



EvanstonScholars

DEAR FRIENDS,

Message from Steve Newman Executive Director

In a year of isolation and uncertainty, many of us have been searching for beams of light to help us emerge from the darkness. Many have had a resurgent exploration into what matters. At Evanston Scholars, our guiding light is our students and their families. Their passion for education and their vision for their future is undiminished even in the face of racial, political, and economic turmoil. And that is what matters most.

Fortunately, we live in a community that cares. The interconnected web that is Evanston—students, families, mentors, volunteers, donors, and partners—is expanding and strengthening, even during the pandemic. This past year, we celebrated 10 years, and our 100th alumni. This past year, we welcomed a record number of students (45) into our newest high school cohort. And this past year, we expanded our services to provide resources and support to over 300 Scholars. These milestones would not have been possible without the many layers of support provided by every sector of the Evanston community, all focused on the futures of our students. Thank you so much for being a critical part of our network.

Message from Katie Dealy President, Board of Directors

While this has been a challenging year for our community and country, it has also been an inspiring time to be part of the Evanston Scholars community. My tenure as president began in August 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. I have been moved by the tenacity of our Scholars, the ingenuity of our staff, and the generosity of our supporters. Our community has rallied around one another. As a result, and in spite of the pandemic, Evanston Scholars enters its second decade stronger than ever. The work ahead is ambitious. This coming year, Evanston Scholars welcomes its largest cohort of Scholars and will provide support to a record number of students. We will launch our next strategic plan and ensure our work embodies our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The work of Evanston Scholars is not only important, it is urgent.

Thank you so much for being a part of the Evanston Scholars community and supporting this work.

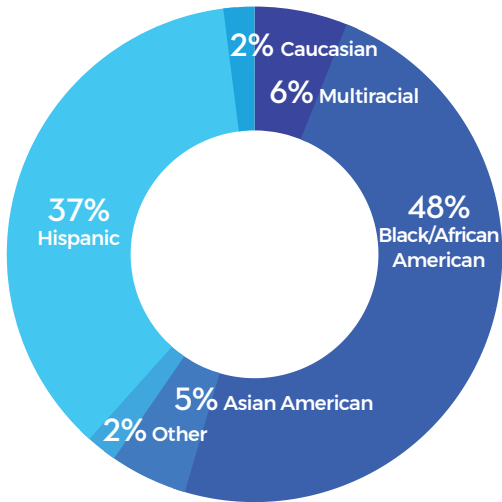


Summer Mitchell celebrates her graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“Evanston Scholars taught me to go for the things I want in life. I used that experience to persevere in college. — Evanston Scholars Alumna”

OUR VISION

We want every qualified Evanston 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.



138 College Scholars
81 High School Scholars
102 College Grads
321 students served

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 job 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



83%

Six-year graduation rate



64%

Four-year graduation rate



94%

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



Chief Program Officer Demisha Lee (right) and Director of College Access Laura Maloney (left) enjoy a visit with College Scholar Jazminé Morrow.

COLLEGE ACCESS

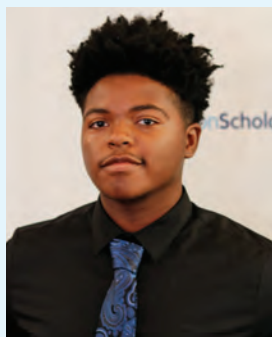
Scholars enter our College Access program in the summer before their junior year of high school. During their two years of college preparation they receive:

- A dedicated mentor to support them throughout the program
- One-on-one academic advising
- Monthly college preparation workshops
- College visits
- Test preparation
- Individualized college and financial aid counseling
- Resume and cover letter instruction
- Connections to summer jobs
- Counseling post-acceptance to determine their best academic and financial fit, which will make their goal of graduation much more attainable



“Evanston Scholars literally helped me and my family understand every step needed to apply to college. I would have been lost without them during the college application process.
— College Scholar **”**

SCHOLAR PROFILE



JUSTIN ROYAL
Freshman, Bradley University

When asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Justin Royal has had the same answer since preschool: design video games. Justin kept this dream in mind in high school as he pursued challenging courses in computer programming, game

design, and web design which put him on the track to achieving his dream.

