



# EvanstonScholars



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT





# EvanstonScholars

Evanston Scholars is a non-profit organization that improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious Evanston students who are traditionally first-generation college entrants, low-income students, and students of color, starting with the college admissions process and continuing through college graduation.

## Dear Friends,



Nearly every week, we read articles in major news outlets asking, “Is a College Degree Worth It?” At Evanston Scholars, we maintain that a college degree is a powerful engine of social and economic mobility. In fact, recent studies indicate that by 2020, 65% of all jobs will require a postsecondary education. Yet, there’s a disturbing achievement gap – **only 11% of low-income, first-generation college students will have a college degree within six years of enrolling in school**, compared to around 55% of their more advantaged peers.

Graduating from college can provide numerous life-changing benefits for a young person. There are better opportunities to get a job, to make more money, and even to live a more satisfying and healthy life. As long as students avoid debilitating debt, it is almost always “worth it.” But, many low-income, first-generation, students of color face numerous obstacles to earning a college degree. And that’s where we come in. **Evanston Scholars works with Scholars and families to identify and mitigate barriers to college completion**, focusing on helping students find “good fit” schools that meet financial, social, and academic needs; become self-aware to adapt and grow; and develop tools to make successful transitions.

This past year, Evanston Scholars experienced extremely positive growth. We have seen Scholars maintain a strong college persistence rate (91%). **We have seen growth in our college graduation rate (83%)**. We have seen growth in the number of Scholars that we serve (nearly 250). And we have seen growth in our cohort size (at 40 students, the new Class of 2021 is our largest yet).

This growth is thanks to a consistent and wide network of guidance and support. Our donors, volunteers, partners, and community supporters are crucial to the services that we provide. Without you, the barriers to college access and success would be greater for our students, making the promises of a college degree further out of reach. Thank you.

**STEVE NEWMAN**  
Executive Director



**OLIVIER JACQUES**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE 2019  
Consumer Economics

*“I have put myself in a position to make all of my personal and financial goals come true. I could not have done it without the Evanston Scholars network being there every step of the way.”*



# 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

Remove barriers to college persistence and graduation through evidence-based programming and support services including:

### COLLEGE ACCESS

Hands-on assistance throughout the college selection and application process

### COLLEGE SUCCESS

Guidance and connections to strengthen Scholars' academic and experiential opportunities

### CAREER READINESS

Tools and experiences to improve readiness and access to careers

### MENTORING

Coaching and support through all stages of the college process

# Who We Serve

Each spring, Evanston Scholars selects qualified ETHS (Evanston Township High School) sophomores according to the following criteria:

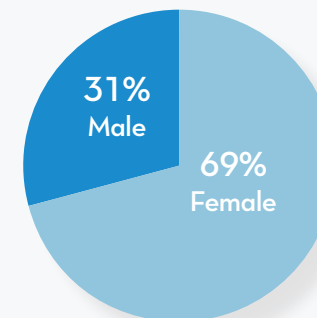
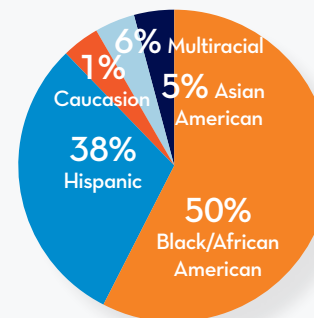
- First generation in their families to go to college
- Demonstrated need (qualify for free/reduced lunch)
- Academic potential (minimum 2.7 GPA)
- Students of color
- Demonstrated and emerging character and ambition

**122 COLLEGE SCHOLARS**

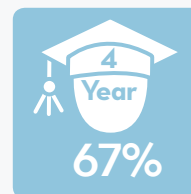
**76 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS**

**51 COLLEGE GRADS**

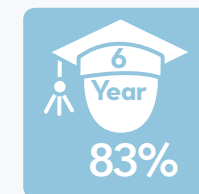
**249 STUDENTS SERVED**



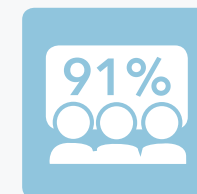
# Our Impact



Four-year graduation rate for our first four cohorts



Six-year graduation rate for our first two cohorts



College persistence rate (students who started college are still enrolled or have graduated)



