



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Jordan Bruster
Rockford University
ACI General Scholarship

Jordan Bruster traveled a long way from Corpus Christi, Texas, to be a student at [Rockford University](#). A community college professor in Corpus Christi knew the university's Music Department head and suggested an interview and audition. Bruster chose Rockford, which offered him performing arts talent scholarships, work-study opportunities and an ACI General Scholarship.



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For this junior musical theater major, the university has provided him a chance to grow as a musician and actor. Bruster has appeared in seven productions at Rockford. He plays guitar, piano, saxophone and accordion, an instrument he learned to play at Rockford. He sings in the Vocal Collective, a select mixed choral ensemble, and acts.

Bruster's experience at Rockford has opened many doors in music and theater. For example, he has attended Illinois Theatre Association and Ohio Theatre Alliance conferences, meeting people in the same business and getting career advice. For the immediate future, Bruster sees himself working on stage somewhere. "I hope to work this summer with a professional theater company," Bruster says. "This definitely wouldn't be happening without the training I've received here." His plans after Rockford? Bruster says he wants to attend graduate school, and possibly teach acting or music.

Bruster says his ACI General Scholarship recipient was a big help. "I don't come from a background with a lot of money," he says. "I was thankful to get the ACI scholarship. For me it's the difference between having books for school and sometimes the difference between coming to

school or not. There's always that extra thousand dollars, and 'Oh, where am I going to get that?'"

While at Rockford, Bruster says he's learned some things about topics outside his music and theater education. "I never thought I'd be taking a Greek literature class, art history or physical education," he says. "I feel well-rounded."