As a first-generation college student, Justin found the college search process daunting, but found being a part of Evanston Scholars made the process smooth. He says, “Having someone to talk things through with was very helpful. The Evanston Scholars community has a sense of warmth and support that is projected your way on every occasion. They want us to succeed.” He plans to lean on this support system in college as well, saying “Knowing that you have a support system that’s on the same plane as friends and family is important. I feel very prepared going into the college process.”

Justin is pursuing his dream this fall at Bradley University, where he is majoring in User Design and Gaming.



\$127K

Debt-free financial aid over 4 years at enrolled colleges



9

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



New college freshman Aryel Mason proudly poses during move-in week at Howard University

“**Evanston Scholars is constantly checking in, so I never feel alone.**
— College Scholar ”

 **\$112,800**

Total direct financial support for books and emergency funds (tuition, housing, food, and fees)

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
- Support with time management and other executive functioning skills
- Online social and team-building activities
- Mental health referrals
- Academic and financial counseling
- College textbook allowance
- Access to funds in an emergency

SCHOLAR PROFILE



JAZMIN GARCIA
Washington University in
St. Louis '21, B.S. Anthropology

Without a doubt, Jazmin Garcia is a high achiever. She graduated high school with a GPA well above a 4.0. As a college student at Washington University in St. Louis, she continued to excel academically and at the same time volunteer at a local health clinic serving new immigrants and refugees.

Jazmin's parents had a clear vision for their daughter: for her to be the first one in their family to graduate from college. As a high school student, Jazmin was unsure of how to find a school that would fit her academic, financial, and social needs. She credits the mentorship and guidance from Evanston Scholars for helping her through that process and finding Wash U.

Looking back on her college years, Jazmin says, "Evanston Scholars was there for me through one-on-one meetings, check-ins, phone calls, emails, group meetings, you name it! This only scratches the surface of the opportunities I have received by being in Evanston Scholars and I cannot begin to go into detail about every single way I have received support, because I would go on forever."

Jazmin has set her sights on the next goal - becoming a physician. We know that Jazmin will *Make It Happen*, whatever she chooses to do!

CAREER READINESS

To ensure they will be competitive in the workplace, our Career Readiness staff prepares Scholars to become first-generation professionals by providing:

- Guidance on how to access career-related resources at their schools
- Career Readiness workshops
- Networking opportunities
- One-on-one career coaching with professionals in our support network
- Summer internships
- Access job openings with our organizational partners

100%

Students employed in a summer internship as part of our RISE (Relevant Internships for Successful Employment) pilot program for college sophomores

2.1X

Increase in Career Readiness partnerships

SCHOLAR PROFILE



NAISSA CHARLES
Wheaton College '21, B.S.
Computer Science
Junior Associate, Software
Development Engineer at
digital consulting company
Publicis Sapient

Naissa Charles had a vision for her career path: to pursue Computer Science. She first connected with Publicis Sapient, an Evanston Scholars Career Readiness Partner, through a virtual internship during the summer of 2020. Upon her graduation in 2021, Naissa landed a full-time role. Throughout the process, she leaned on her support team. She says, "One of the most important things I learned is the importance of talking through decisions with your mentor, Evanston Scholars staff, and family members. The important people in your life know you best and are aware of your aspirations." Naissa utilized this network to practice mock interviews and evaluate job offers. She advises younger Scholars to follow in her footsteps, saying, "Looking for and eventually obtaining a good job cannot be done alone - you will need advice many times on how to navigate the job market."

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OUR CAREER PARTNERS

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

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

MENTORS

Mentors serve as a source of information, inspiration, and moral support throughout our six-year program. 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 through the ups and downs of their college years and help celebrate graduation. Many mentors and Scholars develop relationships that endure after college.