# College Access

## STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE ACCESS

### Our Students:

- Identify “**good fit**” schools that meet their academic, social, and financial needs and build their college lists based on these criteria.
- Work to maximize their standardized **test scores** and high school **academics**, including formalized test preparation classes.
- Develop **self-awareness** of identity and personality type and take an interest and skills inventory.
- **Practice** communication, study skills, time management, and goal-setting.
- Engage in **meaningful summer** activities such as pre-college on-campus programs, internships, work, and volunteering.
- Learn about net **college costs**, relationships between grades and scholarships/financial aid, and outside scholarship opportunities.
- Receive **individualized counseling** with their families to complete **FAFSA** and make an in-depth, side-by-side comparison of financial aid awards from all colleges to which they were accepted.

## WHAT'S NEW

### Northlight Theatre Collaboration:

Northlight Theatre brought their customized Community Engagement program to Evanston Scholars, helping high school junior and senior Scholars step out of their comfort zones to explore topics including identity, networking, and self-care.

**College Partnerships:** Evanston Scholars launched a new partnership with Temple University’s pre-college summer program. College partnerships can include financial commitments, individualized counseling, and peer support for our Scholars to help them succeed on campus. Existing formal partners include Lawrence University and Valparaiso University.



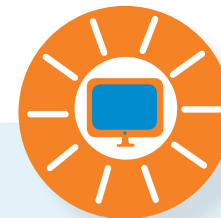
COLLEGE  
ACCESS  
2018-19

Highlights



### COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES

The Class of 2019 completed **276 college** applications. Scholars were accepted to on average **6.5 out of 10** colleges they applied to and have enrolled at 18 different colleges and universities across the country.



### SUMMER PROGRAMS

Nearly 60% of junior Scholars attended a **pre-college program** before starting their senior year. Campus-based programs included **Brown University, Boston University,** and **Northwestern University.** Scholars also traveled abroad with the **Global Glimpse** and **CIEE Cultural Exchange** programs.



## Scholar Profile

**DANIEL PATINO**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA- CHAMPAIGN  
SOPHOMORE  
Majors: Supply Chain Management,  
Information Systems

“I joined Evanston Scholars so I could be set on the right path to college. As a first-generation college student, I didn’t know anything about the process of applying to college. I had never actually pictured myself going to college. Evanston Scholars helped me in every way possible, education-wise and much more. They are the reason I have become so invested in my education. Without them I wouldn’t have had the drive to turn my grades around in the final two years of my high school career. I went from a B/C student to a straight A student and I thank them for their endless support.

Being the first one to graduate from college in my family serves as fuel to work harder and harder each day. I am not only representing me, but I am representing my family in this college journey of mine.”

## Class of 2019



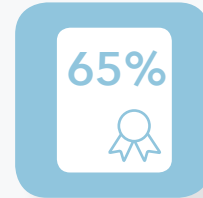
Average SAT  
point increase  
after test  
prep classes



Average  
ACT point  
increase  
after test  
prep classes



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



### DAY OF SERVICE

Junior and senior Scholars participated in a Day of Service, supporting local community organizations including **Rice Child + Family Center, Family Focus,** and the **Evanston Art Center.**



### COLLEGE VISITS

Students went on college visits to schools representing a variety of campus experiences; this year we visited **University of Wisconsin–Madison, Western Michigan University,** and **Kalamazoo College.**



### WORKSHOPS

Evanston Scholars held **9 workshops** on topics including college affordability and financial aid, college essay writing, preparing for college, self-assessment, and academic identity development.



# College Success

## STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

### Our Students:

- Prepare for the **transition** to college. Workshops throughout high school prepare students for the college transition; each student receives an in-depth college launch meeting with staff prior to heading to campus; students are connected to peers on campus prior to arrival; students learn self-care strategies.
- Receive **academic guidance** throughout the year. Students receive assistance navigating course selection, loan counseling, and deadlines; students' accumulated college credits are reviewed each semester to monitor progress towards graduation with the goal of "**Finish in Four.**"
- Utilize **campus resources** to create connections. Students identify campus resources for tutoring, writing centers, advising, counseling, and multicultural centers.
- Learn through **experiential** programs. Real-world and classroom learning intersect when our students study abroad, conduct research, and assume leadership positions in a broad range of organizations.

