



2013 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**COLLEGE
SUCCESS**



MENTORING

**FINANCING
COLLEGE**



**ACT
PREP**

**COLLEGE
ACCESS**



EVANSTON SCHOLARS is a non-profit organization that helps first-generation and underserved Evanston students realize their dream of graduating from college.

WHAT IS EVANSTON SCHOLARS?

Evanston Scholars is a non-profit organization that:

- Improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious, underserved Evanston high school students.
- Starts with the admissions process and continues through college graduation.
- Offers mentors, workshops, campus visits, and ACT preparation to students lacking financial, academic, family and/or community resources.

WHO WE SERVE

- ETHS (Evanston Township High School) juniors through college seniors
- Academic potential
 - B average (minimum 2.7 GPA)
- Demonstrated need
 - Free/reduced lunch
- First generation in their families to go to college
- Demonstrated character and ambition

OUR GOAL – COLLEGE SUCCESS

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 system, thereby improving their chances of obtaining a college degree.



Carl'Drail Cannon, freshman at Kent State University, with his mentor, David Phillips



"Because of my mentor's expertise and guidance, I have a much deeper understanding of life in general. She is an amazing person and a great mentor."
Ola Babalola, Class of 2015, with her mentor, Gail Dallas



Chris Hernandez, freshman at University of Dayton, with his mentor, Fernando Campos, and his father, Juan Pablo Hernandez

OUR IMPACT

98%

Evanston Scholars who started college are still enrolled. Nationally, the persistence rate for first-generation and low-income students is 40%.

71%

2014 graduates receiving full-tuition scholarships

3.0

Average increase in ACT score following the ACT preparation course for the Class of 2014

10

Average number of college applications submitted by Evanston Scholars seniors. The national average is 3.

\$126,000

Average debt-free scholarships and aid award per student over four years of college

EVANSTON SCHOLARS ARE ENROLLED AT:

Amherst College*
Augustana College*
Ball State University*
Barry University
Boston College*
Bowling Green State Univ.
Colgate University*
Colorado College*
Dominican University*
Elon University
Grinnell College*
Hampton University*
Hope College*
Howard University*
Illinois State University*
Illinois Wesleyan University*
Indiana University
Kent State University*
Lake Forest College*
Lewis University*
Manhattanville College*
Marist College*
Marquette University
Milliken University*
Northeastern Illinois Univ.
Northwestern University*
Oakton Community College
Purdue University Calumet
Triton College
University of Dayton
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign*
University of Iowa
University of Missouri*
Vanderbilt University*

*Scholar(s) attending this school were awarded full-tuition scholarship(s)



Marley Marriott, freshman at Augustana College, with her mentor, Julie Bordo



"My mentor is always ready to support my decisions and always ready with a kind word. Thank you does not sum up my appreciation."
Eldar Uzicanin, Class of 2015, with his mentor, Andreas Winter



Kyler Garron, freshman at University of Missouri, with her mother, Tina Garron-Galbreath and her mentor, Ellen Cushing

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2013 – JULY 2014

COLLEGE ACCESS – FINDING A “GOOD FIT” SCHOOL

- Juniors took a five-week **ACT preparation** course.
- Scholars went on three **college visits** to schools representing a variety of campus experiences; this year we visited the University of Iowa, Augustana College, and Lawrence University.
- 20 of our 27 rising senior Scholars participated in **summer college programs** at schools across the country including Brown University, Loyola University, and the University of Missouri.
- We held eleven **workshops** on topics including applications and essays, financial aid, preparing for college, budgeting time and finances, health and wellness, and first-semester planning.

COLLEGE SUCCESS – A SUPPORT SYSTEM THROUGH THE COLLEGE YEARS

- Our **mentoring** program provides a structured, ongoing six-year relationship that supports students through all steps on the path to college graduation.
- **Community building events** bring Scholars, mentors, families, and staff together to develop the support system that will stay with Scholars through their college years.
 - Initiation Dinner; Holiday Reunion; Northwestern Basketball; Mentor Appreciation Dinner; Day of Community Service



“I look forward to the day that Evanston Scholars visits our campus every year. The students are so engaged, asking great questions and participating fully in everything from a college classroom setting to the campus tour. After they leave, I consistently hear from my colleagues how well-prepared students were for their interviews, and how thoughtful they were in their approach to the entire day. We often hold Evanston Scholars up as a model for how we would like to engage with other groups.”

– Emily Johnson,
Augustana College Associate
Director of Admissions

SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER COLLEGE

Thanks to a grant from the Evanston Community Foundation, in 2014, more Evanston Scholars than ever took advantage of summer pre-college programs. Rising high school seniors enrolled in college level courses taught by professors, lived in dorms, and had their **first taste of life as a college student** – a “practice run” for the experience awaiting them only one year away. Programs ranged in duration from several days to several weeks.



Brown University in Rhode Island was home to nine Evanston Scholars attending 2014 Summer Pre-College Programs.

“Summer college is at the heart of our transformative programming as Scholars transition from junior to senior year. Whether they are trying out a major at the University of Missouri, meeting fellow students from all over the world at Brown, or figuring out how to get on a plane and travel to Colorado State on their own, these are priceless college-readiness experiences.

The students return confident, knowledgeable, and ready to jump on their fall application process.”

