



EvanstonScholars Annual Report 2023-2024



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,

Since Evanston Scholars' founding in 2011, our tagline has been "Make It Happen!" At Evanston Scholars, **Make It Happen** means working hard towards a goal. Our Scholars Make It Happen when they spend precious summer hours working on college essays, get out of their comfort zone to network in their field of interest, or go the extra mile to meet yet another deadline for yet another scholarship application.

Most importantly, our Scholars do not have to **Make It Happen** alone.

When obstacles arise, Evanston Scholars is there to provide resources and support to keep Scholars moving forward. More than 150 Evanston Scholars have graduated from college. They graduate at a rate of 80%, roughly four times the average of their peers. We know that obstacles to success continue to grow, especially this past year – rising costs of college, new roadblocks for financial aid (including this year's FAFSA fail), and increasing challenges to mental health and well-being. As a result, we have increased our resources for Scholars to sharpen their toolsets to address those barriers.

Increasingly, Scholars are asking for support to transition from college to career. As a result, this year we focused more heavily on Career Readiness. With our RISE (Relevant Internships for Successful Employment) program, we provided skills, tools, and internship experiences for college sophomores and juniors. Additionally, we provided coaching and access to employment opportunities for our college juniors and seniors to help them embark on their career paths.

At the end of a year, it is inspiring to look in the rearview mirror and see the confident smiles from Scholars who stepped onto campus for the first time, implemented new ideas at their internships, or from Alumni who are mentoring graduating Scholars as they enter the workforce. Yet, we also eagerly await the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We know that more and more students recognize the invaluable support of Evanston Scholars and are seeking it out. Once again, we received over 75 applicants for our newest cohort – a clear sign that many students have a desire to go TO and THROUGH college. We appreciate the people in our network who have, time and time again, devoted effort and resources to make sure that our Scholars can pursue their dreams. As a network, we have the ability to continue to remove barriers and support hundreds of young people who want to make great things happen.

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.

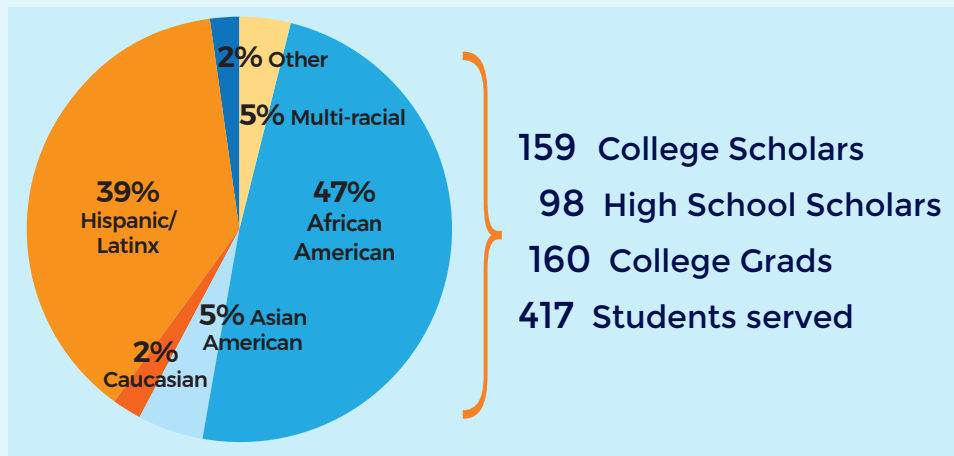
What We Do

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.

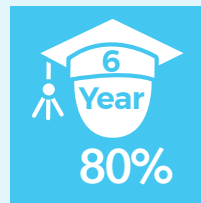


Who We Serve

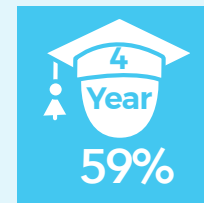
- Academically ambitious Evanston students with a minimum 2.7 unweighted GPA
- First-generation college entrants
- Students of color
- Students from families that earn low incomes



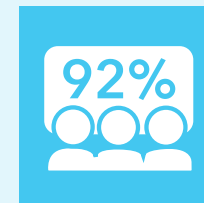
Our Impact



Six-year graduation rate



Four-year graduation rate



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

Evanston Scholars Class of 2026





College Access

Scholars enter our College Access program in the summer before their junior year of high school. Throughout junior and senior year, they receive the following college preparation:

