

August - September 2021

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Leadership Message

From the Executive Director

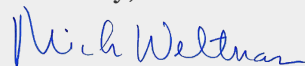
Dear Friends,

Clif Fenton, who served on the ACI Board of Trustees for nearly 20 years, has retired. Clif served on the Finance Committee for most of those years, including his role as chair for the past 10 years. Clif was instrumental in getting the endowment professionally managed as well as instituting strong financial management systems. In addition, Clif was a great supporter of ACI. We appreciate all he did to help grow and improve ACI for nearly two decades. Thanks, Clif!

Constance Willoughby, ACI's director, programs, is visiting ACI campuses in August and September to meet with staff to improve programming and grow student participation. As part of her visits, Constance is implementing a new strategy to reach students directly, making them aware of programs and scholarship support available. Part of this strategy is to build a student network to learn about programming and financial assistance. A leave-behind student card is being provided. For students to register, they can scan a QR code, visit the [ACI website](#) or text "ACI" to 844-387-5660. Our hope and expectation is that informing more students directly of both ACI programming and financial assistance will increase student participation.

Finally, I'm excited to share that Daisy Gomez will join ACI Sept. 7 as our director, events and scholarships. She served as special events coordinator at ACI-member Aurora University and, while a student there, as both a Special Events Spartan Fellow and special events intern. Daisy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and MBA both at Aurora. Daisy is also bilingual. Welcome to ACI, Daisy!

Sincerely,



Mick Weltman
Executive Director

ACI Scholars

Emmanuel Iradukunda Trinity Christian College *ACI General Scholarship*

Two things brought Emmanuel Iradukunda from Boise, Idaho, to [Trinity Christian College](#) in Palos Heights, Illinois: soccer and an opportunity to grow his Christian faith. "One of my friends came here to play soccer," he says. "I started looking into the college, and I realized that it was a Christian school that taught the Christian faith." That's why he came to Illinois.



Iradukunda's family has roots in Tanzania. He has two sisters, six brothers, plus his parents, a big family. Yet he chose to transfer to Trinity Christian, a small college. "I'd rather go to a small college because I think it gives you more one-on-one time with the teachers," he says. Majoring in psychology, Iradukunda says he hopes to graduate at the end of 2021.

"I find it very interesting to study about how the human brain works -- what causes people to do what," he says. Iradukunda hopes to be a counselor to jail inmates, helping them to avoid repeat stays in prison. After college, Iradukunda hopes to work in the United States and gain experience. Perhaps one day, he'll return to Africa, he says. While studying at Trinity Christian, he is also a winger on the college soccer team, fulfilling a personal goal.

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

Mark Your Calendar: ACI's Wealth Advisors Breakfast is Oct. 14



ACI will host its 3rd annual breakfast for wealth advisors at the University Club of Chicago on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 8 a.m. The event is an opportunity for wealth advisors, financial analysts and business or community leaders to learn about ACI's work and network with peers.

Robert DiMeo, left, CEO of [Fiducient Advisors](#) and ACI corporate board member, will give an update on the stock/bond markets and thoughts on the "war for talent" in the financial services sector. President S. Georgia Nugent of ACI-member [Illinois Wesleyan University](#), will introduce ACI and the morning's program. Registration for this complimentary breakfast will begin in September.

ACI Recruiting Mentors for College Juniors and Seniors

ACI is recruiting business leaders to serve as career mentors to juniors and seniors attending one of ACI's [26 member colleges and universities](#). Mentors and mentees in the program begin meeting Oct. 1 and conclude April 15, 2022.

This is the second year of ACI's Career Mentoring Program, which the organization operates with its partner, [Mentoring Complete](#). A virtual program, the mentoring program calls for biweekly meetings between mentors and mentees, for about one hour. Training is also provided to mentors. The goal is to help students translate classroom learning to the workplace and build networking, professional development and communication skills.



