



EvanstonScholars

MAKE IT HAPPEN!



2014-2015 Annual Report



EVANSTON SCHOLARS

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



"I got in!"

At the Onsite Admissions Forum, Scholar Xhavier Hilliard shares the good news with his Mom



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

Help more Evanston youth earn a college degree, experience economic stability, and become mentors to the next generation of prospective college students.



EVANSTON SCHOLARS PILLARS OF SUCCESS:

Our Pillars represent the attributes our Scholars both embody and strive for every day.



Director of College Success Eve Earles leads Scholars in discussions about the college experience

3.0

Average increase in ACT score following the ACT preparation course for the class of 2015

50%

2015 graduates receiving full tuition scholarships

9.4

Average number of college applications submitted by Evanston Scholars seniors (national average is 3)

94%

Evanston Scholars who started college are still enrolled (nationally, the graduation rate for first-generation and low-income students is 11%)



Circle of Honor for College Scholars (3.0+ GPA)

MAKE
AN
IMPACT

EVANSTON SCHOLARS ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT:

Amherst College
Augustana College Ball State University Barry University Boston College Bowling Green State University Colgate University Colorado College DePaul University Dominican University Elon University Grinnell College Hampton University Hope College Howard University Illinois State University Illinois Wesleyan University Indiana University Kent State University Knox College Lake Forest College Lewis University Manhattanville College Marist College Marquette University Milliken University Morgan State University Northeastern Illinois University Northern Illinois University Oakton Community College Purdue University-Calumet Ripon College St. Olaf College Triton College University of Dayton University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign University of Iowa University of Minnesota University of Missouri University of Pennsylvania Vanderbilt University Wellesley College Western Illinois University



MAKE
IT TO
COLLEGE

Scholar Erick Balthazar studies college essay tips at the College Application Workshop



College Scholar Anamaria Rosales (second from left) shows off the University of Illinois campus to newly admitted Scholars (from left) Naomi Jones, Guadalupe Herrera, and Nick Halman

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

FINDING A "GOOD FIT" SCHOOL - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2014-2015

ACT PREPARATION:

Juniors completed a seven-week ACT prep course.

DAY OF SERVICE:

Juniors and seniors participated in a DAY OF SERVICE, supporting local community organizations including the Rice Child and Family Center and the Family Focus food pantry and clothes closet.

COLLEGE VISITS:

Students went on college visits to schools representing a variety of campus experiences; this year we visited Augustana College, the University of Iowa, and Hope College.

SUMMER COLLEGE PROGRAMS:

27 of our 29 rising senior Scholars participated in summer college programs at schools across the country including Brown University, Dartmouth College, the University of Michigan, and Indiana University.

WORKSHOPS:

Evanston Scholars 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.



Amherst College Scholar Leslie Coronel on study abroad in India



Scholar Khadijah Davis on her Sony/RCA internship while at Manhattanville College:

"Don't put limitations on the things you can do. Just keep trying. If you had asked me last year, did I think I could be working at Sony? I couldn't have imagined it."

MAKE
IT THROUGH
COLLEGE

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

SUPPORT THROUGH THE COLLEGE YEARS - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2014-2015

COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDANCE:

The College Success team regularly communicated with Scholars, families, and Mentors about 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:

Scholars were invited to meet with experts in financial aid, academic success, and personal responsibility. These dinner meetings allowed Scholars to ask questions, gain helpful information, share experiences, and foster connections.

CIRCLE OF HONOR:

Each semester, we recognized Scholars who earned a GPA of 3.0+ by naming them to the Circle of Honor, our equivalent of the Dean's List.

COLLEGE SCHOLAR MENTOR:

College Scholars gave back by meeting with high school Scholars over winter and spring breaks, in workshops and informal gatherings, to answer questions and share their own experiences with college 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.

