

EvanstonScholars

2015-2016 Annual Report





EVANSTON SCHOLARS

is a non-profit organization that helps first-generation and low-income Evanston students succeed in college.

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 test preparation by a reputable tutoring firm
- Provide mentoring and coaching throughout college to increase persistence and completion

WHO WE SERVE

ETHS (Evanston Township High School) juniors through college seniors with:

- 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 VISION

More Evanston youth with college degrees, experiencing economic stability, and becoming mentors to the next generation of prospective college students.

MAKE AN IMPACT



EVANSTON SCHOLARS PILLARS OF SUCCESS

OUR PILLARS REPRESENT THE ATTRIBUTES OUR SCHOLARS BOTH EMBODY AND STRIVE FOR EVERY DAY.

EVANSTON SCHOLARS ARE CURRENTLY **ENROLLED AT**

Amherst College Augustana College (3) **Baldwin Wallace University Ball State University Barry University Boston College** Bowling Green State University Colgate University Colorado College **Denison University** DePaul University (2) Dominican University (3) Eastern Illinois University **Elon University** Grinnell College Hampton University Hope College **Howard University**

Illinois State University Illinois Wesleyan University **IU-PU Indianapolis** Kent State University (3) Knox College (2) Lake Forest College (3) Lewis University Marist College Milliken University Morgan State University Northern Illinois University (3) Northwestern University Oakton Community College (3) Ohio Wesleyan University Purdue University Calumet Ripon College Sewanee -The University of the South

St. Louis University St. Olaf College University of Dayton University of Illinois at Chicago University of Illinois Springfield (2) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (16) University of Iowa (2) University of Minnesota University of Missouri (3) University of Pennsylvania University of Southern California Vanderbilt University University of Wisconsin-Madison Washington University in St. Louis Wellesley College Western Illinois University (2)

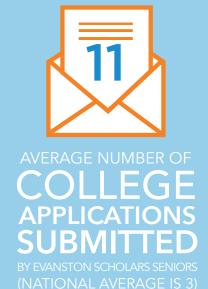








AVERAGE INCREASE IN ACT SCORE FOLLOWING THE ACT PREPARATION COURSE FOR CLASS OF 2016









95% EVANSTON SCHOLARS WHO STARTED COLLEGE ARE

(NATIONALLY, THE GRADUATION RATE FOR **FIRST-GENERATION** & LOW-INCOME STUDENTS IS 11%)

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

FINDING A "GOOD FIT" SCHOOL - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS/ACCEPTANCES:

The Class of 2016 submitted 301 college applications. Scholars were accepted to 7 out of 10 colleges on average.

COLLEGE VISITS: Students went on college visits to schools representing a variety of campus experiences; this year we visited the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Augustana College, and Lawrence University.



ACT PREPARATION: Juniors completed a nine-week ACT prep course and realized gains of more than three points on average.

SUMMER COLLEGE PROGRAMS: 27 of our 33 rising senior Scholars participated in summer college programs at schools across the country including Brown University, the University of Texas at Austin, Colorado State University, and Boston University.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Juniors and seniors performed community service throughout the year, supporting local community organizations including the Evanston School Children's Clothing Association (ESCCA), the Rice Child and Family Center, the Orrington School Carnival, and the Ebenezer Primm Towers.

WORKSHOPS: Evanston Scholars held fourteen workshops on topics including summer college opportunities, resume development, college search, applications and essays, mock interviews, college affordability and financial aid, preparing for college, budgeting time and finances, health and wellness, and first semester planning.





Day of Service - Senior Scholar
Malcolm Gill reflecting on his Day of Service
"I met a wonderful, strong, bold, and
gorgeous woman named Victoria. The stories she
shared with me left me breathless. When she asked
what my dreams were, she cried because she didn'
have a choice when she was younger. It brought me
to tears because the generation I live in say they
don't know what they'll do in the future. For he
sake I promise to graduate and pursue my dreams in
honor for her and myself.'



