



EvanstonScholars

Annual Report 2021-2022



EvanstonScholars

Evanston Scholars improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious Evanston youth who are first-generation college entrants, students from low-income families, and students of color, starting with the college admissions process, continuing through college graduation, and into a career.

Dear Friends,

Building Bridges. That is the core of what we do. Since our inception, we have focused on connecting young people to other people, experiences, and opportunities. This past year, we continued to build bridges – so important after prolonged isolation. This past year, we built a bridge for a record number of students (48) to join our program as our newest high school cohort. And this past year, we expanded our services to provide support to over 360 Scholars in our high school, college, and alumni cohorts.

We've connected Scholars and their families with each other, with mentors, with our partners, and with high-impact opportunities and resources. Those bridges have led to finding good fit schools for greater probability of college success, overcoming stressful barriers to persist towards college completion, and launching into a successful career.

We are proud that 80% of our Scholars are graduating college within 6 years (**roughly 7x the national average** for students with similar demographics) – successful numbers that illustrate the power of our network coming together.

Looking ahead, we are focused on executing our new strategic plan for 2022-2024. Our main strategic initiatives include: 1) increasing our cohort sizes to serve more Evanston youth; 2) significantly expanding essential programmatic support to ensure college success and career launch; 3) deepening our commitment to the centrality of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) in our work; and 4) building an enduring organization.

Thank you for being part of the robust network that has allowed us to not only survive, but thrive. And thank you for helping us to continue to build more bridges to more opportunities so our Scholars can continue to move forward.

Sincerely,

Steve Newman, Executive Director

Katie Dealy, President, Board of Directors





Our Vision

We want every qualified Evanston Township High School student with the desire to earn a college degree to attend college, graduate, and obtain a strong career, thereby creating a more just and prosperous Evanston.

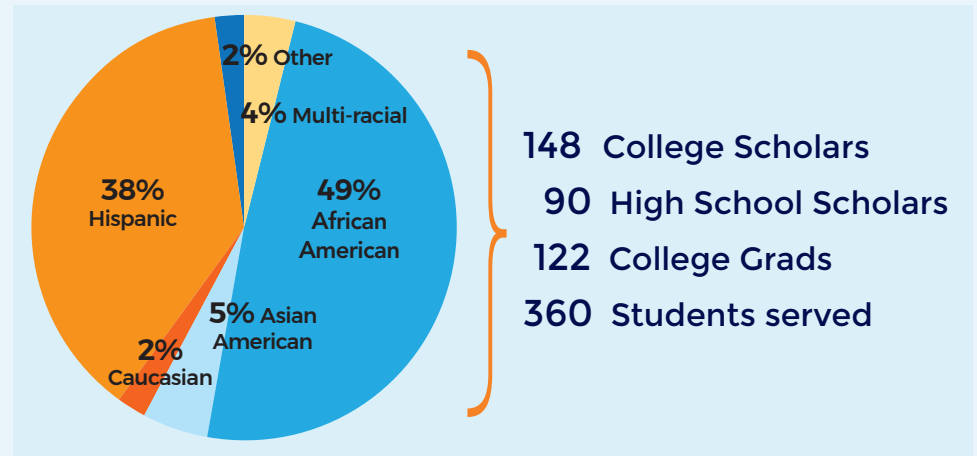
What We Do

Evanston Scholars provides a comprehensive, six-year program that guides students through the college admission process, supports them to persist through college graduation, and connects them to professional networks and strong opportunities after college.

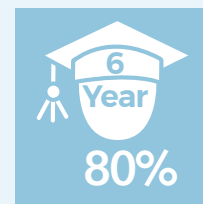


Who We Serve

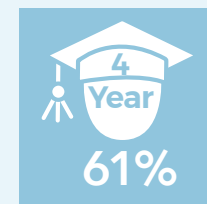
- Academically ambitious Evanston students with a minimum 2.7 unweighted GPA
- First-generation college entrants
- Students of color
- Students from families that earn low incomes



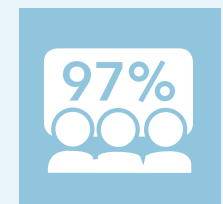
Our Impact



Six-year
graduation
rate



Four-year
graduation
rate



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

“Evanston Scholars has made me realize that no matter who you are, you can make it happen.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*

“It was an amazing experience being part of a beautiful program and family.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*



Book Stipends

Ms. Demisha Lee



“Evanston Scholars is definitely a very great community that wants to see you succeed and will help you get there.”

