



Reporter

December 2022 - January 2023

In This Issue:

- From the Executive Director: April Arnold
- ACI Scholar: Khalil Mosley, Augustana College
- ACI's Fall Professional Development Conference Meets at Chicago's Microsoft Technology Center
- Supporting Critical Student Well-Being Needs Virtually
- Augustana College Graduate Named CNN Hero of the Year
- Interim Presidents Named at Blackburn College and Rockford University; Aurora University President to Retire
- From ACI Corporate Partner Expense Reduction Analysts: Money is hiding in your 'Tail Spend.' Whoa! What is 'Tail Spend'?
- Upcoming Events
- The Time is Always Right to Help a Student in Need

From the Executive Director

Hello, and Happy New Year!

With another year behind us and fresh opportunities ahead, I hope you have taken a moment to celebrate the progress you made in 2022. It was still a recovery year for most, and ACI-member schools worked hard to meet the ever-changing needs of their students and campuses.

For ACI, this is a research-heavy year. We are assessing what we do, how we do it, and how we might change for the better. We are updating ACI-member school and employment data. And, we are well on our way to benchmarking the work of other state councils like ACI, to learn more about their programs and how they are funded.

Speaking of funding, the ACI staff and ACI Board of Trustees are gearing up for ACI's annual benefit, a luncheon to be held April 21. You will see more information regarding tickets and sponsorships soon. To learn more about the event before then, please reach out to ACI's director of events and scholarships, Daisy Gomez, at dgomez@acifund.org.

I welcome program consultant Leslie Scarpace, who is working with ACI to help identify opportunities to strengthen our programs and outcomes, and work with me to build on our service delivery. Leslie is an accomplished talent-development professional with an Master of Science in Education and 20 years of experience working in higher education, K-12 and corporate. ACI's former program director, Constance Willoughby, partnered with Leslie this past fall to organize a smooth transition. I am grateful for Constance's longtime service to ACI and appreciate her remaining a friend to us as we move forward. For those of you that know Constance, I hope you will join me in wishing her the best in future endeavors.

Here's to an awesome 2023!

All the best,

April Arnold, CFRE
Executive Director
aarnold@acifund.org
312-263-2391, ext. 1



ACI Scholars

Khalil Mosley **Augustana College** **ACI Peer Mentoring Program**

Khalil Mosley is a mentor to other students of color attending [Augustana College](https://www.augustana.edu). A beneficiary of Augustana's PACE Multicultural Mentoring Program for first-year students, and ACI's Peer Mentoring Program, which benefits men of color, Mosley knows how peer mentors can help incoming students, especially underserved, first-generation students. "I want to say I'm capable of guiding a person toward becoming the best version of themselves," says Mosley. "It's going to be learning experience for me that I can guide a person toward being their best self everyday, building different connections and building different bonds."

Mosley, a junior from Chicago, is the oldest of four children in his family, including one sister and two brothers. He attended North Lawndale College Prep in the city, where he was able to take advantage of the school's Phoenix Pact. That program is a scholarship and alumni support program for students to attend partner colleges, such as Augustana College. While visiting Augustana, Mosley says he met a number of students and North Lawndale College Prep alumni, which helped him decide on Augustana versus other colleges he visited.

[Read more of Khalil's story.](#)



ACI News

ACI's Fall Professional Development Conference Meets at Chicago's Microsoft Technology Center



ACI's hosted its first in-person [Professional Development Conference](#) since 2019 due to the pandemic, with the theme, "Coming Together Again." There were 130 people from 20 member schools who registered, with 102 participants from 18 schools attending. The conference, held Nov. 11, was at the Microsoft Technology Center in Chicago.

Attendees were professional staff from ACI [member colleges and universities](#), plus ACI board members, corporate sponsors, speakers and staff, according to Daisy Gomez, ACI director, events and scholarships.

Designed for staff of ACI-member institutions, the conference included 20 breakout sessions, led by 26 business and higher education leaders, Gomez reported. Sessions were grouped into four tracks, including advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement. Among the presenters was Leah Wallace, left, a corporate member of the ACI Board of Trustees.

Keynote speaker [Nathan Chappell](#), right, senior vice president, [DonorSearch](#), shared insights on philanthropy and from a new book, *The Generosity Crisis*, which he coauthored with Michael Ashley and Brian Crimmins. He also led a breakout session in the conference's Advancement Track.