Nicholas Kaufman, freshman at Pomona College, with his mentor, Derrick Blakley

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YoFresh! Cafe

Up to \$100

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FINANCIAL DATA AUGUST 2020- JULY 2021	
INCOME	
Individual Donations	355,154
Events	364,154
Family Foundation Donations	304,050
Foundation Grants	42,000
Corporations	31,663
Other Income	3,905
Payroll Protection Program	121,009
Restricted to Future Years	100,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,321,935
EXPENSE	
Program Services and Scholarships	874,781
Management and General	122,497
Fundraising	19,268
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,016,546

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Nick and Katherine Anderson in honor of Eric Dortch II
Barb Anderson in honor of Eric Dortch II
Anonymous in honor of Eric Dortch II
Anonymous in honor of ETHS Students
Anonymous in honor of Laura Maloney
Anonymous in honor of Macy, Talia, & Reed Murtos
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Jennifer Drake in honor of Coley Gallagher
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Laurie Cohen in memory of Robin Tucker Moran
Jerry Freedman and Elizabeth Sacks in memory of Dr. Kenneth Newman
Steve Goranson in memory of Linda Goranson
Stephen Goranson in memory of Linda Goranson
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David Hacker in memory of Dr. Elaine Hacker
Thomas Kilcheski in memory of Donna Correll
Ann Liddell in memory of Jim Childs
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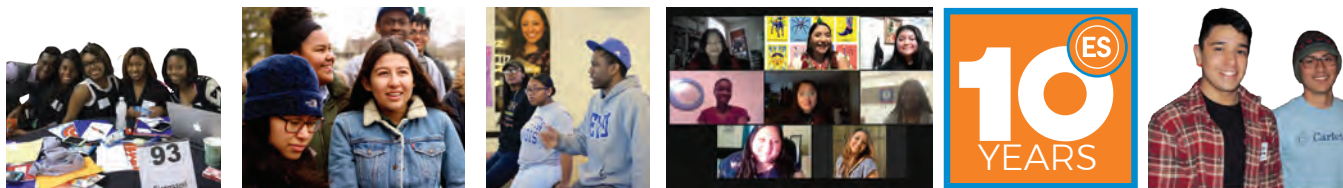
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#100ALUMNI OUR ALUMNI LOOK BACK



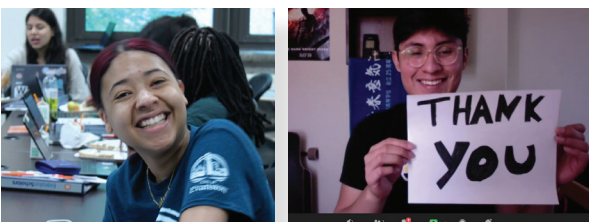
“ Being a part of Evanston Scholars has been life-changing for me. I am a member of the pioneer class of 2012, so seeing the program grow and evolve over the years is super special.” –**Andrea Edwards**, Marquette University ‘16, B.A. Writing-Intensive English ”



“ It means a lot knowing that I was given the opportunity to be the first in my family to get a Bachelor’s degree. I hope that being part of the #100Alumni will help show and inspire others like me to pursue higher education.” –**Cherese Waight**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign ‘20, B.S. Psychology ”



“ Being a part of #100Alumni and Evanston Scholars means that I am part of a group of like-minded individuals who worked hard, persevered, and successfully graduated from a four-year college. We made it happen!” –**Guadalupe Herrera**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign ‘20, B.S. Speech and Hearing Sciences ”