## WHAT'S NEW

### Fresh Start and ProB Programs

**Fresh Start** targets rising college freshmen who could benefit from extra support during the transition to college and includes individual meetings, writing assignments, and readings throughout their freshman year. **ProB** supports College Scholars who experience a significant GPA drop and includes self-reflection and planning to help Scholars get back on track.

### Expanded Focus on Emotional Well-being

The transition to college can be an incredibly stressful time, especially for first-generation and low-income students who face financial hardship and can feel isolated on predominantly white campuses. Evanston Scholars has expanded our focus on emotional well-being to include targeted workshops, referrals to mental health providers and community resources, teaching self-care techniques, connections to campus counseling centers, and training and tips for parents and mentors on how to support their Scholars.



COLLEGE SUCCESS  
2018-19

# Highlights



### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Evanston Scholars **Circle of Honor** acknowledged Scholars who earn a 3.0+ GPA, and **Freshman Challenge** acknowledged freshmen whose second semester GPA's are higher than their first.



### ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

Students received **College Scholar News**, a bi-weekly bulletin with study tips, scholarships, jobs, and news about other Scholars. A **group texting** service allowed instant mass communication of important reminders and information.



# Scholar Profile

**KYLER GARRON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE 2019**  
**Human Development and Family Science**

“Without Evanston Scholars, I honestly would not have had the support team I needed to get through college. I didn’t know how to ‘do’ college correctly until my 5th semester. I had to take the time to explore different learning techniques and figure out what works best for me, not anyone else.

Evanston Scholars was always there to help me find my way. They encouraged me to take on new opportunities. They let me know they would have my back in any decision I made, and encouraged me to invest in my emotional well-being.

I’m a very driven person and the Evanston Scholars PERRC [Persistence, Engagement, Resourcefulness, Responsibility, and Connectedness] standards helped me hold myself to a higher standard and expect more out of myself. It is amazing what you can do when you erase the limits that you have subconsciously set. Not only was Evanston Scholars helpful in college, but also in life.”

## Evanston Scholars are enrolled at:

- Amherst College
- Arrupe College
- Augustana College (2)
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Beloit College
- Bowling Green State University
- Bradley University (5)
- Carleton College
- Columbia College Chicago
- Columbia University
- Denison University
- DePaul University (4)
- Dominican University (3)
- Eastern Illinois University (2)
- Elon University
- Hope College
- Illinois Institute of Technology (2)
- Illinois State University (2)
- Jackson State University
- Kent State University at Kent
- Knox College (2)
- Lake Forest College (5)
- Lawrence University (2)
- Lehigh University
- Loras College
- Marquette University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Millikin University
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University (3)
- Northwestern University (2)
- Oakton Community College (6)
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Purdue University-Calumet Campus
- Ripon College
- Santa Clara University
- Sewanee-The University of the South
- Southern Illinois University
- St. Olaf College
- St. Louis University
- University of Illinois at Chicago (7)
- University of Illinois at Springfield (3)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (31)
- University of Missouri (3)
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Redlands
- University of Southern California
- University of Wisconsin-Madison (3)
- Valparaiso University (3)
- Washington University in St. Louis (3)
- Wellesley College
- Western Illinois University (2)
- Western Michigan University (9)
- Wheaton College
- Xavier University



### PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

**Campus Peer Leaders** on six campuses helped freshmen navigate their first year of college. Scholars shared experiences and college success strategies at **panels and workshops** over winter, spring, and summer breaks.



### BOOK STIPENDS

College Scholars received a book stipend to offset textbook costs, paid out three times per year.



### EMERGENCY FUNDS

Scholars received funds when needed to cover tuition, housing, or other essentials needed to **stay in school**.



### SUMMER SCHOOL SUPPORT

Scholars received financial support to allay the cost of **summer school** and other summer enrichment opportunities.