- Individualized college and financial aid counseling with professionally trained College Access staff
- One-on-one academic support and advising
- Monthly college preparation workshops
- Dedicated education for parents and Scholars regarding the financial aid process and scholarships
- In-person and virtual college visits and admissions representative presentations
- Education tools to connect strengths and talents to potential majors and careers
- Resume and cover letter education
- Connections to summer opportunities
- College decision counseling and optimizing tools to determine good academic, social, and financial fit colleges
- A dedicated, college-educated mentor to support each Scholar throughout the process

“Through Evanston Scholars I receive so many opportunities that empower me.”

— *College Scholar*



\$167K

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

Hector Suarez

University of Chicago

Freshman, University of Chicago

Major: Molecular Engineering

For Hector, pursuing a college education represents a crucial step in breaking barriers and creating opportunities for him, his family, and his community. As a Mexican-American Latino, he views higher education as a pathway to expand his knowledge, resources, and meaningful connections that will empower him to achieve his goals and assist others along the way.

Hector has chosen to major in Molecular Engineering, a field that aligns with his passion for technology and innovation. He is excited about exploring the wonders of molecular-level engineering and its potential to address critical issues in sustainability and renewable energy. He sees The University of Chicago's curriculum and intellectual environment as ideal for delving deeply into this field and preparing for a future where he can make a significant impact on solving complex global challenges.

Hector shares that "the support I received from Evanston Scholars played a major role in helping me navigate the complexities of being a first-generation college student, as well as providing encouragement and advice which were crucial in making my college dreams a reality." His journey reflects a commitment to personal growth, to community service, and to use his education to drive positive change.





