

ACI Awarded Matching Grant for 'Career Leaders Program' Launching in 2021

CIC funds to be awarded when ACI achieves 2:1 match

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THE COUNCIL OF
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[The Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC)

Washington, D.C. has committed \$18,000 to help fund ACI's Career Leaders Program, expected to launch in fall 2021. The program is "a collaborative program designed to provide underserved, high-achieving college seniors with a year of comprehensive training and support in developing business, social, and leadership skills," according to ACI's grant application. Students will use those skills to secure entry-level positions leading to meaningful careers, the application said.

In addition to training and support, each participant in the ACI Career Leaders Program will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to help fill financial gaps on the way to graduation.

ACI's proposal was funded through a First Opportunity Partners grant from CIC, with support from the UPS Foundation. CIC's financial commitment is contingent upon ACI raising an additional \$36,000 by spring 2021.

"The Career Leaders Program is a logical next step that integrates ACI's [College-to-Career](#) initiatives into one program for the benefit of students enrolled at ACI's colleges and universities," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. These initiatives include ACI's Skills for Work, Skills for Life Boot Camps, ACI's Career Development Conference and Expo and the ACI Career Mentoring Program, which launched this fall. A fourth initiative, paid micro-internships through ACI's partner, Parker Dewey, completes the Career Leaders Program, he said.

Each of the career initiatives has achieved excellent attendance rates, Weltman said. More than 60 students have attended boot camps, nearly 300 participants attended career development conferences, 34 students have obtained paid work experiences through micro-internships, and about 20 senior executives and civic leaders are mentors to students this fall.

Each ACI member institution will select one underserved, high-achieving senior to participate in the Career Leaders Program. Chloe Overstreet, ACI student board member from [Eureka College](#), will serve as the program advisor and student liaison.

For more information about contributing to ACI's Career Leaders Program, contact Executive Director Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or 312-263-2391, ext. 1.