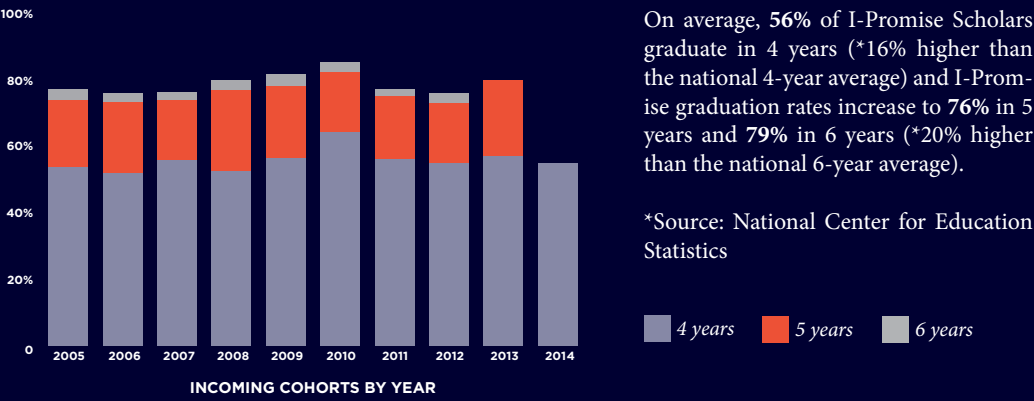


OUTCOMES

In May 2018, 262 I-Promise Scholars completed undergraduate degrees, 150 of whom were first-time freshmen in Fall 2014. There are now a total of 1,807 alumni since the program's inception.



CLASS OF 2018 SHOWCASE

Our survey of I-Promise graduates shed light on their tremendous success at Illinois. With a 75% response rate, we discovered our Class of 2018 I-Promise Scholars are Achievers, Global Citizens, Servant Leaders, and Future-Driven.



Achievers

- 80% are first in family to attend college
- 55% earned other scholarships, in addition to Illinois Promise
- 55% took on leadership positions in one or more Registered Student Organizations
- 25% participated in a sorority or fraternity
- Average GPA of 3.15
- 84% held at least one part-time position at some point in their academic career



Global Citizens

- Scholars studied abroad in places like Italy, Costa Rica, Botswana, South Korea, Ireland, Australia, Bahamas, Haiti, and more



Future-Driven

- 40% indicated that they intend to pursue a master's, doctoral, or professional degree immediately after graduation
- 58% completed an internship or co-op in preparation for life after graduation
- Grads landed at graduate programs at schools like Savannah College, Tuskegee University, Medical College of Wisconsin, George Washington University, Loyola University Chicago, Erikson Institute, and Columbia University School of Nursing
- Grads secured employment at organizations like the Peace Corps, Hormel, City Year Chicago, PepsiCo, Ion, Honeywell, Amazon, and SpaceX



Servant Leaders

- 50% of grads completed 50+ hours of community service while at Illinois:
- Assisting at Habitat for Humanity
 - Hugging animals at the ASPCA
 - Caring for infants at Crisis Nursery
 - Rebuilding houses on Alternative Spring Breaks
 - Tutoring at elementary schools
 - Distributing food to the homeless
 - Advocating for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
 - Working at the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Presence Hospital, and more

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Danny Corona, Architectural Studies

Full time intern at Interplan LLC in Oakbrook Terrace, working on small scale projects from national clients like Chase, Fifth Third Bank, Panera Bread, Holiday Inn, Wal-Mart, and others. Planning to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in architecture and become a licensed architect.



Ronald Oliver, Learning and Education Studies

Currently residing in Baltimore, Maryland, and attending Morgan State University, working toward a master's degree in Higher Education Administration with a concentration in Student Affairs. Ronald loves attending Morgan, but will always be an Illini at heart. I-L-L!



Ricardo Ramirez, Technical Systems Management

Before graduation, landed a Project Engineer position with F.H. Paschen, a general contractor located in the north side of Chicago. Currently working on an addition to a CPS elementary school in the south side of Chicago.



Katherine Sears, double major: Political Science and English

Working as a legal secretary at the Stein Ray Law firm in downtown Chicago, studying for the LSAT exam and preparing for law school, with a goal of being co-published in a law journal at some point in the near future.



Aileen Valdovinos, Psychology

Attending graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying Social Work and working as an evening youth counselor at Cunningham Children's Home.

ILLINOIS PROMISE
ipromise.illinois.edu

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, University Housing, Chancellor's Special Events Team, Public Affairs, and the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations.

Sarah Watson, Director
Scholar Support Programs
Campus Center for Advising and Academic Services
807 S. Wright St., Floor 5 | Champaign, IL 61820
sdwatson@illinois.edu | 217-333-4710
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Annual Report
2017-2018

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 thirteenth year of the Illinois Promise program here at Illinois. More than 330 new Illinois Promise scholars joined a freshman class that includes record numbers of first generation students and students from underrepresented backgrounds, as well as the highest number of Illinois residents in 10 years. We're proud to welcome this new class to campus, and excited to watch them follow in the footsteps of the 1800+ Illinois Promise graduates who came before them. Scholarship programs such as Illinois Promise—and the generous donors and friends who support these initiatives—help us ensure affordability to qualified Illinois students and

assist ambitious students in pursuing their passions at our world-class university. With you and With Illinois, these students will 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, and 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 (\$24,300 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.

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 members or “Promise Coaches” meet individually with students, monitor grades and overall academic progress, and provide advocacy and resources aimed specifically at meeting the unique needs of Illinois Promise Scholars.

Programs and Events

From housing information sessions to free final exam “survival” packs, orientation meetings to award 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.