Scholar Profile..... COLLEGE SUCCESS

Moya Guy

Augustana College

Senior, Augustana College

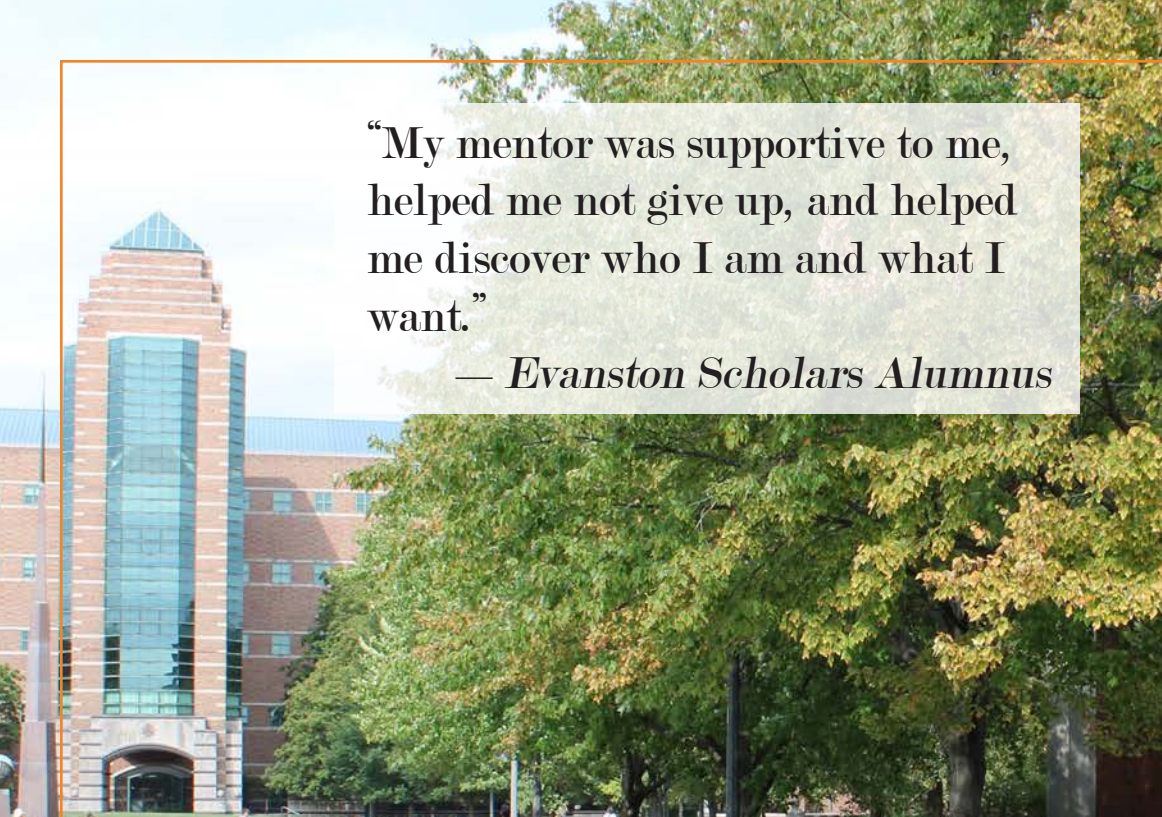
Major: Communication Studies

For Moya, attending college is far more than an academic pursuit—it's a transformative journey that provides vital life lessons and prepares her for adulthood. With parents who were unable to complete their education, Moya sees her college experience as a way to honor their sacrifices and seize educational opportunities. To her, education is both a gift and a powerful tool for personal and collective liberation.

Moya has a deep interest in understanding both herself and others. As a result, Moya chose to major in Communication Studies to enhance her communication skills. It has empowered her to become a more effective communicator and fostered her personal growth. She volunteers for the Campus Cupboard and is also a member of the Yarn Club, where she enjoys exploring her creative side. She also interns with the Workforce and Organizational Research Center (WORC), where she gains practical experience and professional insights.

Moya is deeply grateful for the support provided by Evanston Scholars. She shares, "Evanston Scholars is a support system that helps to guide and push me forward. The program has been a crucial support system, enhancing access to career-building opportunities and guiding me towards success." Her mindset has been a key factor in her ability to overcome obstacles and stay focused on her goals.





“My mentor was supportive to me, helped me not give up, and helped me discover who I am and what I want.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*

College Success

Once our Scholars enroll in college, our College Success team provides:

- Bi-semester academic and personal check-ins
- Guidance around utilizing and accessing on-campus resources
- Virtual and in-person social and team-building activities
- Whole-Self wellness education
- Academic and financial aid counseling and financial literacy education
- College textbook stipends (Fall, Winter, and Spring)
- Access to funds in case of emergencies
- Support and counseling for graduate and professional school
- Summer programming including in-person and online workshops to enhance skills for a successful, holistic college experience



\$274,400

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 roles. This includes internships, externships, assistantships, and more, that can result in securing a future-proof or graduate school admission upon college graduation.

Career Readiness assists Scholars with:

- Discovering their career-related aptitudes and interests
- Developing their Career Readiness portfolio, including a resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, and/or a personal professional portfolio
- Access to 1:1 career coaching and professional development support
- Exploration of career avenues through corporate visits and professional panels
- Participation 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
- Connection with our Career Partners to secure career-track jobs after college graduation



90%

of the College Graduates of 2023 earned a future-proof job or enrolled in graduate school within 6 months of college graduation.



Scholar Profile..... CAREER READINESS

Diane Batres

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, '24
B.S. Computer Science

Diane's journey to higher education was shaped by the aspirations of her parents, who moved to the United States when she was just three years old. Witnessing their dedication to provide a better life for her and her brothers instilled in her a sense of purpose. For Diane, attending college was not just a personal ambition but a way to honor her parents' sacrifices and pave the way for a brighter future for her family.

Diane's path to a Computer Science major began at Evanston Township High School with a transformative class that combined Personal Finance with Information Technology. With the guidance of her teacher, Gary Haller, Diane's initial interest in computer programming became a newfound passion. This enthusiasm guided her academic choices, leading her to pursue a degree in Computer Science at MIT.

At MIT, she was a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). Her internships, including a pivotal role at Publicis Sapient and a rewarding experience at Adobe, solidified her career direction and led to her current position as a Software Engineer on the Developer Platform at Adobe.

Diane shares, "I am eternally grateful to Evanston Scholars; thanks to them I had the tools and knowledge I needed to not only get into college, but thrive and eventually graduate."





Since 2011, our program has had the privilege of successfully seeing over 150 Alumni Scholars move from College Access, through College Success, through Career Readiness, to graduation.

