

## ACI Awarded Grant to Establish Leadership Council to Help Raise Funds

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[The Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC) awarded a grant of \$8,500 to ACI to establish a high-profile volunteer group known as the "Leadership Council." The council will comprise

key senior leaders and influencers from corporate, civic, association and nonprofit organizations with a significant interest in liberal arts and sciences education. It is the organization's first volunteer board focused exclusively on fundraising.

The Leadership Council project is funded through a [Capacity-Building grant](#) from CIC.

"ACI is uniquely positioned with access to hundreds of corporations and organizations in the Chicago area and throughout Illinois," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "We're excited to create this Leadership Council to enhance our fundraising and support talented, underserved students attending ACI's 27 member colleges and universities." The new Leadership Council will be a non-voting, non-governance volunteer board, Weltman added.

Members of the new council will provide financial support, lend their names to ACI initiatives, create and share testimonials and network with like-minded peers to make connections and raise funds for ACI, according to the grant application. To help launch the project, ACI has engaged the premier national consulting firm, Campbell & Company, Chicago, to develop a project plan and timeline, identify and meet with prospects, and secure at least 10 charter members by Aug. 31. Campbell & Company is currently building a Major Gifts Program for ACI.



"CIC is very pleased to help ACI achieve its mission through the Capacity-Building Grant Program," said Carol Schuler, CIC vice president for State Council programs. "The program, open only to [CIC State Councils](#), has since 2010 awarded more than \$482,000 to fund State Council projects that could not otherwise be implemented through existing budgets."