

FOUNDED IN 2011, EVANSTON SCHOLARS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT IMPROVES COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR A DIVERSE GROUP OF AMBITIOUS EVANSTON STUDENTS WHO ARE PRIMARILY FIRST-GENERATION, LOW-INCOME, AND STUDENTS OF COLOR.

### WHO WE SERVE

105 COLLEGE SCHOLARS 37 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS 32 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

OUR SIX-YEAR PROGRAM
CURRENTLY SERVES
174 STUDENTS FROM
11TH GRADE THROUGH
COLLEGE GRADUATION

32% male 68% female

3%
White 4% Asian
American
35%
Latino/Hispanic
52%
Black/African
American

82% Qualify for free/reduced lunch

84%
First in
their families to
graduate from a
4-year university

EACH SPRING WE SELECT QUALIFIED ETHS SOPHOMORES ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: 2.7 Minimum GPA Unweighted

Low-income

Ist in their families to graduate from a 4-year university

Students of Color

# DEMONSTRATE "PILLARS OF SUCCESS"

- Persistence
- Engagement
- Resourcefulness
- Responsibility
- Connectedness

# **OUR PROGRAM**

#### **COLLEGE ACCESS (HIGH SCHOOL YEARS)**

We work comprehensively with High School Scholars to help them identify, apply to, and enroll in a "good fit" college – one that meets their needs academically, financially, and socially.

Our curriculum includes:

- Highly personalized college and academic counseling
- College visits and access to pre-college and fly-in opportunities
- Standardized test preparation
- Workshops throughout junior and senior year including: Racial, Ethnic, & Academic Identity, Kick-off to College Planning, College



Application and Essay Bootcamp, College Affordability and Scholarship Opportunities, Resume and Interviewing Skills, and Budgeting for and Transitioning to College

- Development and recognition of the Evanston Scholars Pillars of Success
- Service opportunities throughout the year including our annual program-wide day of service
- Monthly Bulletin and weekly emails

# **COLLEGE SUCCESS (COLLEGE YEARS)**

Our College Success team works closely with graduating High School Scholars as they transition to college and throughout their undergraduate years to ensure college persistence, academic success, and access to internships and professional development

opportunities. Key hallmarks of our College Success Program are:

- A 1:1 meeting prior to college freshman orientation focusing on academic and financial counseling
- 1:1 meetings each semester to check in on academics, finances, and college life in general; continuous contact with each Scholar

throughout the academic year to share and promote skills essential for college success

- Ongoing contact with adult mentors and staff
- 1:1 peer mentoring
- Development and recognition of the Evanston Scholars Pillars of Success
- Access to internship opportunities, resume guidance, networking, and job search assistance
- Tuesdays in July: Weekly dinner and discussion sessions for all College Scholars
- Monthly Bulletin and social media updates



# **OUR PROGRAM**

#### **MENTORING**

Mentors are the backbone of the Evanston Scholars support system. College-educated community members make a four-year commitment to help each Scholar enroll in and graduate from a good-fit college. **Our mentoring model is 1:1.** We equip mentors with key skills, tools and supports that in turn enable them to support Scholars in their journeys towards College Success. In addition, each incoming college freshman is assigned an upperclassman peer mentor, a College Scholar who also provides continual support.

#### **CIRCLE OF HONOR RECOGNITION**

Strong high school grades are the greatest predictor of college success, so we think it's really important to recognize and celebrate Scholars' academic excellence and the effort they invest in achieving it. Each semester High School Scholars earning all A's and B's and College Scholars earning a 3.0 and higher GPA are invited to join the Circle of Honor.

#### **PILLARS OF SUCCESS**

At Evanston Scholars we believe in five qualities that are essential for success in college and in life. Throughout our 6-year program, we encourage our Scholars to recognize and develop the Pillars of Success in themselves and see them as vital components in their journey to and through college.



# **OUR IMPACT**



Average increase in ACT score following the ACT Preparation Course for the Class of 2017



2017 graduates receiving full-tuition scholarships



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



Graduating High School Scholars who matriculate to college each fall. Scholars have graduated from or currently attend 56 colleges and universities.



Average **debt-free scholarship** and aid per student over 4 years of college



Evanston Scholars who are persisting in college (nationally, the graduation rate for first-generation & low-income students is 11%)

# WHERE EVANSTON SCHOLARS ATTEND COLLEGE

Amherst College Augustana College (3) Baldwin Wallace Boston College Bowling Green State University Bradley University (3) Carleton College Colgate University Denison University DePaul University (2) Dominican University (4) Eastern Illinois University Elon University Hampton University Hope College Howard University Illinois State University Kent State University (3) Knox College (2) Lake Forest College (2) Lawrence University (2) Lewis University Millikin University Morgan State University Northern Illinois University (4) Northwestern University (3) Oakton Community College (4) 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 - Chicago University of Illinois - Springfield (3) University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (21) University of lowa University of Minnesota

University of Missouri (3) University of Pennsylvania

Valparaiso University (3)

Western Illinois University (2)

Western Michigan University

Vanderbilt University

Wellesley College

Wheaton College

University of Southern California

University of Wisconsin-Madison (2)

Washington University in St. Louis (3)