Career and Grad School Prep

Partnering with campus experts, we host professional development opportunities such as the I-Promise Symposium, complimentary headshots, information sessions, and much more.

Leadership Opportunities

Scholars have the chance to hone leadership skills if they apply and are selected to become I-Promise Council members or sponsored participants at an annual leadership retreat hosted by the Illinois Leadership Center each winter.

IP Picks Student Bulletin

Every two weeks, scholars receive an electronic newsletter with campus and community news as well as information that is hand-picked with their needs in mind.



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 2017-2018 academic year, 110 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.

“One thing I appreciate about my mentor Verna is her interconnectedness to campus; she is always informing me of events that I might be interested in partaking in. Verna and I share a love for networking and this creates endless opportunities for the both of us in our next steps after finishing our degrees. My mentor is someone that I can fully resonate with and she helped me find my bearings as a transfer student.”

— Princess White, English, Class of 2019

“Being a mentor to Princess is extremely rewarding. Over the past year and a half, we have cultivated a relationship of respect and trust. I have tried to be for Princess what I thought I needed when I was in college—responsive, available, present, attentive, thoughtful, compassionate, and professional. What has happened though, is that our relationship has grown to encompass much more than what I imagined. I have learned so much about myself and am grateful to Princess for her candor and for her trust in me.”

— Verna Orr, Doctoral Candidate in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership

GIVING TO ILLINOIS PROMISE

“I clearly remember my day on campus last spring when I met some of the Illinois Promise students and was VERY impressed. I feel I can personally relate to them because at 16, I was on my own and put myself through the last year of high school and my 4 years at U of I. Approximately 13 years ago, I set up my first charitable foundation in San Francisco and since then, set up 3 more in Chicago, all with the same purpose...to locate qualified students with financial need, get them into college, and follow them until they receive their degrees. That's one of my missions and it fits with the goals of the Illinois Promise program. I feel privileged to be able to give back. That's why I support the I-Promise scholarship program.”

— Joseph Pedott, B.S. '55 Journalism



GIFTS MAKE 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 2017-2018 academic year, I-Promise funding totaled **\$9,840,880.58**.

\$30,876 - \$35,880

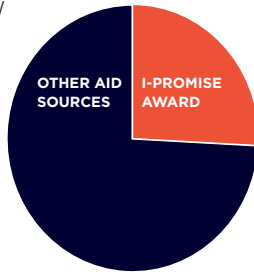
Total Cost of an Illinois Education (per year)

(including tuition, fees, room & board, books and other expenses)

\$8,662.74

Average I-Promise Award Per Student (per year)

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



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.



Ian Call, Philosophy

I lost both of my parents when I was very young and was placed with distant relatives in up-state Illinois. After being accepted at Illinois, I later found out that I'd been awarded the Illinois Promise scholarship. The sense of security and the guidance I've received from the I-Promise program staff helped me through a rough transition and led me to discover my academic passion. I'm now working on a research project that helps to feed my intellectual curiosity while, hopefully, propelling me into a graduate program in physics.



Lorna Chavez, Theatre

When I was in the fifth grade, a teacher told my mom that I had the potential to be an outstanding student. Those words motivated me to work hard and to try for things that seemed out of reach. Words cannot sufficiently express how thankful I am for the educational, personal, and professional growth I have experienced at Illinois and I owe so much of that to I-Promise. Now, I look forward to using what I've learned as I set out on the path to a career that combines sound design, engineering, and mixing.



Jonny Hernandez, Undeclared

I'm from a place where violence is ongoing and a feeling of panic and dread, expecting bad news, run through you each time your phone rings. With support from my family and from a dedicated mentor at my high school, I earned my spot at Illinois. My focus on schoolwork and the I-Promise scholarship have opened doors for me, given me a strong sense of community, and have helped me learn so much about myself. I plan to take what I learn here back to my community in order to create safe indoor and outdoor spaces for the kids in my neighborhood.



Jada Smith, Recreation, Sport and Tourism

I faced many challenges growing up with a single mother on the south side of Chicago. When I was a freshman in high school, my mom lost her job. We were homeless for a while and we had to stay with relatives throughout my high school career. I had committed to the University of Missouri but the Illinois Promise scholarship was too good to pass up. My first semester wasn't easy. The support and individual attention I've received from Illinois Promise program staff to advisors to faculty is what has kept me here, succeeding in ways I'd never imagined.

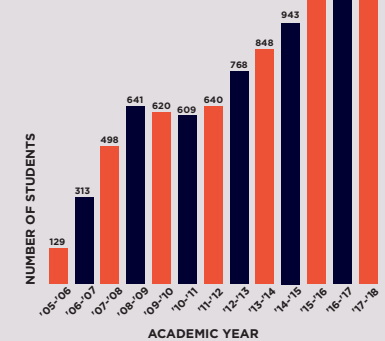
Program Profile, Academic Year 2017-2018

1,200 Total I-Promise Scholars

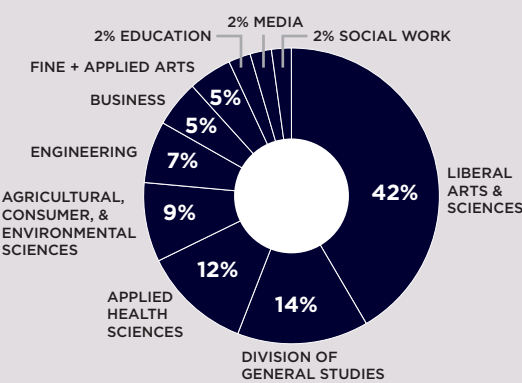
356 I-Promise Scholars in the Fall '17 incoming class
9% transfer students

68% First generation

Students Served in the I-Promise Program



Enrollment by College | 2017-2018



Diversity of Students | 2017-2018

