



EvanstonScholars

Annual Report 2022-2023



EvanstonScholars

Evanston Scholars improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious Evanston students 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,

Evanston Scholars turned 12 this year. And as aspiring teenagers, we have learned some things along the way to help us mature and grow.

We have learned that Evanston Scholars graduate from college at radically higher rates than their peers. **83% of our Scholars are graduating college within 6 years** (while the national average for our demographic is roughly 11%).

We have learned that there is a growing need for our services and resources. That is why we positioned ourselves to expand our cohort sizes – we recently accepted a record number of students (51) into our newest cohort of rising 11th graders. This past year, we provided resources and support to nearly 400 Scholars across all of our cohorts in high school, college, and beyond.

We have learned that as we grow, we will remain steadfast in providing our comprehensive college access, college success, and career readiness programming to the expanded cohorts. We are proud of our enhanced RISE (Relevant Internships for Successful Employment) program and our increase in career advancement resources for our upperclassmen and recent college graduates.

Thank you all for making this past year possible. Thank you for helping us grow and learn, and thank you for helping us be the best we can be so that we can continue to support our Scholars.

While we have accomplished much in our young organizational life, we know we have so much more to do. As we get older, we hope to see the number of college graduates in our program increase each year, so that the impact can have a ripple effect in our community for generations.

We know that the current landscape continues to put up barriers for our Scholars. Yet, our work remains the same, and our resolve is even stronger. We know it will take hard work from all who care about preparing future generations of students to succeed and to lead us in the future.

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.

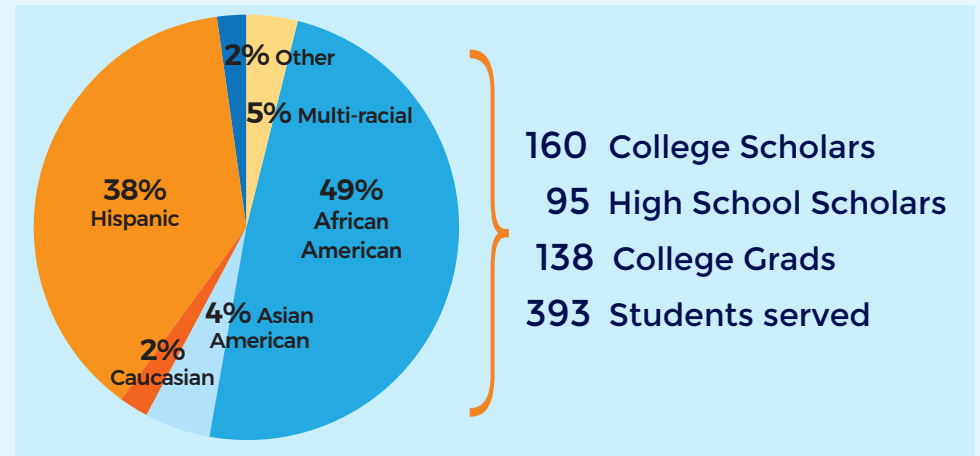
What We Do

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.

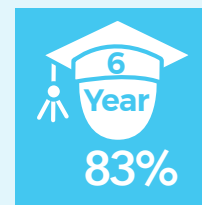


Who We Serve

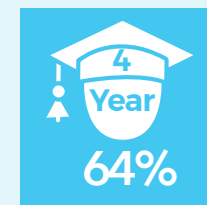
- Academically ambitious Evanston students with a minimum 2.7 unweighted GPA
- First-generation college entrants
- Students of color
- Students from families that earn low incomes