Registration is available online at [Mentoring Complete's website](#). For specific questions about the program, contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391, ext. 1, or by email at mweltman@acifund.org.

Launched in 2020, ACI's Career Mentoring Program is funded in part through a National Venture Fund grant from the [Council of Independent Colleges](#), Washington, D.C.

Work and Life Skills Boot Camp Set for Sept. 24

Registration will open this week



Registration for ACI's Fall [Work and Life Skills Boot Camp](#) launches this week. Scheduled for Friday, Sept. 24, these virtual workshops on Zoom will offer sessions on modernized resume' writing, investing "pocket change" in the stock market, micro-internships and career mentoring. A Q&A panel was added to the agenda which will allow student attendees to explore the minds of other young professionals and early career launchers from Citi.

Work and Life Skills Boot Camps are held semiannually, in fall and spring and are exclusively for students attending ACI member colleges and universities. While these sessions are open to all ACI students, there is an emphasis on first-generation, low-income and other underserved student populations to help fill information and networking gaps that other students may not experience.

Questions? Contact Constance Willoughby, ACI director, programs, at cwilloughby@acifund.org or call 312-263-2391, ext. 4.

Graystone Consulting Joins ACI as Corporate Partner

ACI welcomes [Graystone Consulting](#), Oak Brook, Illinois, as a [corporate partner](#). The company is a business of Morgan Stanley. Graystone Consulting is ACI's ninth corporate partner.

Graystone Consulting is an industry specialist in managing "perpetual capital," including endowments, sovereign nations, foundations, trusts and other nonprofits, according to its website. This year, [Robert J. Dow](#), executive director, Morgan Stanley, and consulting director, Graystone Consulting, joined the [ACI Board of Trustees](#).

Corporate partners assist ACI by helping defray operating costs and focus philanthropic dollars on mission-critical programs. Corporate partners also offer products and services designed to meet specific challenges of higher education and work with many [ACI member colleges and universities](#).

Graystone
ConsultingSM

ACI Distributes CIC/UPS Scholarships to Member Colleges and Universities

ITW also awards grant to support ACI program



ACI has distributed \$83,200 in CIC/UPS Scholarships to assist students attending members colleges and universities. The scholarships were made possible by a grant from the [Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC) in Washington, D.C., through the [CIC/UPS Educational Endowment](#).

"The funds we distribute to our members are vital for the students who benefit from these scholarships," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "We hear from many students about how this scholarship made a difference in their ability to meet tuition costs and continue their degree programs."

Nationally, CIC provided more than \$1.4 million in student scholarships through state-based associations to make private colleges and universities more affordable and accessible to underserved students.

"The Council of Independent Colleges is proud to support nearly 450 low-income, first-generation, minority, and new American students in 26 states through the CIC/UPS Scholarships," said Marjorie Hass, CIC president. "Through our partnership with ACI, these scholarships help individual students pursue their education at one of Illinois' superb independent colleges and universities."

The CIC/UPS Scholarships Program has made a private college education possible for more than 21,000 low-income, first generation, and minority students.

Grant to ACI from Illinois Tools Works Foundation
[ITW Foundation](#), Glenview, Illinois, awarded \$10,000 to ACI's [Peer Mentoring Program](#). The program operates on 11 ACI-affiliated campuses. It works to help first-generation, low-income students through the critical first year in college, and helps them remain in college and earn degrees.



This is the seventh year the ITW Foundation has provided a grant to support the ACI Peer Mentoring Program.

ACI Launches New Logo, Instagram Page



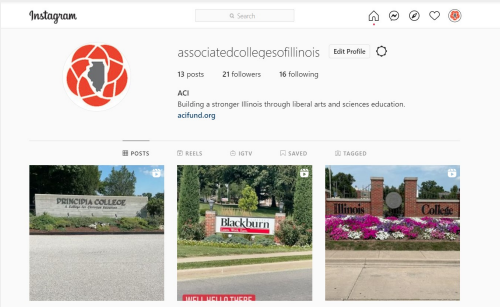
You may have noticed something new in our communications this summer and in this edition of ACI Reporter: our new logo. This is the first remake of our organization's logo for at least a decade and perhaps longer.