— *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*

“It was nice to know we had people back home advocating for us to succeed.”

— *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*

College Access

Scholars enter our College Access program in the summer before their junior year of high school. During their two years of college preparation they receive:

- A dedicated mentor to support them throughout the process
- Monthly college preparation workshops
- College visits
- Test preparation
- Individualized college and financial aid counseling
- Resume and cover letter instruction
- Connections to summer opportunities
- Counseling post-acceptance to determine their best academic, social, and financial fit school

“Evanston Scholars has given me access to not only incredible resources, but also a newfound confidence in my future.”

— *College Scholar*



\$149K

Debt-free financial aid over 4 years at enrolled colleges



9

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



Scholar Profile

Michael Burrell

Freshman, Illinois State University

Major: Computer Science

As a freshman in high school, Michael Burrell's talents were already on display. As a member of Evanston's Officer and a Gentleman Academy, Michael was awarded the "Quintessential Gentleman Award," the highest honor for students who demonstrate positive leadership qualities.

Michael joined Evanston Scholars to help him achieve his goal of being the first-generation in his family to graduate from college. He says, "Evanston Scholars helped so much when it came time to apply to colleges. College means so much to me because it will allow me to achieve the dreams and aspirations that I have in my life."

Michael's hard work is paying off: as a high school senior, he was awarded a scholarship by Amazon that also includes a Software Engineering summer internship during college. And this summer, he explored his interests in design and entrepreneurship with the Hollister FWD Fund, a design incubator.

Michael leveraged his skills and interests by leaning on Evanston Scholars for support. He says, "I would like future Evanston Scholars to know that once you are an Evanston Scholar, you are a part of a family and network of people that support everything you do."





Scholar Profile

Kaitlyn Venturina

Senior, Columbia College Chicago

Major: Filmmaking; Minor: Voiceover

In high school, Kaitlyn had a specific goal: to become a voice actress. Her interests in performance and animation coalesced as she developed impressions and voices to prepare for a future of voiceovers and voice acting. She found a creative home at Columbia College Chicago, where she has built a portfolio of film, creative content, and production, while keeping an eye on her goal of working in voice.

Looking back she says, "In high school, I really wanted to go to college, but I had only some idea of how to start my journey. Evanston Scholars does an amazing job to make sure that every student is recognized and uplifted."

This summer, Kaitlyn's creativity found a new outlet in activism: as President of Columbia College's Asian Student Organization, Kaitlyn organized the Blasian March in Chicago, an action for solidarity among Black, Asian, and Blasian communities. She's grateful for her experiences, saying, "If it wasn't for going to college, I wouldn't have met a support system I can reach out to such as friends, teachers, and mentors. Also, I wouldn't have been able to find my passions and true callings to being a creative and an activist."



College Success

Once our Scholars enroll in college, our mentors and College Success team provide:

- Regular check-ins
- Guidance on how to access on-campus resources
- Online and in-person social and team-building activities
- Mental health referrals
- Academic and financial counseling
- College textbook stipend
- Access to emergency funds to cover gaps in tuition, housing, and food that threaten college persistence



\$185,000

Total direct financial support for books, emergency funds, tuition, and fees



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED 185



“Evanston Scholars has provided me with a space to nurture my talents and figure out who I want to be.” — *College Scholar*

Our Scholars Have Attended

Alabama A&M University
Amherst College
Arrupe College
Augustana College
Baldwin Wallace University
Ball State University
Barry University
Beloit College
Boston College
Boston University
Bradley University
California College of the Arts
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Colgate University
Colorado College
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Denison University
DePaul University
Dominican University
Drexel University
Eastern Illinois University
Elon University
Emerson College
Grinnell College
Hampton University
Hope College
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Jackson State University
Kent State University at Kent
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis University
Loras College
Loyola University Chicago
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Millikin University
Morgan State University

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical
State University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oakton Community College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University-Calumet Campus
Rasmussen University
Reed College
Rhodes College
Ripon College
Rockford University
Santa Clara University
Sewanee-The University of the South
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
St Olaf College, St. Louis University
Stanford University
The New School
Triton College
Tulane University
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University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
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University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Ottawa
University of Pennsylvania
University of Redlands
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University of Wisconsin-Madison
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Western Illinois University
Western Michigan University
Wheaton College
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana





“Evanston Scholars is a community of individuals who want to see me succeed and reach my future goals.” — *College Scholar*

