



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Janiyah Williams
Illinois Wesleyan University
Montgomery Ward Foundation Scholarship



[Illinois Wesleyan University](#) was an attractive choice for Janiyah Williams, of Oak Lawn, Illinois. She had applied to several colleges and universities in Illinois and elsewhere. But she chose Illinois Wesleyan because it is not too far from her Chicago-area home, the student-teacher ratio was small and the financial aid package was helpful.

Williams, a sophomore, studies international business, with a focus on becoming an attorney specializing in international business law. "I just like international business because I want to travel, and I want to explore life outside of the U.S.," she says. "So, I thought international business would be a good fit for what I want to do."

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But being part of a single-parent household is a challenge when it comes to paying tuition and other college costs. Williams spoke with the university's financial aid

director, Scott Seibring, about her financial situation. "He connected me with this scholarship," Williams says. "It has really helped me, because without it, I wouldn't be able to be in school. It plays a big part, along with all of my other scholarships and grants, in helping me continue to come to this school." Williams explained that she finances most of her own education.

In addition, Williams has two on-campus jobs, working at the student center and as a teaching assistant in psychology. She is also a volunteer at Western Avenue Community Center. "It's an after-school program. It's like a block away from campus. I work with small groups of children there, and we do homework. It's really fun. I started doing it last year, and I really enjoy it.," she says.

Williams participates in the university's Black Student Union chapter and participates in Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity. Last year, she went with others to Mandeville, Louisiana, to build houses and improve existing properties. "It made my very happy to know that I was helping a family to have an adequate living environment," Williams says.

Williams says she is pleased with her choice to Illinois Wesleyan. "I feel like I belong here. I feel like I made the right choice. And, I'm just really happy to be here. I'm enjoying my time," she adds.