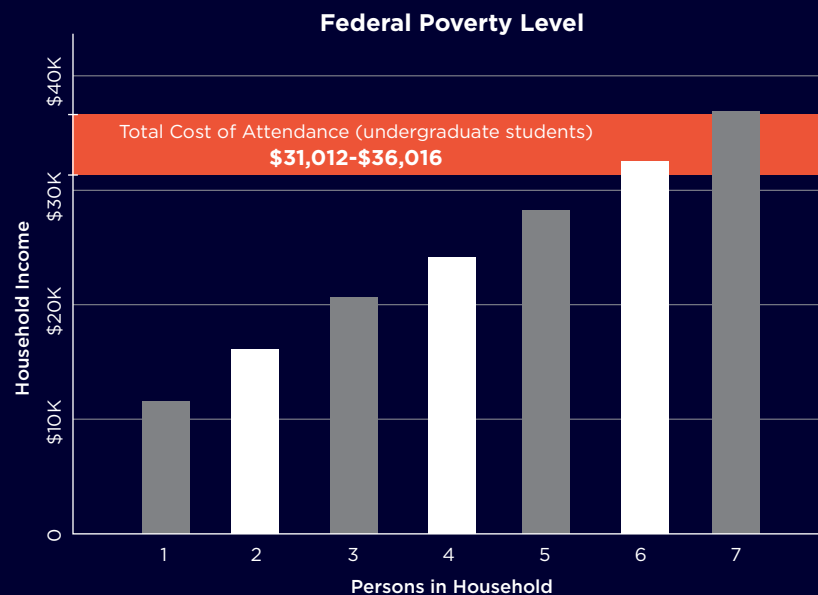
Chancellor Jones with members of I-Promise Council
at the Fall 2018 New Scholar Orientation

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 I-Promise award package is designed to cover a student's cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room and board, and books and supplies.

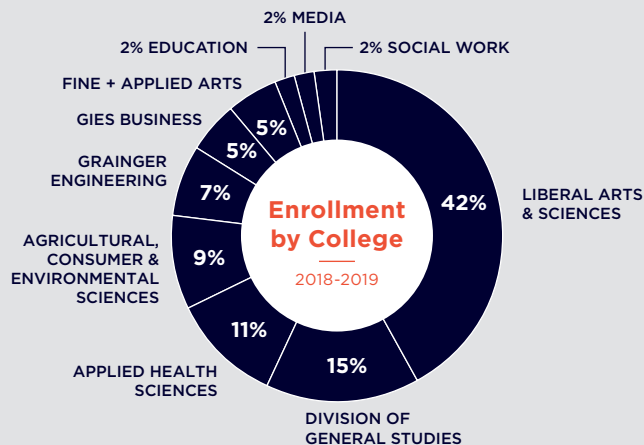
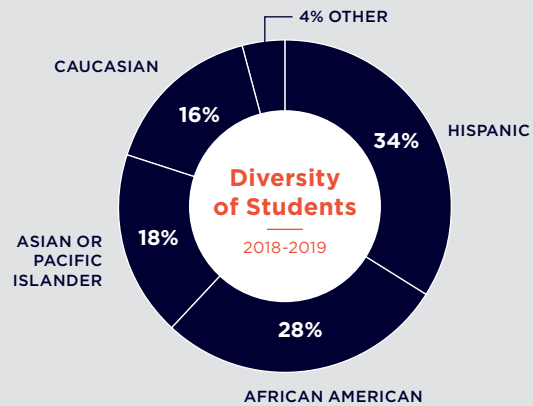
In order to qualify, students must be Illinois residents with a family income level at or below the federal poverty level (\$24,300 for a family of four) among other criteria.

Support for I-Promise Scholars 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.



THE STUDENTS

In 2018-2019, Illinois Promise served over 1,200 bright and talented undergraduates who come from a variety of backgrounds and study in disciplines across all of our academic colleges.

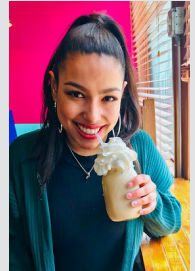


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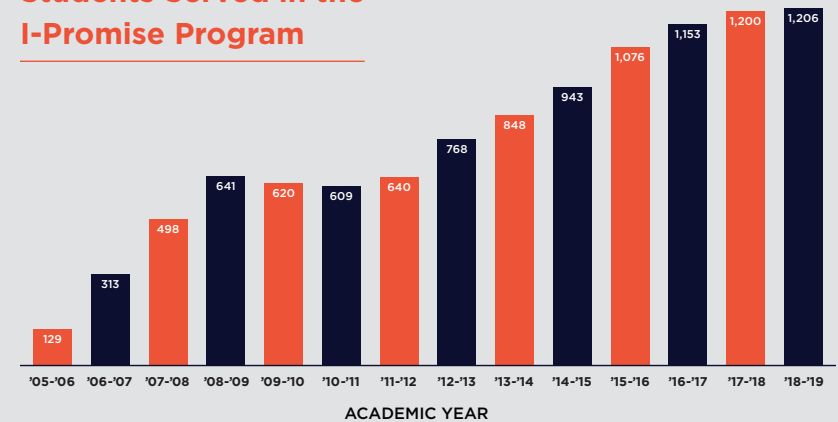
It has made the biggest impact, especially since I am a first generation student. I know my family looks up to me for going to college and all I can do is set the example that if I can do it, so can anyone else. I-Promise gave me an opportunity I never thought was possible. I will forever be grateful.