“Nancy Cardenas and Mrs. Velazquez were there for me in my hard times, especially during Covid times. They’ve been a shoulder to cry on and laughed alongside me through it all. The whole team environment was amazing with them.”
— *Blanca Casique-Flores, Illinois State University '24*

“My mentor is invaluable and I met her through this program. Evanston Scholars is always reaching out to let me know they are here if I need it.”
— *Chassa Pratt, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign '24*

“Evanston Scholars helped me manage the rigorous demands of college schoolwork by offering essential academic resources and assistance. Regular check-ins with advisors ensured that I stayed on track with my academic goals.”
— *Leo Tomayo, Illinois Institute of Technology '24*



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 would always be there and made me feel supported.”

— *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE STUDYING

- Schedule study time
- Make a study plan
- Find your place to study
- Consider a study group or partner
- Stay organized
- Take breaks
- Reward Yourself



“Evanston Scholars is the reason I was able to go to college. They changed my life by helping me through my college journey, from beginning to end.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*

Tips for Academic Success

1. **Visualize success** (pg. 10)
 - o Focus on your own achievements
 - o Picture yourself in the future (graduation, dream job, etc.)
2. **Attend classes and participate!** (pg. 18)
 - o Review attendance policy
 - o Communicate with professor if you're not feeling well
 - o Engage in class discussions
3. **Connect with your professor** (pg.9)
 - o Office hrs., email, phone, after class, etc.



Jacobs, L., & Hyman, J. (2019). *The Secrets of College Success* (Third edition.). Jossey Bass, a Wiley

“From helping us through the process of applying to colleges to helping us throughout our four years in college, Evanston Scholars has made a significant difference.”

— *Evanston Scholars Alumnus*

“Evanston Scholars has helped me tremendously. I’m so thankful Evanston Scholars helped me learn about the college process and my university.”

— *Evanston Scholar Alumnus*

Our Scholars Have Attended

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
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
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Dominican University
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Indiana University-Bloomington
Jackson State University
Kent State University at Kent
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis University
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
Rhodes College
Ripon College
Rockford University
Santa Clara University
Sewanee-The University of the South
St. Olaf College
St. Louis University
Stanford University
The New School
Triton College
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 North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Olivet
University of Ottawa
University of Pennsylvania
University of Redlands
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Western Governors University
Western Illinois University
Western Michigan University
Wheaton College
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana





“The mission of Evanston Scholars reflects what I know Evanston to be and what Evanston Scholars has poured into my family.”

— *Evanston Scholars Parent*

FINANCIAL DATA AUGUST 2022 - JULY 2023 (UNAUDITED)	
INCOME	
Individual Donations	636,873
Events	374,495
Family Foundation Donations	476,633
Foundation Grants	132,780
Corporations	14,798
Other Income	47,809
Total Income	1,683,391
Restricted Income Released from Previous Year	180,000
Total Income Plus Restriction	1,863,391
EXPENSE	
Program Services and Scholarships	1,516,903
Management and General	122,975
Fundraising	81,034
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,720,912
NET	142,479



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 SCHOLARS

Jani Anderson, Jamaal Applewhite, Jocelyn Aranda-Ortiz, Annisha Arnold, Anne Badgley, Cristian Baeza, Svetlana Bekman, Soraida Berrios-Guccione, Nala Bishop, Catherine Bourke, Jan Bowers, Brandon Buchanan, Kate Burstein, Arelis Campbell, DeMara Campbell, Jessica Cooper, Damita Cravens, Douglas Crimmins, Lindsay Cunningham, Chadwick Davis, Mindy Debes, Myriam Duran, Jonathan Easter, Katelyn Easter, Tobi Ehrenpreis, Diana Farina, Dave Feeley, Brittani Fields, Myron Krys Florence, Pam Gady, Yari Gallegos, Rod Gardner, Linda Gartz, Sara Claire Gaspard, Sue Gillan, Dina Giron, Kimberly Giron-Gamboá, Barbara Goodman, Jayme Gualtier, Tiffini Holmes, Jane Holt, Tameka Jackson, Laura Jacobs, Joanne Jacobson, Joan Johnson, Jazmin Jones-Oliver, Noe Jurado, Rochelle Katz, Julie Kimmel, Katherine Lauderbaugh, **Michael Laughlin**, Jeff Libman, Michelle Lyle, Stephanie Marin, Jolie McLaughlin, Maria Mijares, Barry Miller, Max Newlin, Tara Norris, Mary O'Brien, Nicole O'Connell, Carol O'Donnell, Rocio Perez, Michael Pfeifer, Leah Piekarz, Myles Rallins, Robert Regan, Lyanne Santana, **Linda Schneider**, Alison Schoeffmann, Matt Schroeder, Lisa Seegers, I'mani Sellers, Ezra Sergent-Leventhal, David Soglin, Eavon Solis, Terri Strauss, Mary Taylor-Johnson, Shanelle Trinidad Kaikis, Mitchell Tucker, Brezah Wade, Charity Williams, Jessica Williams, Warren Wolfe