FINANCIAL DATA AUGUST 2021 - JULY 2022	
INCOME	
Individual Donations	470,425
Events	345,502
Family Foundation Donations	285,600
Foundation Grants	66,500
Corporations	27,890
Other Income	4,828
Total Income	1,200,745
Restricted Income Released from FY20-21	50,000
Total Income Plus Restriction	1,250,745
EXPENSE	
Program Services and Scholarships	1,043,517
Management and General	149,828
Fundraising	49,226
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,242,571



Career Readiness

Beginning in high school and continuing through college graduation, our Career Readiness program equips Scholars with the resources, knowledge, relationships, and experiences to secure a strong job or graduate school admission upon college graduation. Students:

- Discover their career-related aptitudes and interests
- Develop their Career Readiness portfolio, including a resume, LinkedIn profile, and professional communication skills
- Obtain career coaching, professional development, and interview skills
- Explore career avenues through corporate visits and professional panels
- Participate in our nine-month RISE (Relevant Internships for Successful Employment) program as college sophomores to secure an internship, research opportunity, or fellowship during their rising junior summer
- Connect with our Career Partners to secure career-track jobs after college graduation



73%

Increase in
Career
Readiness
partnerships

- Host career visits and shadow opportunities
- Participate in industry speaker panels and Career Readiness workshops
- Collaborate with Evanston Scholars to connect students to internships and entry-level employment



Scholar Profile

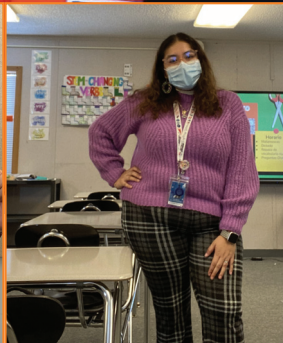
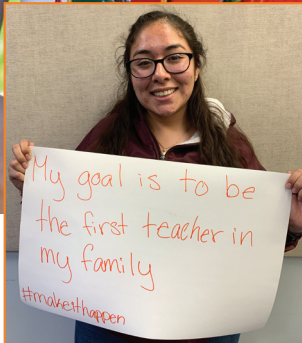
Jasmine Medina

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, '22
B.A., Teacher of Spanish

Ever since first grade, Jasmine has dreamed of becoming a teacher. She brought her singular focus to her college experience, making sure she took advantage of every opportunity to help her reach her goal. During her time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she tutored local middle school students in Spanish and expanded her education studies during her study abroad in Morocco. At UIUC, Jasmine was a leader with a focus on service and developing opportunities for students of color. She served on the Executive Board of S.E.E.D.S. (Strengthening and Empowering Educators of Diverse Statuses), a student-led organization that focuses on meeting the unique needs of undergraduate students of color in the College of Education. She also served as the Director of Service for the United Greek Council, was a member of the Latino Student Association, and served as both the Community Service Chair and Academic Chair in Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority.

As college came to a close, Jasmine tapped into the network she had cultivated during college as a Golden Apple Scholar and an Evanston Scholar, including working with her Evanston Scholars Career Coach, Becky Kremin, to hone her resume and cover letter and network both online and in person.

Jasmine is now teaching Spanish at Rantoul Township High School. She says, "Starting this fall as a high school Spanish teacher, in the career that I have been passionate about for so long, is a dream come true. I look forward to sharing my love of learning with my students and to keep learning how to become a better educator. Evanston Scholars has always been there to support me on my journey, and I know I can continue to lean on them when I need to."



Thank You to Our Mentors

Mentors serve as a source of information, inspiration, and moral support for our Scholars over a span of four years, starting in high school. In the first two years, mentors accompany High School Scholars and their families through the college application and financial aid process. Once students gain admission to college, mentors support them as they transition to college and through sophomore year, supporting them through any obstacles they encounter along the way.

