The barriers to college access and college success are very real for our Evanston Scholars. Navigating the college application process can be overwhelming for many high school students. And when students get to college, they often hit roadblocks and veer off course. For many, the key to successfully completing college is benefiting from a support system. Unfortunately, too many students from our community lack resources and guidance. That’s exactly why we started this program seven years ago.

As each year passes, we grow and serve more students. We expand our program offerings as well, to adapt to the ever-changing and always challenging college landscape. We continue to make great strides in identifying and getting our Scholars into good fit (financial, academic, and social) colleges. And once in, we provide a year-round safety net of support as they navigate, personally and professionally, through each year of college and beyond.

This year, 17 Evanston Scholars graduated college—our largest class to date. Four Scholars will continue their education by entering graduate school programs. Almost all of our Scholar college graduates are giving back to the community and Evanston Scholars in various ways including speaking at events, becoming a mentor, and joining our Board of Directors. They have become a critical part of our network of support.

Likewise, you—our donors, volunteers, and community supporters—are a critical part of our network of support, and we are forever grateful. Without you, the barriers to college access and success would be even greater for our students.

STEVE NEWMAN
Executive Director
OUR VISION
With a keen focus on student performance and academic outcomes, Evanston Scholars graduate from college at radically higher rates than their peers, experience economic stability in life, and stay connected to the Evanston community.

WHAT WE DO
Improve college access and success through evidence-based programming and support services:
• Connect students to colleges where they can succeed
• Provide hands-on assistance with the college application process and financial aid
• Reduce inequality in testing by providing high quality ACT/SAT test preparation by a reputable tutoring firm
• Provide mentoring, coaching and support throughout college to increase persistence and completion
• Help students transition to careers

WHO WE SERVE
Each spring, Evanston Scholars selects qualified ETHS (Evanston Township High School) sophomores according to the following criteria:
• First generation in their families to go to college
• Demonstrated need (qualify for free/reduced lunch)
• Academic potential (minimum 2.7 GPA)
• Students of color
• Demonstrated character and ambition

Evanston Scholars are currently enrolled at:

Amherst College
Arrupe College
Augustana College (3)
Baldwin Wallace University
Boston College
Bowling Green State University
Bradley University (4)
Carleton College
Clark Atlanta University
Colgate University
Columbia University
Denison University
DePaul University (3)
Dominican University (3)
Eastern Illinois University
Elon University (2)
Hampton University
Hope College (2)
Howard University (2)
Iowa State University (2)
Kendall College (2)
Kirkwood Community College
Knox College (2)
Lake Forest College (3)
Lawrence University (2)
Lehigh University
Lewis University
Marquette University
Millikin University
Morgan State University
Northern Illinois University (4)
Northwestern University (3)
Oakland Community College (5)
Ohio Wesleyan University
Ripon College
Sewanee – The University of the South
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Spelman College
St. Louis University
St. Olaf College
University of Illinois at Chicago (6)
University of Illinois at Springfield (3)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (28)
University of Iowa
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri (3)
University of Pennsylvania
University of Redlands
University of Southern California
Vanderbilt University
University of Wisconsin – Madison (3)
Valparaiso University (3)
Washington University in St. Louis (3)
Wellesley College
Western Illinois University (2)
Western Michigan University (6)
Wheaton College

117 COLLEGE SCHOLARS
67 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS
31 COLLEGE GRADS

Average point increase in SAT score (equivalent to 3-4 points on the ACT)

Average number of college applications submitted (national average is 3)

Percentage of students who received debt-free aid covering full tuition

Average debt-free financial aid per student over 4 years of college

College graduation rate for Evanston Scholars’ first 3 cohorts (national graduation rate for low-income, first-generation students is 11%)

College persistence rate (students who started college are still enrolled)
Highlights

College Access

STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE ACCESS:
Our Students:
- Identify “good fit” schools that meet their academic, social, and financial needs
- Work to maximize their standardized test scores and high school academics
- Explore their academic identities and identify strengths, interests, and potential careers
- Submit applications to a variety of colleges to increase options
- Engage in enhancing summer activities (pre-college summer programs, work, internships, and volunteering)
- Practice communication, study skills, time management, and problem solving
- Develop an Evanston-based support network they can lean on in college (their families, mentors, Evanston Scholars peers, and staff)

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM 2017-18

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES:
The Class of 2018 completed 377 college applications in total. Scholars were accepted to 7.3 out of 10 colleges they applied to on average and have enrolled at 23 different colleges and universities across the country.

