

ACI awarded challenge grant for peer mentoring at member colleges

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Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) secured a commitment for a \$10,000 challenge grant from the [Council of Independent Colleges \(CIC\)](#) to expand its existing peer-mentoring program. The program is for first-generation, minority and low-income students at member colleges and universities.

"Longitudinal studies at ACI show that the use of peer mentors -- students trained to guide and assist students facing academic challenges -- has proven to be a highly effective means of increasing retention rates in the target population," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "This project will enable ACI to bring three more member institutions into our peer mentoring program network."

The grant is from CIC's [First Opportunity Partners](#) grant program. To secure the CIC grant, ACI must first raise at least \$10,000 from other corporations, foundations or individuals, Weltman said.