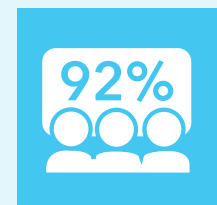
Our Impact



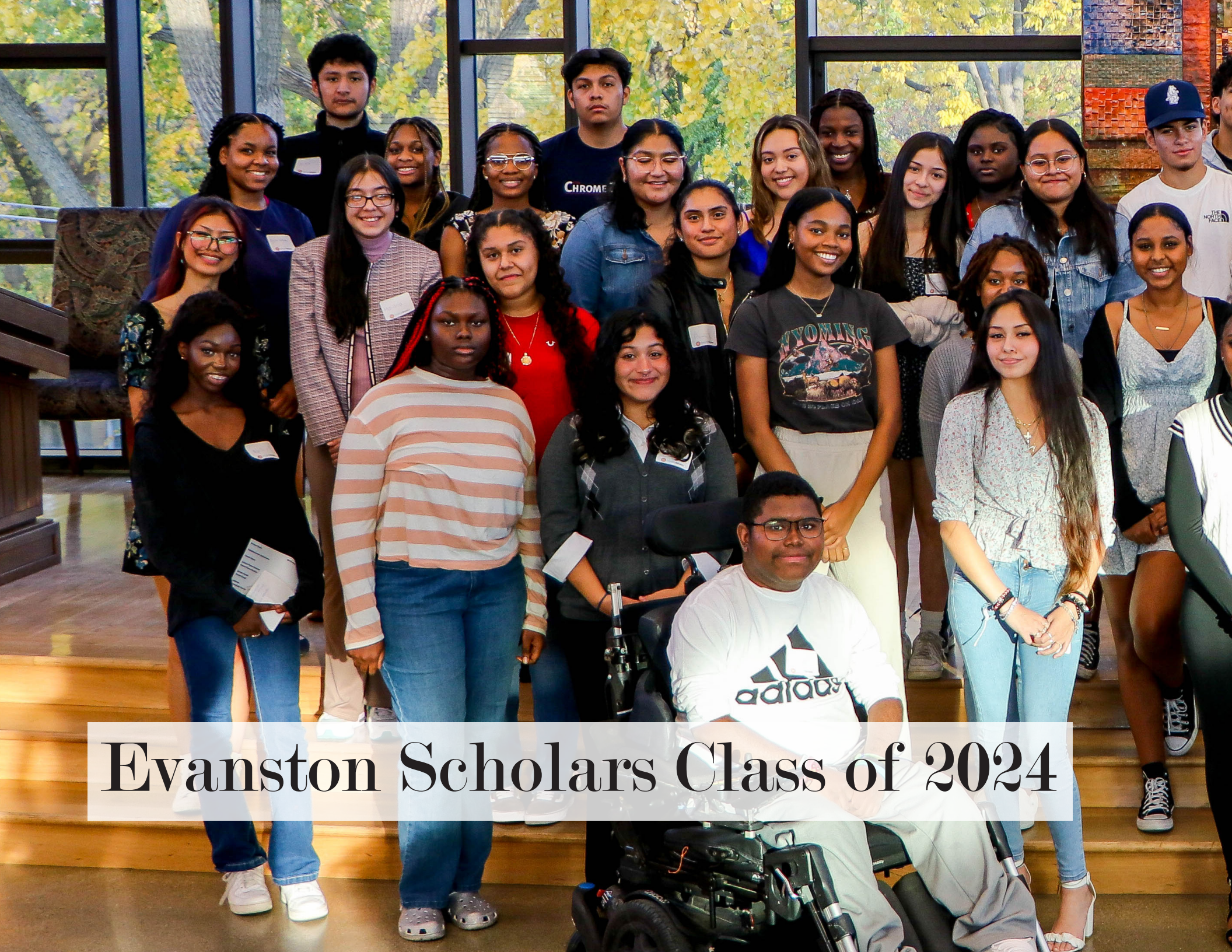
Six-year
graduation
rate



Four-year
graduation
rate



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



Evanston Scholars Class of 2024



EvanstonScholars

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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
- One-on-one academic advising
- Monthly college preparation workshops
- College visits
- Tools to assess strengths, skills, and talents
- 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 so many benefits and opportunities to offer. I’m honored to be a part of this program.”

— *College Scholar*



\$159K

Debt-free financial aid over 4 years at enrolled colleges



9

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



Scholar Profile.....COLLEGE ACCESS

Jacob Hall

Freshman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Major: Biology

Jacob Hall's goal is to become an educated and influential Black man in society. As a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he is looking forward to exploring UNC's BeAM (Be a Maker) maker space, basketball staff opportunities, and study abroad courses. Jacob plans to take advantage of the resources available at college, and can't wait to further his education and use that as an outlet to travel and see the world.