MENTORS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Kayla Adams, Natalie Allen, Jenny Avery, Jocelyn Becerra, Catherine Bourke, Jud Brooks, Katherine Byrnes, Angel Cardenas, David Chan, Jennifer Chisholm, Julie Collins, Elizabeth Cosentino, Ava DeCapri, David DeCarlo, Adriana Escarpita, Mark Flanagan, Pamela Frankston-Gordon, Djuwanna Frazier, Renee Gadsden, Tulsi Gaonkar, Caroline Glasser, Rhonda Goldstein, Barbara Goodman, Catharine Hamrick, Caroline Hays, Jenny Higgins, Joe Higgins, Laura Jacobs, Jaylyn Jimenez, **Ed Job**, Michelle Judon, Christina Kelley, Sunghae Kim, Liza Kirkpatrick, Elisa Kline, Robert Krause, Spencer LaMountain, Jeff Libman, Rob Lindemann, Sheila Loop, Jonathan Lustig, Ellen Magrini, Robin Maher, Mark Malueg, Linda Mendelson, Laura Moy, Kerry Mundy, Anne Murdoch, Brian Murphy, Brittanie Muse, Beth Negronida, Derek Nettingham, Peter O'Brien, Victor Perez, Julia Persche, Penny Rajczyk, Maura Rogan, Sheau-ming Ross, Paola Ruocco, **Linda Schneider**, Lisa Scott, Scott Siegel, Jeff Simon, Joan Slavin, Elizabeth Smiley, Johnique Smith, Rauquelle Smith, Allison Stein, Donna Su, Stephanie Szymanski, **Shanelle Trinidad**, Caryn Weiner, David White, Marley Whitmore, Kimberly Yuracko

MENTORS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jeni Alcakovic, **Pam Allen**, Kris Anderson, Liane Anderson, Patricia Avila, David Bennett, Dina Berger, Anne Berkeley, Derrick Blakley, Catherine Bourke, Katie Brady, Cathy Brubaker, Caroline Bulf, Betsi Burns, Shannon Cahill, Judy Callans, Brenda Campbell Byers, Fernando Campos, David Cerra, Rachel Chiss, Mary Clark, Ray Coleman, Jim Cousineau, Dan Cox, Mary Beth Cox, Ellen Cushing, Khadijah Davis, Salvatore Di Bernardo, Alexis Dillon, Katherine Dong, Eric Dortch, Julie Doyle, Anne Eaton, Laura Egerter, Pam Eisfielder, Pamela Finney, Tim Flood, Erin Formiller, Carmen Francellno, Jocelyn Francoeur, Marya Frankel, Ellen Frank-Miller, Djuwanna Frazier, Jared Frye, Sheryl Fyock, Bill Gaul, Jill Gerber, Edwin Getz, Evan Girard, Michael Girard, Sam Goldsmith, Allison Gordon, Jackie Haimes, Rick Hemwall, Debra Hill, J.J. Hill, Kristin Hill, Lincoln Hill, Beth Hirshman, Timothy Holbrook, Jessica Horwitz, Elizabeth Hubbard, **Joel Huerta**, Cory Jackson, Christopher James, Tanya Jenkins, Ed Job, Laurel Johnson, Steven Johnson, Tammytha Johnson, Michelle Judon, Dan Kanter, Suzanne Kanter, Wendy Kaplan, Chris Kenney, Jason Keyser, Todd Kihm, Soo La Kim, Amy Knepper, Joe Kupresanin, Sara Later, **Michael Laughlin**, Julie Levine, Jeff Libman, **Deborah Linder**, Craig Long, Erik Long, Jonathan Lustig, David Mack, Tania Margonza, Camila Marquez, Ganae McAlpin-Toney, Karen McCormick, Therese McGuire, Pete McNamara, Jason Miles, Leslie Miles, Mary Miller, Damali Mills, Jodi Morton, Brian Murphy, Steve Murtos, Adam Newman, Doug Nickels, Emily Nidenberg, **Stephanie Oettinger**, Eugene Perkins, Heather Perkins, Jean Petrick, **Michael Pfeifer**, Adam Pollet, Robert Porter, Danny Profit, Tracy Quattrochi, Robin Remich, Anamaria Rosales, Ian Ross, Kathy Ruhl, Blanca Ruiz, Kevin Russell, Julia Sagraves, Alexander Schluter, Linda Schneider, John Schroeder, Julie Shufro, Christopher Siebert, Jeff Simon, Sadia Sindhu, Matt Sommer, Bill Springer, Anja Spruston, Meredith Stevens, Caryn Summer, David Taylor, Deborah Thorne, **Pam Tingley**, Cindy Ulrich, Andrea Urdangen, Karen Van Ausdal, Jon Viner, Margarita Vizcarra, Sachin Waikar, Kristen Watson, Em Wilder, Nancy Williams, Sarah Williams, Juleya Woodson, Keith Woodson, Jasmine Wright

Names in **bold** are members of the Evanston Scholars Mentor Steering Committee



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