MENTORS TO COLLEGE SCHOLARS

Kayla Adams, Jeni Alcakovic, Natalie Allen, Pam Allen, Kris Anderson, Jenny Avery, Patricia Avila, Jesus Ayala Jr., Jocelyn Becerra, Dina Berger, Derrick Blakley, Catherine Bourke, Katie Brady, Jud Brooks, Cathy Brubaker, Betsi Burns, Katherine Byrnes, Shannon Cahill, Judy Callans, Brenda Campbell Byers, Fernando Campos, Angel Cardenas, David Cerra, David Chan, Jennifer Chisholm, Rachel Chiss, Mary Clark, Julie Collins, Elizabeth Cosentino, Jim Cousineau, Mary Beth Cox, Ellen Cushing, Khadijah Davis, Ava DeCapri, David DeCarlo, Alexis Dillon, Katherine Dong, Eric Dortch, Laura Egerter, Pam Eisfielder, Adriana Escarpita, Pamela Finney, Mark Flanagan, Tim Flood, Erin Formiller, Carmen Francellno, Ellen Frank-Miller, Marya Frankel, Pamela Frankston-Gordon, Renee Gadsden, Tulsi Gaonkar, Edwin Getz, Caroline Glasser, Sam Goldsmith, Allison Gordon, Catharine Hamrick, Caroline Hays, Rick Hemwall, Jenny Higgins, Joe Higgins, Debra Hill, J.J. Hill, Timothy Holbrook, Jessica Horwitz, Elizabeth Hubbard, **Joel Huerta**, Cory Jackson, Christopher James, Jaylyn Jimenez, Ed Job, Michelle Judon, Dan Kanter, Christina Kelley, Soo La Kim, Sunghae Kim, Liza Kirkpatrick, Elisa Kline, Robert Krause, Joe Kupresanin, Spencer LaMountain, **Michael Laughlin**, Jeff Libman, Rob Lindemann, **Deborah Linder**, Craig Long, Erik Long, Sheila Loop, Jonathan Lustig, David Mack, Ellen Magrini, Robin Maher, Mark Malueg, Tania Margonza, Therese McGuire, Linda Mendelson, Damali Mills, Kerry Mundy, Anne Murdoch, Brian Murphy, Brittanie Muse, Beth Negronida, Derek Nettingham, Adam Newman, Doug Nickels, Peter O'Brien, Stephanie Oettinger, Victor Perez, Eugene Perkins, Heather Perkins, Julia Persche, Jean Petrick, Michael Pfeifer, Robert Porter, Tracy Quattrocki, Penny Rajczyk, Anamaria Rosales, Sheau-ming Ross, Kathy Ruhl, Paola Ruocco, Kevin Russell, Julia Sagraves, Alexander Schluter, **Linda Schneider**, John Schroeder, Lisa Scott, Christopher Siebert, Scott Siegel, Jeff Simon, Joan Slavin, Elizabeth Smiley, Johnique Smith, Matt Sommer, Bill Springer, Anja Spruston, Allison Stein, Donna Su, Caryn Summer, Stephanie Szymanski, Pam Tingley, Shanelle Trinidad Kaikis, Andrea Urdangen, Karen Van Ausdal, Jon Viner, Kristen Watson, Caryn Weiner, David White, Marley Whitmore, Em Wilder, Sarah Williams, Juleya Woodson, Jasmine Wright, Kimberly Yuracko

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

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