



# Associated Colleges of Illinois



**Associated Colleges of Illinois supports member colleges and universities by advancing independent liberal arts and sciences education and helping underserved students succeed in college, career and life.**

# The Liberal Arts: Backbone of American Education

For more than 275 years, American independent higher education has provided students broad knowledge in the liberal arts. Through languages, literature, mathematics, physical and social sciences, institutions of higher learning ignited economic growth and development. Many significant advances in business, economic welfare, environmental conservation, health, plus breakthroughs in astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences and mathematics, have come from independent colleges and universities that focus on the liberal arts.

## Associated College of Illinois: Building a Stronger State through the Liberal Arts

Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) promotes the liberal arts and sciences for underserved students, assuring access to a multitude of subjects and affordable learning environments tailored to the needs of today's diverse learners and changing workplaces.

In Illinois today, graduation and retention rates of students attending independent, liberal arts colleges and universities are higher than students at Illinois public colleges and universities. Graduates of ACI member colleges and universities are today's community and corporate leaders. They are problem solvers and creators who think critically and communicate clearly, while aspiring to live and work within an ethical framework vital to the state's future success. Investing in these students helps create a talent pipeline for Illinois, producing graduates with a strong education foundation who are highly skilled, trainable and ready to work.

**"Technology alone is not enough. It's technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our hearts sing."**

**Steve Jobs, Apple**

# 93%

of business leaders say that "a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than [a candidate's] undergraduate major."

**American Association of  
Colleges and Universities**





## ACI Programs

- **ACI's Scholarship Program** supports underserved students attending member colleges and universities. In 2017, ACI awarded more than 350 scholarships funded by corporations, foundations and individuals.
- **ACI's Emergency Financial Aid Program** meets the financial needs of students facing unanticipated hardships that can disrupt their academic studies. This aid enables students from low-to-moderate-income families the opportunity to continue their studies without interruption.
- **ACI's Peer Mentoring Program** increases the number of underserved college students who remain in school, succeed and graduate from ACI member colleges and universities. The program matches underserved college freshmen with trained peer mentors from similar backgrounds, who guide them through the critical first year at college. The retention rate for students participating in the Peer Mentoring Program is as high as 97 percent. In fall 2017, ACI's Peer Mentoring Program will operate on nine member campuses, serving 132 students.
- **ACI's Conference Program** provides professional development opportunities to member college and university staff through twice-yearly conferences serving four special interest groups: Advancement, Finance, Public Relations and Marketing, and Student Engagement.

## ACI Highlights

**65 years**

of service to private  
Illinois colleges  
and universities

More than

**\$70 million**

in scholarships awarded  
to Illinois college students  
since 1952

24 colleges and  
universities serving  
more than

**60,000  
students**

## Preparing students for the workforce

More than one third of the  
entire U.S. labor force  
changes jobs annually.

Today's students will have  
11 jobs by the age of 38.

Half of workers today have  
been with their current firms  
for less than 5 years.

Every year more than 30  
million Americans are working  
in jobs that did not exist in  
previous years.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Member Colleges and Universities





1. Augustana College, Rock Island
2. Benedictine University, Lisle
3. Blackburn College, Carlinville
4. Concordia University Chicago, River Forest
5. Dominican University, River Forest
6. Elmhurst College, Elmhurst
7. Eureka College, Eureka
8. Greenville University, Greenville
9. Illinois College, Jacksonville
10. Judson University, Elgin
11. Knox College, Galesburg
12. Lewis University, Romeoville
13. McKendree University, Lebanon
14. Millikin University, Decatur
15. Monmouth College, Monmouth
16. North Central College, Naperville
17. North Park University, Chicago
18. Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais
19. Principia College, Elsau
20. Quincy University, Quincy
21. Rockford University, Rockford
22. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights
23. University of St. Francis, Joliet
24. Wheaton College, Wheaton



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