The new design emphasizes the ACI acronym, familiar to most people who know our organization. We also kept the familiar orange color in the circle design, which we revised to include the state image of Illinois.

ACI's new logo was designed by Walter Freeman, owner and creative director, [ef Design Group](#), Chicago.

Also new: Follow us on Instagram

There has been a significant decrease in new Facebook profiles for Generation Z and beyond as teens and young adults flock to TikTok and other social sites, such as Instagram. [ACI recently joined Instagram](#), a social media platform that connects users, called followers, to businesses, celebrities and friends through photos and short videos. A member since early July, ACI intends to use this app as a way of increasing visibility among students, schools and supporters to help reinforce messaging about programming, events and other ACI news.



Currently, the content on the ACI page consists of short videos, called Reels, that captures the essence of some of our campuses during our recent site visits as well as general information about available financial assistance and programs. Be sure to follow our Instagram page [@associatedcollegeofillinois](#) as well as our other social media channels: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

ACI Team Recognized by Chicago-area Organizations



This summer, two Chicago-area public relations organizations recognized the ACI team for outstanding work in 2020.

The [Public Relations Society of America \(PRSA\) Chicago chapter](#) recognized [ACI Reporter](#), the organization's newsletter, with its [Award of Excellence](#), left image, for digital publishing. PRSA Chicago previously recognized ACI Reporter with a similar award in 2019.

The ACI team earned two awards, right images, from the [Publicity Club of Chicago](#) (PCC), including a "[Golden Trumpet Award](#)," for the organization's 2020 Virtual Benefit Reception. The Golden Trumpet Award is given to the judges' top choice in each awards category. The ACI Benefit Reception was honored in a category for special events done virtually. In addition, the organization presented a Silver Trumpet Award to ACI's 2019-2020 Annual Report, following the same award presented the previous year. ACI's annual report has been honored in four of the past five years by Chicago-area public relations organizations.

Did You Know?

From ACI Corporate Partner Baker Tilly

Top three agenda items for your next board meeting

Pandemic or not, the higher education industry is evolving rapidly. College and university leaders and boards should be prepared to have proactive discussions at your next meeting.

[Read more.](#)

For more information, contact:

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brad.mease@bakertilly.com



Upcoming Events

- **Monday, Sept. 6:** Labor Day, ACI office closed
- **Wednesday, Sept. 8:** Presidents quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, Sept. 10:** Provosts quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

- **Friday, Sept. 17:** Presidents/corporate trustees quarterly meeting, 11 a.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, Sept. 24:** ACI Work and Life Skills Boot Camp, via Zoom webinar
- **Thursday, Oct. 14:** Wealth Advisors Breakfast, 8 a.m., University Club of Chicago
- **Thursday, Oct. 21:** ACI Executive Committee, 4 p.m., via Zoom
- **TBD:** ACI Fall Professional Development Conference

Help a College Student: Your Gifts Make a Difference!

With the start of a new school year, ACI is working to raise critical dollars for scholarship support. The funds raised throughout the year will enable students at our [member schools](#) to begin and/or continue their college education. Your support is crucial now as we strive to help students seeking tuition assistance.

Please help ACI provide scholarship support for low-income and first-generation students. Your gift makes a difference for the many students attending ACI-affiliated institutions across Illinois. To see the impact your gift can have on these students, [watch them tell their stories](#) and see how ACI scholarships make a difference in their lives. Visit our website to [make a gift today](#). Thank you for your support!



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

Quick Links

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ACI Member Colleges and Universities

Augustana College - Aurora University - Benedictine University - Blackburn College
Concordia University Chicago - Dominican University - Elmhurst College - 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

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