

## Eureka College and North Central College Join ACI Peer Mentoring Program

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ACI's [Peer Mentoring Program](#) welcomes two additional campuses to its growing statewide network: Eureka College, Eureka, and North Central College, Naperville, will launch peer mentoring teams when the fall semester begins. The colleges secured their places in the program through a grant competition in May 2018. Each college will be funded for two teams of five mentees and two mentors.

ACI's Peer Mentoring Program seeks to increase college graduation rates among low-income, first-generation college students and students of color. To accomplish this goal, the program supports students who arrive at ACI member institutions with risk factors that could prevent them from staying in school and reaching graduation. To counter those risks -- from financial and educational inequities to lack of family experience with higher education — ACI matches these freshmen with trained peer mentors recruited from sophomores, juniors and seniors who faced similar challenges as freshmen. By building a “relationship bridge” between mentees, mentors, the campus community and its support services, ACI's Peer Mentoring Program provides an early warning system that can anticipate and address the specific challenges these students face – before those challenges derail a student's college career.

With the addition of Eureka College and North Central College, and the renewal of programs at the campuses already participating, ACI's 2018-19 Peer Mentoring Program will serve 156 students, including 130 mentees and 26 mentors at 11 ACI member institutions in urban, suburban and rural communities across Illinois. The 11 ACI Peer Mentoring Program campuses are:

- [Augustana College](#), Rock Island
- [Blackburn College](#), Carlinville
- [Concordia University Chicago](#), River Forest
- [Dominican University](#), River Forest
- [Eureka College](#), Eureka
- [Millikin University](#), Decatur
- [Monmouth College](#), Monmouth
- [North Central College](#), Naperville
- [North Park University](#), Chicago
- [Quincy University](#), Quincy
- [Rockford University](#), Rockford

ACI's Peer Mentoring Program is funded by grants from the Council of Independent Colleges, the Siragusa Foundation, ITW Foundation and BNSF Foundation, as well as sponsorships and individual contributions secured through ACI's Annual Benefit Reception, which raised more than \$90,000 in 2018 in support of the program. For information about making gifts to benefit ACI's Peer Mentoring Program, contact Executive Director Mick Weltman, 312-263-2391, ext. 0523 or write to [mweltman@acifund.org](mailto:mweltman@acifund.org).