# Career Readiness

## STRATEGIES FOR CAREER READINESS:

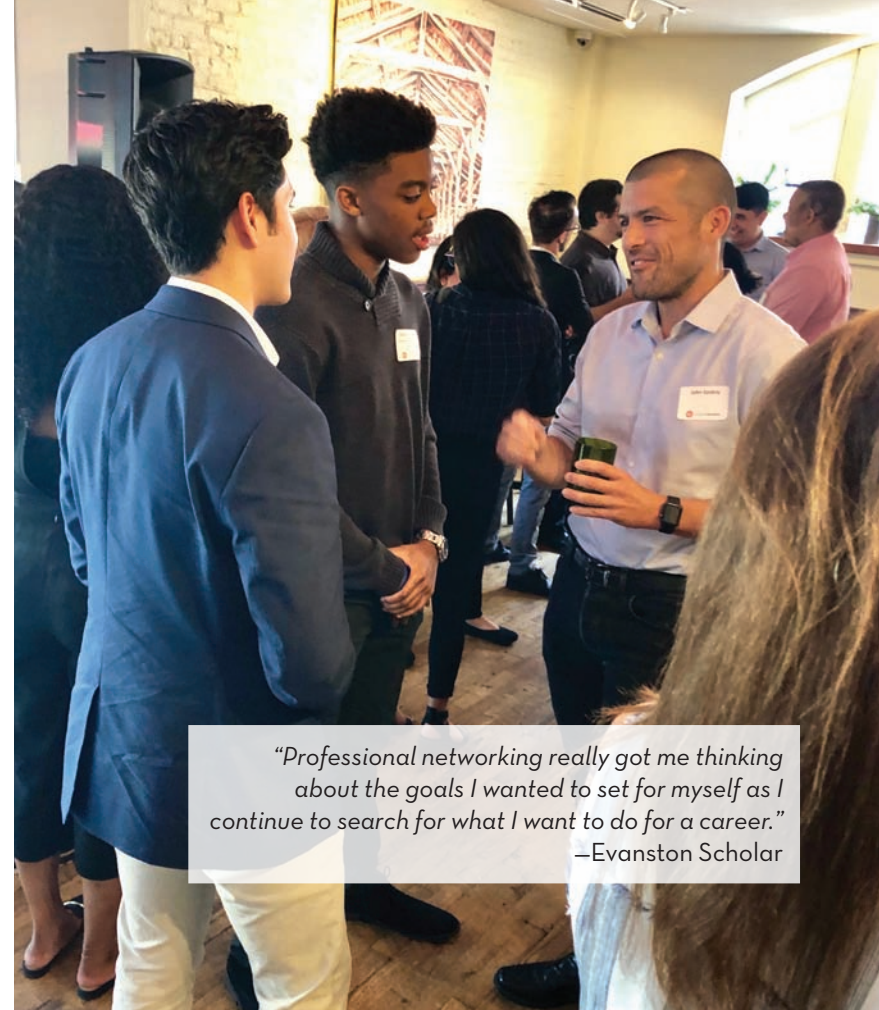
### Our Students:

- Gain **experience and connections** in their intended field, making them more attractive to future employers and more likely to be employed in their chosen field within one year of graduation.
- Explore their **academic identities** and identify strengths, interests, and potential careers.
- **Network and develop relationships** in their chosen fields of interest to share and maximize opportunities.
- Meet one-to-one and in groups to **build resumes, develop interview skills, and define career paths.**

### CAREER READINESS STEERING COMMITTEE

Rick Bald, Nancy Bennett, Leslie Coronel\*, Katie Dealy\*, Eric Dortch, Sheryl Fyock, Steve Galler\*, Susan Gallun, Linda Harvey, Matt Jenkins, Carol Lind\*, Camila Marquez, Bryant Wallace, Chris Ward\*

\* Board Member



*“Professional networking really got me thinking about the goals I wanted to set for myself as I continue to search for what I want to do for a career.”*  
—Evanston Scholar

CAREER  
READINESS  
2018-19  
**Highlights**



### CORPORATE & CAREER PARTNERSHIPS

Eight partners worked with Evanston Scholars to provide learning opportunities and career access, including our Silver Partners **MEDLINE INDUSTRIES, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, and CIBC.**



### “STRONG” JOB

68% of alumni are in a “strong job” (requires a bachelor’s degree, is full-time, and meets other criteria for salary, benefits, and career path) or in graduate school within 6 months of graduation.