– Nancy Baker, Evanston Scholars Program Director



A PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS: ANAMARIA ROSALES

As a high school junior, Anamaria had what on paper was the perfect profile of a college bound student. She worked hard, earned good grades, was on the cross-country team, and volunteered on TeamASAP, where she helped motivate underclassmen to take AP courses. Still, Anamaria did not believe she was truly college bound. No one in her family had

ever gone to college, and the thought of it seemed unrealistic – at most she thought she might enroll in a junior college.

When she joined Evanston Scholars, Anamaria’s inherent optimism was unleashed. With a new sense of determination, she went to work turning her high school successes into a future that included a college degree. She took advantage of every opportunity provided by Evanston Scholars: visiting colleges, revising her essays, taking and re-taking the ACT, and forming a close bond with her mentor. The summer before senior year, she traveled to Rhode Island to attend a summer college program at Brown University. By winter break, she had already applied to 11 colleges. Within Evanston Scholars, her optimism was contagious as she became known for wearing Hello Kitty, the color pink, and bows for good luck.

Anamaria is now a freshman with a proposed major in elementary education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her hard work and dedication earned her the President’s Award Scholarship – a full-tuition award. She reports, “My transition to college is going a lot better than expected! I’m so glad I chose U. of I.!”

SCHOLAR PROFILES



NIKKI WADE

“Evanston Scholars has helped me so much. I wouldn’t even know about Ball State if it weren’t for the Onsite Admissions Forum in 2012. ES has opened so many doors for me. A loving support system is what every student needs to succeed.

Thank you so much, ES!”

– Nikki Wade, sophomore at Ball State University



Class of 2014 Q&A with a multicultural student panel at Lawrence University



Scholars work in the Family Focus food pantry on the Day of Community Service



Class of 2015 on a campus tour of the University of Iowa

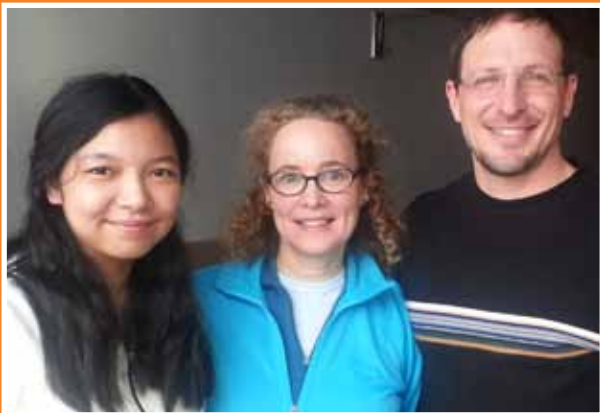
MENTORING

Every young person needs a support system...especially when it comes to succeeding in college. Evanston Scholars mentors provide a critical layer of support to our ambitious students, most of whom will be the first in their families to go to college.

Spanning the full six years of the Evanston Scholars program, the one-to-one mentor relationships provide the guidance Scholars need throughout their college journey. Supported by Evanston Scholars staff, mentors help their students apply for colleges, fill out the FAFSA student aid forms, research scholarship opportunities, and evaluate offers. Once in college, mentors provide additional emotional support to help Scholars adapt to college life and overcome obstacles as they arise.

Mikee Pagdanganan with her mentors, Catherine and David Cerra.

Catherine Cerra decided to become a mentor after experiencing the challenge of the college application process with her own children. "Getting my daughters through this process...doing all the research, and still having questions. What if you are from a different culture, speak a different language? I just felt I could pass along what I have been through with my kids. It's very rewarding, especially with someone like Mikee, who is so receptive to help."



Juan Villasenor with his mentor, Ian Laing.

After a year and a half of helping his mentee with the college application and selection process, Ian Laing looks forward to a long-term relationship with Juan, now a freshman at Amherst College. "Being a mentor to Juan has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. The best part about being a mentor was witnessing a young person with so much potential begin to grasp the opportunities available to him – all due to his hard work."



THANK YOU TO OUR MENTORS!

Kris Anderson
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FINANCIAL DATA

August 2013 – July 2014

INCOME

Individual Donations	\$137,906
Family Foundation Donations	\$73,000
Foundation Grants	\$138,533
Corporations	\$14,950
Other Income	\$6,288
Total Income	\$370,677

EXPENSES

Program Services and Scholarships	\$168,643
Management and General	\$28,200
Fundraising	\$3,532
Total Expenses	\$200,375



The Class of 2014 with, from left: Steve Newman, Nancy Baker, Caryn Summer, Corey Winchester, Laura Maloney, and Kay Israelite



JOIN US!

MAY 2015

EVANSTON SCHOLARS BENEFIT

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

**BECOME A MENTOR. DONATE.
TELL A FRIEND. VOLUNTEER.**

Evanston Scholars
1234 Sherman Avenue
Suite 214

Evanston, IL 60202

847.866.0252

www.evanstonscholars.org

info@evanstonscholars.org



**HELP AN EVANSTON STUDENT
ACHIEVE THEIR DREAM**



Most of our Scholars will be the first in their families to graduate from college. BECOME A MENTOR. DONATE. TELL A FRIEND. VOLUNTEER. Visit evanstonscholars.org or send an email to info@evanstonscholars.org

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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\$20,000+

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