“Evanston Scholars helped me apply to a variety of schools and I ended up somewhere I never thought I would be. I’m so glad they got this school on my radar and helped me stick with it!”
—College Scholar

SUMMER PROGRAMS:
Nearly 60% of junior Scholars attend a pre-college program before starting their senior year. Campus-based programs included Brown University, Boston University, and Augustana College. Scholars also traveled to Nicaragua with the Global Glimpse Program and to the Dominican Republic with the Gap Medics Program.
“Evanston Scholars helped me learn more about myself. It’s about knowing who you are—that’s the first step to finding the colleges that are right for you. I chose Lehigh because, with encouragement and help from Evanston Scholars, I attended a summer program there before my senior year in high school. And when the program ended, I got nominated as ‘most likely to attend’ by my peers.

People at Lehigh are similar to me—they set a pathway to success, and gain the right skills along the way. Lehigh offers a bit of everything for me: strong academics, really good financial aid, and plenty of social opportunities. And it is also a beautiful campus, right on top of a hill. I’m so excited to meet new people and see how I develop as a person. I know ultimately that I want to do something to change the world—either through business or philanthropy; I want to make a positive impact.

Evanston Scholars also taught me how to navigate the world through a more professional lens. I learned a lot of things that are ‘Adult 101,’ like how to manage my finances, the importance of networking and jobs and internships, and even how to succeed in a graduate program, should I decide to continue in school. I’m now thinking about these things earlier rather than later.”
College Success

STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS:
Our Students:
• Receive targeted support as they transition to college, including assistance with major and course selection, loan counseling, and support with registration deadlines and requirements
• Meet 1:1 with Evanston Scholars staff at least annually to review academic progress with the goal of “Finish in Four”
• Engage in experiential learning (research, internships, study abroad, volunteer work, jobs) that supports their academic and vocational interests
• Utilize campus resources including tutoring, counseling centers, and mentoring and diversity programs
• Strive to embody the “Evanston Scholars Pillars of Success” (Persistence, Engagement, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, and Connectedness) as they navigate their college journeys

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM 2017-18

Highlights

COLLEGE LIFE:
College Scholars were engaged on campus with academic supports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and study abroad.

CAREER READINESS
Evanston Scholars provided career readiness and post-college planning including professional networking events, graduate school workshops, resume development, mock interviews, and more.

CORPORATE VISITS:
Students visited and learned about internships and careers at Google, Morningstar, Medline Industries, and AbbVie.
EMERGENCY FUNDS:
Scholars received Emergency Funds when needed to cover tuition, housing, or other essentials needed to stay in school.

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT:
College Scholars shared their personal experiences with High School Scholars on panels over Thanksgiving and Spring breaks and served as Peer Mentors to younger College Scholars.

BOOK STIPENDS:
College Scholars received a book stipend, paid out three times per year.

SUMMER SCHOOL SUPPORT:
Scholars received financial support to allay the cost of summer school.

EMERGENCY FUNDS:
Scholars received Emergency Funds when needed to cover tuition, housing, or other essentials needed to stay in school.

OLA BABALOLA
EVANSTON SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2015
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

“I’m originally from Nigeria, and was a student at ETHS for two and a half years. After high school, I realized that there are two very important things that make me who I am: my passion for engineering and my passion for service.

My goal isn’t just to change the world. My goal is to plant a seed that will grow and be watered by others for generations to come. One day, I want to be a Global Electrical Engineer - the work is hands-on and it’s fascinating. My first two years of college taught me to be myself and go for what I want. As a black female engineer, I am often told that I won’t make it. But look at me! I’m in my third year of college: I am a Resident Advisor, and I have two other jobs on top of being a full-time engineering student. I can and will do it!”
College-educated community members make a four-year commitment to help each Scholar enroll in and graduate from a good-fit college. Our mentoring model is 1:1. Evanston Scholars equips mentors with key skills, tools, and supports that in turn enable them to support Scholars on their journey towards College Success.