- 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**  
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Andrea Guy
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Nancy Cardenas
- Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator**  
Emily Berlinghof
- Business Coordinator**  
Becca Nolan

*Note: Thank you to outgoing staff member Caryn Summer for her years of service.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2018-2019**

- Melissa Denton, President
- Katie Dealy, Vice President
- Dan Kanter, Treasurer
- Mary Finnegan, Secretary
- Elizabeth Bald
- Lander Brown
- David Chan
- Leslie Coronel
- Steve Galler
- Gilberto Herrejon
- Tammy Johnson
- Carol Lind
- Ismalis Nuñez
- Chris Ward

*Welcome to Incoming 2019-2020  
Board Member Nina Uziel-Miller*



*“As an incoming [college] senior, Evanston Scholars helped me refresh my ambition and focus on what I should be doing to prepare myself for the next step.”*  
—Evanston Scholar



**CORPORATE VISITS**

Students toured offices and interacted with employees at Google, Morningstar, Medline Industries, and AbbVie to learn about industries and career paths.



**PERSONAL BRANDING  
WORKSHOP**

Students received one-to-one guidance on resumes and LinkedIn profiles; 80% of students have an updated, Evanston Scholars-approved resume.



**SUMMER INTERNSHIPS**

14 College Scholars were employed in summer internships facilitated through Evanston Scholars connections.



# Mentoring

## EVANSTON SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM

*"It has been a privilege to be part of this journey with her."* –Evanston Scholars Mentor

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 one-to-one. Evanston Scholars equips mentors with skills, tools, and supports that in turn enable them to support Scholars on their journey towards College Success.

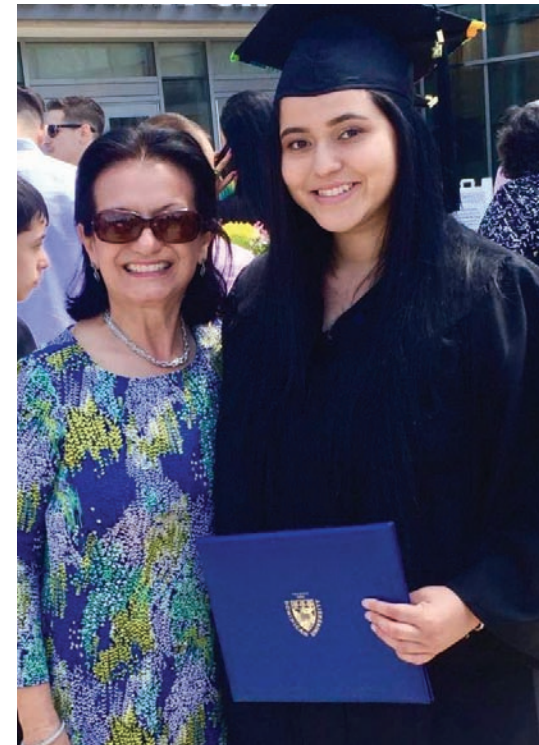
At Evanston Scholars, our goal is to see more students start AND finish college. Through mentors, peer relationships, and learning opportunities, **we seek to bolster our Scholars' support systems, thereby improving their chances of obtaining a college degree.** Our Scholars are succeeding in college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