Jacob's choice of major was driven not only by his enjoyment of Biology class in high school, but by his interest in healthcare professions, specifically anesthesiology. He was inspired to learn about anesthesiology from a member of his church congregation, and followed it up with research about the field. He loves that Biology keeps him interested and will give him the wide range of knowledge he'll need for medical school and higher level learning.

Jacob credits his persistence throughout the college application process to both his ability to be a sponge for knowledge and his work with Evanston Scholars. He says, "The information, guidance, and assistance Evanston Scholars provides is invaluable. They provide the framework for understanding and applying to college, give you resources throughout the process, and even help you throughout your time in college and beyond. Evanston Scholars changed my life and without them I wouldn't be where I am today."





Scholar Profile..... COLLEGE SUCCESS

Aryel Mason

Junior, Howard University

Major: Nursing

Aryel Mason's goal is to make a difference in the world by being an African-American woman helping patients in hospitals. She aspires to be at the start of the trend of Black professionals in the medical field because, as she says, "I wish to be the change I want to see in the world." Currently, Aryel is a student in the Upper Division of Howard University's Nursing program and is on track to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing next summer.

Aryel is taking full advantage of her time at Howard University. She is this year's 2023-2024 Mentorship Coordinator for the College of Nursing and Health Allied Sciences (CNHAS). Aryel is a volunteer at Jumpstart, an after-school program for preschoolers, and she is a member of The Black Girls House at Howard. This summer, she was a Medical Assistant at NorthShore University Healthsystem. Looking back, she credits her experience as an ETHS Student Ambassador for helping her gain the communication, leadership, and people skills that have helped her to thrive at Howard.

Aryel says that Evanston Scholars played a crucial role as well. She says, "Getting help with school work, advice on life situations, and simply having someone there to hold me accountable is something that truly inspires me about Evanston Scholars. They are genuinely there for every Scholar. Evanston Scholars is a family I will always be thankful for."



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

“Being a part of Evanston Scholars has helped me learn about college and get motivated for my future.”

— *College Scholar*



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
- Whole health wellness education
- Academic and financial counseling
- College textbook stipend (Fall, Winter, and Spring)
- Access to funds in an emergency
- Food security
- Summer programming including in-person and online workshops to enhance skills for a successful, holistic college experience



\$137,400

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



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 professional experiences (internships, externships, assistantships, and more) that can result in securing a strong job or graduate school admission upon college graduation.

Scholars:

- Discover their career-related aptitudes and interests
- Develop their career readiness portfolio, including a resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, and/or a personal professional portfolio
- Receive career coaching and professional development support
- 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



100%

of students who participated in our RISE (Relevant Internships for Successful Employment) program as college sophomores landed a strong job upon college graduation



Scholar Profile..... CAREER READINESS

Cielo Gomez

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, '23
B.S. Finance and Information Systems**

Cielo Gomez learned early on from her parents that they believed she could achieve her dream of earning a college degree as a first-generation Latina woman, and become a leader in her community. Cielo is well on her way to realizing these dreams and much more. Cielo is a Tax Specialist at Ryan LLC, a tax services and software provider, and she's got big plans for the future - Cielo was recently accepted into Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business Future Leaders Deferred Enrollment Program.

During her time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Cielo was active in the campus chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA), a professional development and networking organization. She held roles of increasing responsibility, starting with Youth Board Fundraising Chair and moving on to Executive Treasurer, External Vice President, and finally Internal Vice President. In addition to ALPFA, Cielo was active in Women in Finance Academy, Investment Portfolio Organization, and Society of Women in Business. She also served as an undergraduate Peer Advisor.

Cielo's first internship was with Monroe Financial Partners as a data entry intern. That same summer she did an internship with Evanston Scholars working as a Research Intern, where she learned about the effects of COVID-19 on the stock and bond markets. Her sophomore year she worked with Notre Dame School Institute for Global Investing doing an externship with a Private Equity firm. Her junior and senior year she interned with KPMG as a Technology Consultant working in their Digital Lighthouse practice with their Data and Integrations Platforms team.