Chappell noted that the nature of philanthropic giving is changing and declining, affecting nonprofit organizations. One solution is a concept he called "radical connection."

"Generosity does not have to be complicated, but we do have to realize what's going on and that competition for connection is real. Affiliation and association are no longer enough," he told the audience. "You can like something. But when you go the distance, you go there often, or you tell your friends about it. This idea of 'radical connection' is not just 'I know you' or 'you know me.' It's that 'you know me and I know you' -- and together we'll do something special."

He urged the audience to "make conscious decisions about the things that you enjoy -- the things that you're passionate about, the organizations whose values are aligned with yours, and then go the distance with those organizations."

Saint Xavier University had the largest group of conference attendees with 16, followed by North Park University with six. Speakers shared slides from their presentations, which are available on the conference website.



Conference co-sponsors were DonorSearch and [Quest Food Management Services](#). [The Virtual Care Group](#), which recently joined ACI as a corporate partner, sponsored the Student Engagement Track. The Microsoft Technology Center provided in-kind support.

Supporting Critical Student Well-Being Needs Virtually

Join a Jan. 26 webinar to learn more about telehealth



Telehealth Made Easy for Higher Ed

Almost 50 percent of 2022-entering college students report being "emotionally/mentally" exhausted (BCSSE, 2022) as they were beginning college. With the increase in student need running head first into exhausted front-line caregiver staff, sustainable solutions are complicated.

The Virtual Care Group will host a webinar Jan. 26, to showcase the benefits of using a telehealth partner to meet well-being needs including:

- **Unlimited services:** Counseling, crisis counseling, life coaching and urgent care services are offered 24/7 by our master's-level therapists and U.S. board-certified doctors, with no caps on sessions!
- **Access and equity:** We remove common student barriers to well-being services as there is no insurance needed, no credit card, no copay, no social security number needed and over 200+ languages are spoken by practitioners, including American Sign Language.
- **Cost savings:** We will review the affordable, customizable cost-savings program offered exclusively to ACI campuses.

Hosted by ACI telehealth solution partner: [The Virtual Care Group](#)

Jan. 26, 2023, 1 p.m. Central Time (U.S. and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde-przoiE9JSgWKPnEP_VK-kZ-KMU5NW

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For questions, please contact Emily Pettit, vice president of strategic partnerships, 860-391-5611 or emily@thevirtualcaregroup.com.

Augustana College Graduate Named CNN Hero of the Year

Nelly Cheboi, right, 2016 graduate of ACI-member [Augustana College](#), was named CNN Hero of the Year in December for her work with TechLit Africa, a nonprofit that redistributes recycled computers in schools in rural Kenya.

She attended Augustana College on a full scholarship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and computer science. She accepted the top honor with her mother, Christine, on stage.

Cheboi, who grew up in poverty in Mogotio, Kenya, credited her mother's hard work in raising her and her sisters for her success. She also thanked Steve Bahls, former Augustana president, and his wife, Jane, for their encouragement.



As CNN Hero of the Year, Cheboi will receive \$100,000 to expand her work. She and the other top 10 CNN Heroes honored at December's gala all receive a \$10,000 cash award and, for the first time, additional grants, organizational training and support from The Elevate Prize Foundation through a new collaboration with CNN Heroes. Cheboi also will be named an Elevate Prize winner, which comes with a \$300,000 grant and additional support worth \$200,000 for her nonprofit.

She was one of 10 nominees for the honor, selected by audience voting. The CNN Hero of the Year was revealed live during "[CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute](#)," hosted by Anderson Cooper and Kelly Ripa.

[Read more about Cheboi's amazing accomplishment.](#)

Story and photo credit: Augustana College

Interim Presidents Named at Blackburn College and Rockford University; Aurora University President to Retire

Two ACI-member institutions began the new year with interim presidents, while another institution announced the retirement of its president of 22 years.

In December, Blackburn College's Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Greg Meyer interim president. He will serve until a permanent successor is named, according to a [Blackburn College news release](#). He succeeded Dr. Mark Biermann, who resigned to focus on his health, well-being and extended family, the release said. Biermann joined Blackburn College in August 2020 after nearly 30 years in higher education, most recently serving as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

During more than 30 years at Blackburn, Meyer held a variety of academic and administrative positions at the college. He has served as a department and division chair, professor of philosophy and religion, dean of students, college counselor and director of church relations, the college reported. He has been engaged with the institution since his retirement, returning to the campus during the spring of 2020 to serve as interim provost.