MAKE IT THROUGH COLLEGE

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

SUPPORT THROUGH THE COLLEGE YEARS - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDANCE: College Scholars, their families, and Mentors received guidance throughout the year via in-person meetings, phone calls, texts, and emails from the Evanston Scholars College Success team. Topics included improving academic performance, choosing the right classes and major, getting involved on campus, seeking help when needed, finding and renewing financial assistance, securing internships, and planning for a career.

TUESDAYS IN JULY SERIES: College Scholars met with experts in financial aid, academic success, and personal responsibility over four evening sessions this summer. The dinner meetings allowed Scholars to ask questions, gain helpful information, share experiences, and foster connections.



CIRCLE OF HONOR: College Scholars who earn a semester GPA of 3.0 or better are recognized in our equivalent of the Dean's List, the Evanston Scholars Circle of Honor.

PEER MENTORING: Each college freshman is connected with a Peer Mentor who provides an additional level of support during the first year of college. Peer Mentors are current Evanston Scholars College Scholars who connect with their mentees either electronically or in-person if they attend the same college. Peer Mentors lend an ear to their fellow Evanston Scholar and provide tips on study skills, dealing with homesickness, and adjusting to campus life.

NOTES AND GOODIES FROM HOME: With the help of parents and Mentors, care packages containing homemade cookies, candy, a few comfort items, and personal notes from home were mailed to all College Scholars.

WINTER BREAK LUNCHEON: The annual gathering of College Scholars took on a new dimension this year with the inclusion of a career

"Evanston Scholars prepares talented resilient and accomplished young people for success in college and beyond through the commitment to excellence, individualize mentoring, and support for students to reach their full potential.

Sara Cohen, Assistant Dean of Admission at Amherst College.

component. Following the luncheon and social gathering, Scholars separated into small groups for "speed networking" appointments with young professionals in law, medicine, information technology, finance, social work, engineering, insurance, higher education, and administration.

COLLEGE POWER WORKSHOPS: Rising freshman College Scholars attended workshops to promote their college success. Discussions centered around the application of the Evanston Scholars Pillars of Success in college (Persistent, Engaged, Responsible, Resourceful, Connected). Topics also included mental health and counseling services, college course selection, and budgeting. Additionally, rising freshmen were paired with current College Scholars to discuss campus climate, academic excellence, financial literacy, and making connections on campus.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MENTORING PROGRAM

MENTORS FORM THE BACKBONE OF THE EVANSTON SCHOLARS SUPPORT SYSTEM

Spanning the full six years of the Evanston Scholars program, the one-to-one Mentor relationship provides the guidance every Scholar needs throughout his or her college journey. Supported by Evanston Scholars staff, Mentors help their students apply to colleges, fill out the FAFSA financial 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.



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 passionate staff, dedicated Mentors and parents, committed donors, and numerous volunteers continue to grow and strengthen our organization. Our Scholars are succeeding in college and mentoring their younger siblings and friends along the way. It truly does take a village.

Being an Evanston Scholar means I have people constantly there that I can turn to for help, and who make sure I stay on top of tasks and deadlines for great opportunities."

-Evanston Scholar



"I have found this volunteer experience tremendously rewarding. There is nothing more important than education in my mind. Helping to launch my mentee on this journey is very gratifying. Watching all of the hard work she has put into the process has been amazing..."



now that, no matter what, I will always ave a constant support system to lean on when times get tough." "It has been a wonderful experience and the team goes above and beyond, excellent program. I learned a lot and my daughter was able to stay on task with the college process."

-Evanston Scholar Parent



FINANCIAL DATA

AUGUST 2015 - JULY 2016

INCOME	
Individual Donations	315,534
Events	184,545
Family Foundation Donations	158,000
Foundation Grants	139,825
Corporations	14,738
Other Income	5,030
Total Income	\$817,672
EXPENSES	

Program Services and Scholarships

General and Administrative

Fundraising

414,817

64,738

42,524

Total Expenses

\$522,079



OUR MENTORS

\$25,000+

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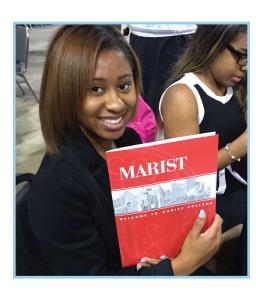
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