Throughout her journey, Cielo hasn't hesitated to lean on Evanston Scholars for support. She says, "I have been, and will always be, grateful to Evanston Scholars because the staff has been able to impact my life in a way that will remain with me forever. They were able to help me achieve, what felt like, the impossible. Now, as a recent graduate, I owe it to myself, my family, and Evanston Scholars for believing in me, mentoring me, and investing in my future."





Scholar Profile..... ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Angel Cardenas

University of Iowa, '18
B.S. Industrial Engineering
Business Administration Minor

Throughout his years at ETHS, the University of Iowa, and now at W. W. Grainger, Angel drew inspiration from his parents - they instilled how important it is to earn a college degree, and to be an example for his younger sister. Today, Angel is well on his way to meeting his goals.

Angel pursued engineering in college because he enjoys problem solving, and in school, math and science were his strongest subjects. During his college years, he augmented his engineering studies by gaining professional experience as a Data Analyst Intern at Accuity and as a Product Management Intern at Medline Industries. At the University of Iowa, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity where he served as a Recruiting chair.

At W.W. Grainger, Angel has been promoted twice within two years to his current position as Cost Modeling Engineering Manager. He says "I'm proud to be a part of the Grainger organization because, like our motto says, 'We keep the world working.' I'm grateful to have been with Grainger for five years now since I graduated from college."

Angel is proud to be a part of Evanston Scholars program and is glad to see it growing. He says "This organization is truly a blessing for first-generation and low-income students who need the support and framework to access college. I'm grateful for all the hours spent with each Scholar. This program really helps students reach the finish line from high school through college and to further their professional careers."

Angel recently joined the Evanston Scholars Board of Directors to help guide and support the organization as it grows to serve more students.



Thank You to Our Career Partners

- Host career visits and shadowing opportunities
- Participate in industry panels and Career Readiness workshops
- Collaborate with Evanston Scholars for internships and entry-level employment
- Sponsor events



“Evanston Scholars played a large role in getting me to college and has also played a big role in making sure I got through.”

— *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*

“Evanston Scholars helped me navigate everything that I didn’t know about college and overall served as a huge support system for me as a first-generation Scholar.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*



“Evanston Scholars has impacted me
academically, financially, and mentally.”
— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*

“The advice and tips are very helpful and
being able to apply them allowed me to
do well.” — *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*



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
Bowling Green State 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
Miami University Ohio
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
St. Louis University
Stanford University
The New School
Triton College
Tulane University
University of Baltimore
University of Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Ottawa
University of Pennsylvania
University of Redlands
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Western Governor's University
Western Illinois University
Western Michigan University
Wheaton College
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana





“Evanston Scholars has helped me and my family pay for college by exploring loans, grants, and scholarships.”

— *College Scholar*

FINANCIAL DATA AUGUST 2022 - JULY 2023	
INCOME	
Individual Donations	507,341
Events	357,481
Family Foundation Donations	393,253
Foundation Grants	125,610
Corporations	11,305
Other Income	51,463
Total Income	1,446,453
Restricted Income Released from Previous Year	50,000
Total Income Plus Restriction	1,496,453
EXPENSE	
Program Services and Scholarships	1,316,161
Management and General	180,066
Fundraising	56,246
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,552,474