\$101K

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

100%

Graduating high school Senior Scholars who matriculate into college the following fall



Scholar Jada Marriott with her Mentor, Emily Nidenberg



Scholar Dante Hart and his Mentor, Chris Moore

MENTORING PROGRAM

MENTORS FORM THE BACKBONE OF THE EVANSTON SCHOLARS SUPPORT SYSTEM

"Mentoring for Evanston Scholars is a wonderful, nurturing, fulfilling experience. The amount of support that is generated between staff, parents, other mentors, and the Scholars themselves is inspiring."

—Evanston Scholars Mentor

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.

155

Number of Evanston Scholars volunteers, including 121 Mentors

Kris Anderson Liane Anderson Betsy Banks Randi Bellios Emily
Denise Clarke Kourtney Cockrell Ray Coleman Mark Collins
Sabrina Ehmke Margie Falter Sheila Fenn Marcelo Ferrer and
Schoenfeld Kelli and Bill Handel Robin Harkness Patrick Harri
Mike Klearman and Saralyn Sacks Teresa Klier Becky Kremin
Mark Miller Michael Miro Chris Moore Stacey Moragne El
Emily Render Judy Royal Paola Sapienza Erika Seaver Paul S
Jonathan Webb Evan Westerfield Fran Wiechart Kye Wilson



"So many people within Evanston Scholars – her Mentor, the staff – all helped her to get this far. She's learning about time management and stress management. I know it takes hard work, but if you try, life can be so much different. It is so wonderful to see her blossom."
Vivienne Gayle-Witter with her daughter, Scholar Stephanie Austin

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

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.

FINANCIAL DATA 2014-2015

INCOME

Individual Donations	\$134,212
Events	\$200,725
Family Foundation Donations	\$102,500
Foundation Grants	\$ 38,564
Corporations	\$ 13,768
Other Income	\$ 7,922
Total Income	\$497,691

EXPENSES

Program Services and Scholarships	\$253,107
Management and General	\$ 83,946
Fundraising	\$ 27,315
Total Expenses	\$364,368

ly Berlinghof Derek Blakely Patty Bloomfield Julie Bordo Megan Brady Mary Brennan Fernando Campos Elvira Carrizal-Dukes Catherine and David Cerra Julie Chernoff
Rebecca Collora Debbie Crimmins Ann Cuniff Ellen Cushing Pam Cytrynbaum Gail Dallas Deborah Danson Margie Schaps and Jack Doppelt Evelyn Dorman Laura Egerter
Sarah Muir Ferrer Carl Finamore Mary Finnegan Donna Frett Andrea Friedman and Osvaldo Valenzuela Pamela Gady Bill Gaul Vince Gerasole Candice Green and David
gan Carly Herrera-Finn Phuong Le and Andy Holstine Matthew Hunter Dan and Kay Israelite Sanjuana Jaime Dan and Suzanne Kanter John Kennedy Gyata Kimmons
Elizabeth Krupkin Ian and Sarah Laing Kacki Lauterbach Julie Levine Gilokwesi (Gilo) Logan David Mack Laura Maloney Emeric Mazibuko Beth Miles Gary Miller
en Morgan and Sheldon Zenner Ellen Muench Andy Mynard Emily Nidenberg Ebele Onyema Nicole Parker Chaka Patterson David Phillips Julie Rapisarda Robin Remich
elden Holly Smith Jennifer Steans and Jim Kastenholz Marcia Mead Stillerman Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar Erica Suennen Kris Uhler George Varela Anne Viner Maudette Watley
Corey Winchester Chris Winslow Andreas Winter Carol Yohanan Ann Zastrow Liliana Zecker

EvanstonScholars

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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Caryn Summer

MENTOR AND PARENT COORDINATOR

Laura Maloney

SUPER VOLUNTEERS

Liane Anderson, Linda Harvey, Suzanne Kanter, Conor Klamann



"To be honest, at first I didn't think college was possible. But with help from all the other Scholars, my Mentor, and the ES staff, it became possible. If not for this amazing team, I would have fallen off the track a while back."
Evanston Scholar Jonathan Martinez, Northern Illinois University

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

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