



# Associated Colleges of Illinois

**Taylor Williams**  
**Blackburn College**  
**ACI Peer Mentoring Program**



Taylor Williams chose to attend [Blackburn College](#) in Carlinville, Illinois, because she wanted a small atmosphere and to be close to her home in Alton, Illinois. The oldest three siblings, Williams says that her mother didn't finish college, but is now in school. "Coming to college, getting a degree and being successful has always been expected of me," Williams says. "I want to be successful. I grew up knowing that I was going to go to college."

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Williams, a sophomore at Blackburn, is majoring in elementary education. "My plan is to become a teacher and to make a difference in some way," she says, adding she'd like to teach young children. To help her college experience, Williams joined ACI's Peer Mentoring Program at the college, which she credits for success in her first year in college. "I owe it to this program," she says.

As a first-year mentee, Williams says her experienced peer mentor answered questions, gave her feedback and advice, which guided her through her freshman year. "The program itself has helped me figure out study habits for tests, and it's given me social skills I didn't have before,"

she says. "What I've gained most from being in the Peer Mentoring Program is having people that I can rely on like friends. I've made connections with multiple people through this program.

"This program has helped shape me from the beginning. It has helped keep me on track. That has been very important and helpful," Williams says.