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- Demisha Ramirez, Journalism '19



Students Served in the I-Promise Program



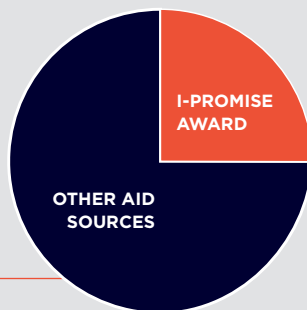
THE SCHOLARSHIP

I-Promise Scholars qualify for and receive federal, state, institutional, and/or private grants and scholarships including a limited amount of student loans and an opportunity to secure campus-based employment. For many, however, 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 receive. In the 2018-2019 academic year, I-Promise funding totaled \$9,584,390.50.

\$8,496.80

**Average I-Promise Award
Per Student (per year)**

**On average, 25% of
an I-Promise Scholar's
educational expenses are
covered by the scholarship**



THE GENEROSITY

Donors make a difference by opening doors of opportunity to high achieving students to join the Illinois family as they make their way toward a bright future. The university is committed to providing the Illinois Promise Scholarship to all students who are eligible. With the number of qualified students increasing each year, the generosity of donors is critical in maintaining access to an Illinois education.

GIVING TO ILLINOIS PROMISE

"I have a passion for education and for helping deserving students achieve the dream of a college degree. I am honored to be a donor to the Illinois Promise program. I have been providing scholarships for high school students in my local community for twenty-two years. Now I am happy to give back to students who wish to attend my alma mater through the Illinois Promise program. My goal is to reward past success and encourage students to complete their college education."

— Merrilee Lewis Engel, Ph.D. (LAS '64, '68, '69)
President Emeritus, Cosumnes River College



“

Illinois Promise made it possible for me to attend Illinois debt free. Coming from a low income family, I wasn't sure how I would pay for higher education but Illinois Promise alleviated that burden from me and my family. Illinois Promise is an excellent scholarship and I am grateful that I was able to be a part of Illinois Promise during my undergraduate career.

”

- James Jones, Political Science '19

“

Being an Illinois Promise Scholar was transformative. The generous support of donors has done more for me than just granting relief on my financial burdens. It has provided me with the opportunity to take time to invest in myself. I am now working full time at my dream company, trying to make a difference in the agricultural community. Because of I-Promise, I am inspired to give back to others and my community.

”