At Evanston Scholars, our goal is to see more students start AND finish college. Through mentors, peer relationships, and learning opportunities, we seek to bolster our Scholars’ support systems, thereby improving their chances of obtaining a college degree. Our Scholars are succeeding in college and mentoring their younger siblings and friends along the way.

**FINANCIAL DATA**
**AUGUST 2017 – JULY 2018**

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“My daughter’s mentor is amazing. She gives a lot of support and help with her college experience and life goals!” —Evanston Scholars Parent
“I especially appreciate my mentor’s ability to be a great listener. Every time I get together with my mentor, she makes sure to check up not only on my academics, but also on my personal life. She shows interest in my well-being and I love that.”
—Evanston Scholar

Welcome Class of 2020 Mentors
Bryanna Adams, Patricia Avila, Catherine Bourke, Laura Boylan, Katie Brady, Cathy Brubaker, Betsy Burns, Brenda Campbell, Jennifer Contreras, Jim Cousineau, Mary Beth Cox, Katherine Dong, Pam Eisfielder, Erin Formiller, Marya Frankel, Ellen Frank-Miller, Ed Getz, Allison Gordon, J.J. Hill, Tim Holbrook, Elizabeth Hubbard, Joel Huerta, Corey Jackson, Sabrina Jaromin, Vanessa Kovachy, Michael Laughlin, Craig Long, Erik Long, Tania Magonza, Murphy Monroe, Stephanie Oettinger, Michael Pfeifer, Tracy Quattrocki, Anamaria Rosales, Bill Springer, Pamela Swenson, Karen Van Ausdal, Sarah Williams

Names in bold are Evanston Scholars college graduates
College Affordability

STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Our Students:

• Learn, along with their families, about college costs and key financial aid terms and tools
• Learn about the relationship between grades and scholarships/financial aid
• Understand the difference between a college’s sticker price and its net price
• Set goals for saving money to contribute to tuition and expenses
• Research and apply for outside scholarships
• Seek to minimize debt by maximizing financial aid and choosing a college with a good financial fit
• Receive hands-on assistance with FAFSA
• Understand loan repayment and how to manage educational debt

FINANCIAL FIT:
Scholars built their college lists based on the expected financial fit of each college using college cost calculators and financial aid data from older Evanston Scholars cohorts.

FAFSA COMPLETION:
100% of eligible senior Scholars submitted their FAFSA during the month of October.

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS:
2018 Scholars received a total of $146,750 in outside scholarships (those awarded outside of government or college) or an average of $4,000/student over four years.
Executive Director
Steve Newman, Founder
Chief Program Officer
Demisha Lee
Director of College Access
Laura Maloney
Director of College Success
Eve Earles
Director of Development
Kay Israelite
Associate Director of College Affordability
Caryn Summer
College Access Associate
Cecilia Gomez
College Access Associate
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Nancy Cardenas
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Liane Anderson
Business Coordinator
Becca Nolan

“Evanston Scholars is always there checking up on me and making sure that I stay on track. They are a great support system and really show that they care about my success in college and after.” —College Scholar

Note: Thank you to our outgoing staff members Alison Segal, DeAnna Smith, and Serena Walker for a great year.

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Incoming 2018-2019 Board Members:
Elizabeth Bald, David Chan, Steve Galler, Gilberto Herrejon, Tammy Johnson, Carol Lind, and Chris Ward

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS:
Senior Scholars and parents received individualized counseling to make an in-depth, side-by-side comparison of financial aid awards from all colleges to which they were accepted.

REDUCING DEBT:
11 of 36 students will be attending their freshman year of college debt-free, while an additional 21 students can anticipate graduating college with less debt than the national average of $32,000.

SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARS:
College Scholars received information throughout the year on a variety of topics including FAFSA completion, scholarships, financial aid, and account statements.
Thank you to Our Donors

Donations received August 2017 - July 2018

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In Memory of Linda Hemwall from Susan and Bill Ratzer
In Memory of Linda Hemwall from Pam and Bill Swales

In Honor and In Memory of

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