The board of trustees of Rockford University appointed Dr. Patricia Lynott, right, interim president. She began last month, as a search for the permanent president got underway. Lynott succeeded Dr. Eric W. Fulcomer, who resigned and began a new role as president of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Madison, Wisconsin.



Lynott served as president of University College at Southern New Hampshire University. She brings more than 20 years of experience advancing the missions of nationally ranked colleges and universities, with more than a decade of experience at the executive level, according to a [Rockford University news release](#). Lynott also served many years in the classroom as an associate professor at ACI-member Elmhurst College (now Elmhurst University) before becoming dean of graduate and continuing education and eventually, executive director of Elmhurst Partners.



The Aurora University Board of Trustees has begun a search to find a successor to Dr. Rebecca L. Sherrick, left, who announced she will retire at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. Sherrick has served 22 years as Aurora's president. Under her leadership, AU experienced record growth, expanding enrollment to rank among the top 10 largest private, not-for-profit universities in Illinois, while maintaining strong financial health, according to an [Aurora University news release](#).

During her tenure, she championed initiatives that provide access and opportunities for students traditionally underserved by higher education. Sherrick established the first doctoral program in Aurora's history, built up the university's Division III athletics programs, and strengthened the university's diversity, including its presence within the Latino/a community. That led to the U.S. government's recognition of Aurora University as a Minority-Serving Institution. She also oversaw the revitalization and renovation of AU's main campus in Aurora and its George Williams College location in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Story and photo credits: Blackburn College, Rockford University and Aurora University

Did You Know?

From ACI Corporate Expense Reduction Analysts

Money is hiding in your 'Tail Spend.' Whoa! What is 'Tail Spend'?

Is your institution familiar with the concept of tail spend? Even if you're not familiar with it, you have it. Simply put, "tail spend" refers to approximately 20 percent of non-core procurement transactions that are largely left unmanaged, usually due to a high volume of suppliers and limited in-house resources. The best way to illustrate tail spend is through the Pareto Principle, wherein 80 percent of an organization's spend is strategically managed with 20 percent of the suppliers. This 80 percent spend typically includes the cost of occupancy, salaries, capital expenditures, etc.



**Expense Reduction
Analysts**

[Read more.](#)

Paul Zaleski
Principal Consultant
pzaleski@expensereduction.com
847-525-0444

Upcoming Events

- **Monday, Jan. 16:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, ACI office closed
- **Wednesday, March 8:** Presidents quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, March 10:** Provosts quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

- **Thursday, April 13:** Work and Life Skills Boot Camp
- **Friday, April 21:** ACI Presidents Forum
- **Friday, April 21:** "The Future We Lead," ACI annual benefit
- **Friday, April 21:** ACI Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
- **Monday, May 29:** Memorial Day, ACI office closed

The Time is Always Right to Help a Student in Need

As a new year begins, your gift supports a life-changing experience for an Illinois college student. Because of you, necessary financial support and guidance is provided to low-income and first-generation students attending ACI-member schools. Your support creates [video testimonies](#) from ACI scholarship recipients like these that illustrate the positive effects of your generosity first-hand.



Please join us today with [a gift](#) ... monthly or weekly. Every gift is appreciated in helping a student. Thank you for your support.

P.S. Inflation is a challenge for everyone right now, but especially for students. Will your company match your generous gift to double its impact?



Associated Colleges of Illinois
70 East Lake Street
Suite 1418
Chicago, IL 60601
<https://acifund.org>

Quick Links

[ACI website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Twitter](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Giving](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Email Us](#)

ACI Member Colleges and Universities

Augustana College - Aurora University - Blackburn College - Dominican University - Elmhurst University
 Eureka College - Illinois College - Illinois Wesleyan University - Judson University - Knox College
 Lewis University - McKendree University - Millikin University - Monmouth College - North Central College
 North Park University - Olivet Nazarene University - Principia College - Quincy University - Rockford University
 Saint Xavier University - Trinity Christian College - University of St. Francis - Wheaton College

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? [Click here.](#)