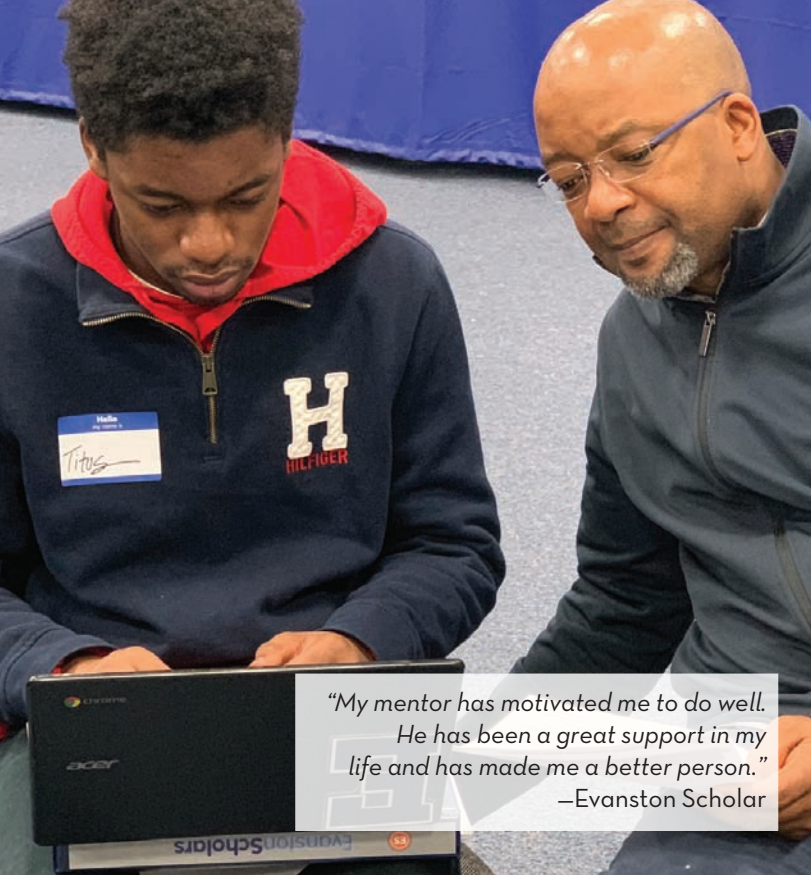


*"My mentor is a real-life example of someone with a degree who I can relate to."*  
–Evanston Scholar

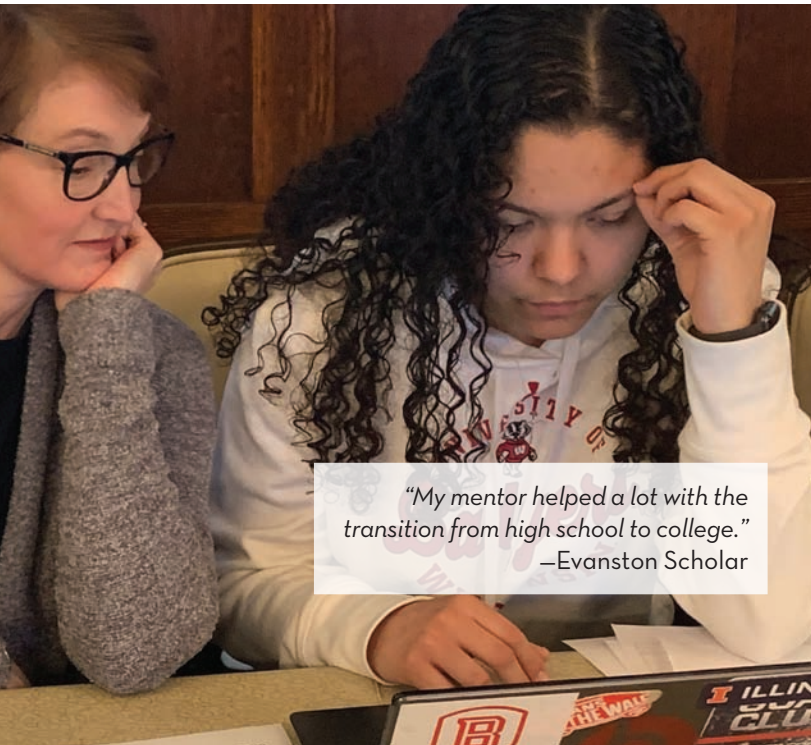


FINANCIAL DATA	
AUGUST 2018 - JULY 2019	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Individual Donations	331,610
Events	290,262
Family Foundation Donations	186,500
Foundation Grants	44,095
Corporations	22,606
Other Income	22,208
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$897,281</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Program Services and Scholarships	663,802
Management and General	84,851
Fundraising	37,921
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$786,574</b>





*"My mentor has motivated me to do well. He has been a great support in my life and has made me a better person."*  
 –Evanston Scholar



*"My mentor helped a lot with the transition from high school to college."*  
 –Evanston Scholar