- Alyssa Pedersen, Agricultural and
Consumer Economics '19



THE SUPPORT

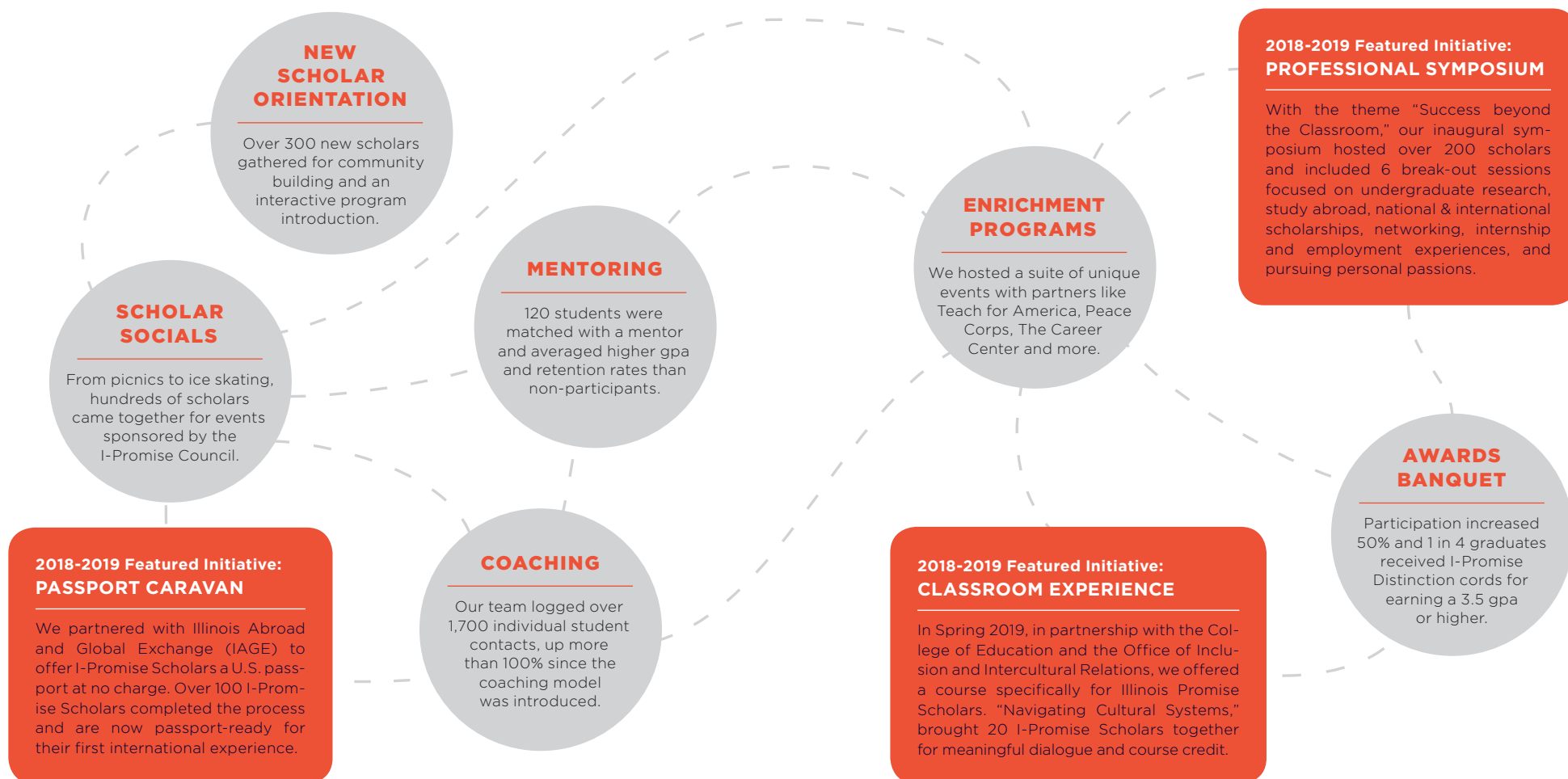
I-Promise brings scholars together for signature events and programming throughout their time at Illinois. Beginning with orientation and continuing with a variety of gatherings each term, students have many opportunities to engage with peers and staff. In addition, one third of each new class elects to participate in our one-of-a-kind mentoring program and are matched with a staff or faculty member, graduate student, or community volunteer as a resource and guide. Scholars also connect with an I-Promise staff member who, as an assigned coach, provides individualized support and academic monitoring. In 2018-2019, support for scholars included:

“

Illinois Promise has matched me with a mentor who invests tremendous time and care into my well-being. It has also given me an I-Promise coach who helps me find ongoing resources and guidance.

”

- Emily File, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences '20
and Laura Gerhold, I-Promise Mentor



THE IMPACT

While the I-Promise Scholarship opens the door of opportunity to an Illinois education, it is the scholars who make the most of the experience and create unique pathways to successful futures. Highlights from 2018-2019 include:



Research

Community Service



Study Abroad

Professional Development



Leadership



"The support I received helped me navigate the toughest moments of my life; sponsored me for a leadership retreat; helped me build a network that landed me an internship with a local hospital; and assisted in drafting successful study abroad scholarship applications that resulted in volunteering in Guatemala."

- Ashley Tovar-DeLeon,
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences '20



"In addition to the financial impact, Illinois Promise has connected me with amazing friends and colleagues and provided me with many resources that I would not have known about otherwise."

- Matea Larrieu, Global Studies '19

"I was able to pursue a study abroad program in Costa Rica that focused on transforming their economy by incorporating renewable energy and other sustainable practices. It culminated in a research project about ways to mitigate traffic congestion in urban areas. I wouldn't have had this opportunity were it not for the support of the Illinois Promise program."

- Max Thang, Economics '20



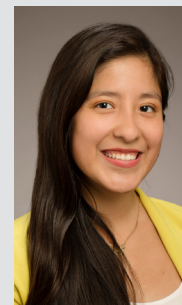
"Working with an I-Promise alum and I-Promise staff, I received the support and advice I needed for my professional and career development, which led me to my current role with Molson Coors in Denver. I'm so excited to see what the future holds and I look forward to giving back to Illinois Promise Scholars in the years to come."

- Jonathan Sanchez, double major Information Systems & Information Technology and Management '19



"As a result of being on this campus and talking to different mentors within my college and I-Promise, I have never been more open to seeking new journeys, opportunities, and life lessons. During my time at Illinois, I was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society; joined the Army National Guard; and even secured an internship with Carle."

- DeJia' Smith, Human Development and Family Studies '19



"Illinois Promise has supported my leadership development in so many ways—from being a part of our student leadership group (Illinois Promise Council) to my position in the Illinois Leadership Center to working as an on-site coordinator for The Institute by Leadershape. Illinois Promise isn't just a scholarship; it provides the access that will open new doors of opportunity throughout my lifetime"

- Johana Machuca, dual degree Spanish and Speech & Hearing Science '21

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE PROMISE!



ILLINOIS PROMISE

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR
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