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, Jani Anderson, Jocelyn Aranda-Ortiz, Annisha Arnold, Anne Badgley, Cristian Baeza, Andres Balcazar, Svetlana Bekman, Soraida Berrios-Guccione, Catherine Bourke, Katherine Byrnes, Arelis Campbell, David Chan, Julie Collins, Elizabeth Cosentino, Chadwick Davis, Ava DeCapri, David DeCarlo, Myriam Duran, Tobi Ehrenpreis, Diana Farina, Dave Feeley, Brittani Fields, Mark Flanagan, Pamela Frankston-Gordon, Djuwanna Frazier, Yari Gallegos, Dina Giron, Kimberly Giron-Gamboa, Caroline Glasser, Barbara Goodman, Caroline Hays, Jane Holt, Laura Jacobs, Jaylyn Jimenez, Ed Job, Joan Johnson, Jazmin Jones-Oliver, Rochelle Katz, Sunghae Kim, Elisa Kline, Robert Krause, **Michael Laughlin**, Jeff Libman, Jonathan Lustig, Michelle Lyle, Ellen Magrini, Robin Maher, Stephanie Marin, Jolie McLaughlin, Maria Mijares, Laura Moy, Kerry Mundy, Anne Murdoch, Brian Murphy, Brittanie Muse, Bob Nachman, Beth Negronida, Derek Nettingham, Carol O'Donnell, Rocio Perez, Victor Perez, **Michael Pfeifer**, Robert Regan, Sheau-ming Ross, Paola Ruocco, **Linda Schneider**, Matt Schroeder, Lisa Scott, Lisa Seegers, Ezra Sargent-Leventhal, Jeff Simon, Larry Singer, Elizabeth Smiley, Johnique Smith, Terri Strauss, Donna Su, Stephanie Szymanski, Mitchell Tucker, Marley Whitmore, Charity Williams, Jessica Williams

MENTORS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jeni Alcakovic, Natalie Allen, Pam Allen, Kris Anderson, Jenny Avery, Patricia Avila, Jocelyn Becerra, Dina Berger, Derrick Blakley, Catherine Bourke, Katie Brady, Jud Brooks, Cathy Brubaker, Betsi Burns, Shannon Cahill, Judy Callans, Brenda Campbell Byers, Fernando Campos, Angel Cardenas, David Cerra, Jennifer Chisholm, Rachel Chiss, Mary Clark, Jim Cousineau, Dan Cox, Mary Beth Cox, Ellen Cushing, Alexis Dillon, Katherine Dong, Eric Dortch, Julie Doyle, Anne Eaton, Laura Egerter, Pam Eisfielder, Adriana Escarpita, Pamela Finney, Tim Flood, Erin Formiller, Carmen Francellno, Jocelyn Francoeur, Marya Frankel, Ellen Frank-Miller, Djuwanna Frazier, Sheryl Fyock, Renee Gadsden, Tulsi Gaonkar, Edwin Getz, Sam Goldsmith, Allison Gordon, Jackie Haimes, Catharine Hamrick, Rick Hemwall, Jenny Higgins, Joe Higgins, Debra Hill, J.J. Hill, Kristin Hill, Timothy Holbrook, Jessica Horwitz, Elizabeth Hubbard, **Joel Huerta**, Cory Jackson, Christopher James, Tanya Jenkins, Ed Job, Laurel Johnson, Michelle Judon, Dan Kanter, Christina Kelley, Soo La Kim, Liza Kirkpatrick, Joe Kupresanin, Spencer LaMountain, **Michael Laughlin**, Jeff Libman, Jeff Libman, Rob Lindemann, **Deborah Linder**, Craig Long, Erik Long, Sheila Loop, Jonathan Lustig, David Mack, Mark Malueg, Tania Margonza, Camila Marquez, Karen McCormick, Therese McGuire, Linda Mendelson, Jason Miles, Leslie Miles, Damali Mills, Jodi Morton, Brian Murphy, Steve Murtos, Adam Newman, Doug Nickels, Peter O'Brien, Stephanie Oettinger, Eugene Perkins, Heather Perkins, Julia Persche, Jean Petrick, **Michael Pfeifer**, Robert Porter, Tracy Quattrochi, Penny Rajczyk, Robin Remich, Anamaria Rosales, Kathy Ruhl, Kevin Russell, Julia Sagraves, Alexander Schluter, **Linda Schneider**, John Schroeder, Julie Shufro, Christopher Siebert, Scott Siegel, Jeff Simon, Joan Slavin, Matt Sommer, Bill Springer, Anja Spruston, **Allison Stein**, Meredith Stevens, Caryn Summer, Deborah Thorne, **Pam Tingley**, **Shanelle Trinidad Kaikis**, Andrea Urdangen, Karen Van Ausdal, Jon Viner, Kristen Watson, Caryn Weiner, David White, Em Wilder, Nancy Williams, Sarah Williams, Juleya Woodson, Keith Woodson, Jasmine Wright, Kimberly Yuracko

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

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Donations received August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023

\$50,000+

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\$25,000+

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