# Thank You to Our Mentors



Kris Anderson, Liane Anderson, Patricia Avila, Betsy Banks, David Bennett, Anne Berkeley, Emily Berlinghof, Derrick Blakley, Julie Bordo, Catherine Bourke, Laura Boylan, Katie Brady, Megan Brady, Mary Brennan, Cathy Brubaker, Betsi Burns, Judy Callans, Brenda Campbell, Fernando Campos, David Cerra, Ray Coleman, Rebecca Collora, Thomas Conley, Llyoandra Cooper, Jim Cousineau, Dan Cox, Mary Beth Cox, Debbie Crimmins, Ellen Cushing, **Khadijah Davis**, Salvatore Di Bernardo, Katherine Dong, Eric Dortch\*\*, Julie Doyle, Laura Egerter, Sabrina Ehmke, Pam Eisfelder, Margie Falter, Marcelo Ferrer, Carl Finamore, Mary Finnegan, Erin Formiller, Carmen Francellno, Jocelyn Francoeur, Ellen Frank-Miller, Djuwana Frazier, Donna Frett, Jared Frye, Sheryl Fyock, Bill Gaul, Jill Gerber, Edwin Getz, Michael Girard, Allison Gordon, Candice Green, Kathleen Hagerty, Jackie Haimes, Pat Harrigan, Rick Hemwall, Lisa Henkemeyer, Carly Herrera, J.J. Hill, Kristin Hill, Beth Hirshman, Timothy Holbrook, Jessica Horwitz, Heath Howe, Elizabeth Hubbard, Joel Huerta, Matthew Hunter, IB Ikene, Dan Israelite, Kay Israelite, Cory Jackson, Sabrina Jaromin, Tanya Jenkins\*\*, Ed Job, Laurel Johnson, Steven Johnson, Tammytha Johnson, Michelle Judon, Dan Kanter, Wendy Kaplan, Divya Kathuria, John Kennedy, Jason Keyser, Todd Kihm, Soo La Kim, Mike Klearman, Teresa Klier, Amy Knepper, Vanessa Kovachy, Becky Kremin, Ian Laing, Sarah Laing, Sara Later, Michael Laughlin, Katherine Lauterbach, Julie Levine, Craig Long, Erik Long, Michele Lutz, David Mack, Gwen Macsai, Tania Margonza, Camila Marquez\*\*, Emeric Mazibuko, Ganae McAlpin-Toney, Karen McCormick, Therese McGuire, Pete McNamara, Beth Miles, Jason Miles, Leslie Miles, Mark Miller, Jodi Morton, Ellen Muench, Sarah Muir Ferrer, Brian Murphy, Steve Murtos, Kate Newman, Emily Nidenberg, Stephanie Oettinger\*\*, Ebele Onyema, Chaka Patterson, Michael Pfeifer, Robert Porter, Danny Profit, Tracy Quattrocki, Julie Rapisarda, Joey Reiff, Robin Remich\*\*, Emily Render, Michele Rogers, **Anamaria Rosales**, Judy Royal, Gail Rubin, Blanca Ruiz, Paola Ruocco, Saralyn Sacks, Paola Sapienza, Dave Schoenfeld, Paul Selden, Mark Severin\*\*, Julie Shufro, Max Shure, Christopher Siebert, Jeff Simon, Sadia Sindhu, Adriane Slaton, Bill Springer, Meredith Stevens, Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Erica Suennen, Pam Swales, Pamela Swenson, David Taylor, Deborah Thorne, Pam Tingley\*\*, Marcy Toney, Kris Uhler, Cindy Ulrich, Karen Van Ausdal, Anne Viner, Jon Viner, Margarita Vizcarra, Sachin Waikar, Chris Ward, Nancy Williams, **Sarah Williams**, Gavin Wilson, Corey Winchester, Andreas Winter, Juleya Woodson, Keith Woodson, Jasmine Wright\*\*, Carol Yohanan, Ann Zastrow, Reena Zigelman

## Welcome Class of 2021 Mentors

Jeni Alcakovic, Pam Allen, Dina Berger Koecher, Derrick Blakely, Shannon Cahill, Rachel Chiss, Mary Clark, Ellen Cushing, Alexis Dillon, Anne Eaton, Laura Egeter, Tim Flood, Marya Frankel, Sam Goldsmith, Debra Hill, Christopher James, Christina Kelly, Joe Kupresanin, Karen Larson, Jeff Libman, Debbie Linder, Jonathan Lustig, David Mack, Mary Miller, Damali Mills, Adam Newman, Doug Nickles, Heather Perkins, Eugene Perkins, Jean Petrick, Em Roth, Kathy Ruhl, Kevin Russell, Julia Sagraves, Linda Schneider, John Schroeder, Matt Sommer, Anja Spruston, Andrea Urdangen, Kristen Watson

Names in **bold** are Evanston Scholars college graduates

\*\* indicates member of Mentor Steering Committee

# Thank You to Our Donors

Donations received August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019

## \$25,000+

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Sheldon Zenner and Ellen Morgan\*

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