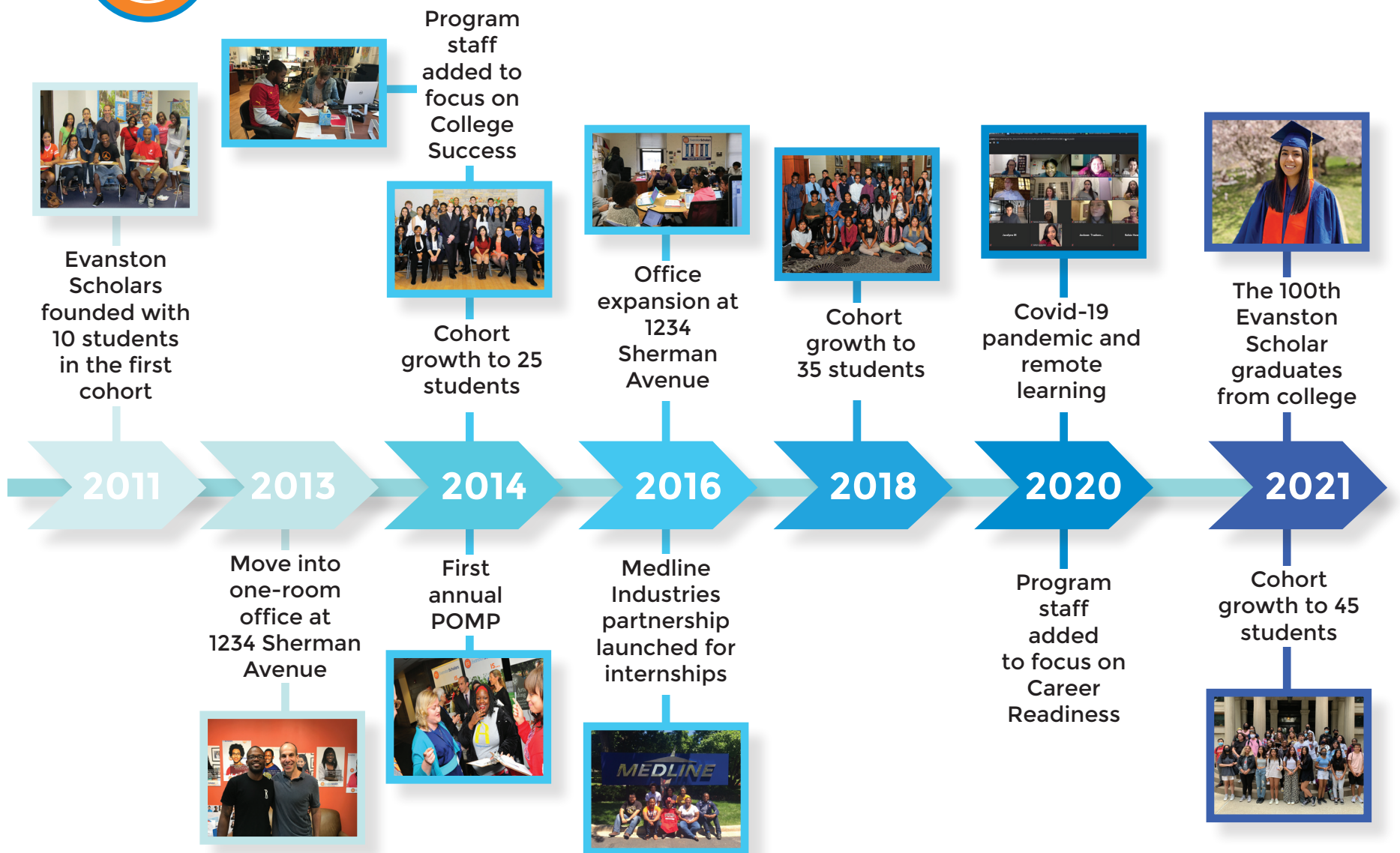
“ Being a part of #100Alumni—being a college graduate and a person of color—we are changing what professionalism looks like. I hope a couple of years from now we’ll be able to say 500, 1000...I hope Evanston Scholars continues to grow because it’s made such a big impact on all our lives.” –**Kadian Dixon**, Colgate University ‘18, B.S. Biology ”

“ Seeing the reach that has been created and growth since I’ve been in the program is absolutely amazing to me. I’m very proud to have been able to be a part of such an amazing community of Scholars and mentors alike.” –**Whitcliff Roberts**, Lewis University ‘18, B.S. Aviation Maintenance Technology and M.S. Aviation and Transportation Studies ”





EVANSTON SCHOLARS 10 YEARS



\$31,273,000
Debt-free aid awarded to our Scholars at their chosen colleges



Over
20,000
hours volunteered by our mentors



321
Students Served



102
College Graduates

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