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ACI's Career Development Conference and Employer Expo Builds Career Readiness for Freshmen Through Seniors

Register now for Oct. 4 event at North Central College

[ACI's 2019 Career Development Conference](#) will welcome students from ACI's [26 member institutions](#) for a full-day career development experience on Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, at North Central College, Naperville. Free to students, staff and faculty at ACI member schools, the Career Development Conference builds knowledge of available career paths, enhances job readiness and showcases some of Illinois' top employers, many of which already employ significant numbers of alumni from ACI colleges and universities.



Associated
Colleges
of Illinois

High profile keynotes and seminars on hot-button topics

This year's Career Development Conference features two plenary keynote sessions:

- Keynote breakfast with J.D. Gershbein, CEO of Owlsh Communications and nationally recognized expert on networking and the LinkedIn platform, who will highlight the value of developing a networking mindset
- Keynote luncheon with Michelle Silverthorn, founder of Inclusion Nation, speaking on implicit bias and the realities of diversity in the workplace

Skill-building seminars throughout the day explore career paths in specific fields, share job search success stories from young alumni, teach email etiquette and basic employment law, introduce students to micro-internships and much more. [View the latest agenda.](#)



"We've designed ACI's Career Development Conference to deliver high value to students at every stage of their college careers, even if they are not currently seeking full-time jobs," said Executive Director Mick Weltman. "Our goal is to help students discover the career path right for them, show them how to build a compelling resume during their college career, and equip them to conduct an effective job search and perform well once they're actually on the job."

A select group of employers and graduate schools

Morning and afternoon Employer Expo sessions offer students access to senior talent acquisition professionals representing key employers. Participants include Aon, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Call One, Central Intelligence Agency, Dayton Freight Lines, Fifth Third Bank, Northwestern Mutual, Quad Jobs and Shure Incorporated. In addition, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, is a participating sponsor and its speaker and will be available to chat with students at the Financial Services Career Paths seminar. Employers may reserve a booth at the Employer Expo by calling Eli O'Sullivan Kurtz at 312-263-2391, ext. 0 or write to ekurtz@acifund.org to reach him by email. [View partnership and sponsorship opportunities.](#)

Because the next logical step for many students may be graduate school, the expo will feature a selection of ACI-member graduate schools, including Dominican University, Judson University, Lewis University and Saint Xavier University.

ACI students, staff, faculty and board members are welcome

ACI's Career Development Conference is free to all students, staff and faculty only from ACI member colleges and universities, as well as to ACI's Board of Trustees. All attendees must register in advance, and only employers who are participating as partners or sponsors may register and attend. [Register.](#)

Transportation grants help colleges bring delegations

"We hope ACI member college and university will send a delegation of students to our Career Development Conference," said Weltman. "This conference represents one of the most rewarding benefits we offer to our members." To help colleges fund transporting students to the Naperville conference, ACI offers grants of up to \$300 to fund van rentals, van drivers, bus or train tickets. All campuses are eligible to receive grants, but funds are limited. Campuses most distant from Naperville will have priority. [Apply for a grant](#), and send the application to Eli O'Sullivan Kurtz no later than Sept. 16.

ACI Scholars

Xavier Jobe Dominican University ACI Peer Mentoring Program

[Watch Xavier tell his story!](#)

After graduating from Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Illinois, Xavier Jobe expected to complete his bachelor's degree at another Chicago-area college. [Dominican University](#), River Forest, offered more scholarship support than other schools, and Jobe accepted. Ironically, it is the same school his parents attended when it was known as Rosary College.

A biology major, Jobe is a mentor to incoming first-generation freshmen in ACI's Peer Mentoring Program at Dominican. Because of his interest in the Black Student Union and The Village, a leadership program at the university, Jobe was recommended as a mentor in the program. "I've been through a lot in life," he says. "I bring knowledge about how to pick yourself back up when you hit rock bottom, to be a better person and not disappoint the people around you -- because I did all that before."



Jobe says the Peer Mentoring Program has taught him a lot, experience he shares with mentees. "This program is basically a gateway to help kids get through college and complete college. The mentoring program can help you to know more and to know more people," he says.

Jobe isn't certain what he'd like to do with this biology major, however, he is thinking about a career as an orthodontist, which means another year before graduation and up to three years of dental school. "Hopefully, I'll be able to open up my own practice afterwards. Right now, that's the main goal," he says.

Camille Pruvost Principia College ACI General Scholarship

[Watch Camille tell her story!](#)



Camille Pruvost chose to attend [Principia College](#), Elsah, to study theology and religion as part of a double major with music. She also chose Principia because she knew she could study in an environment where she could express her faith and be safe.

Pruvost, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, says small classes and the liberal arts experience at Principia has helped her grow, too. "At Principia, I get to explore not only questions of religion and theology, but sciences that I have loved in middle school, like earth science," she says. "I get to explore politics, writing courses and different literature from around the world." Pruvost has also studied abroad in Paris, Prague, Vienna, and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

To Pruvost, music is a way to express ideas about religion and theology. After Principia, she hopes to attend a seminary, and earn a master's degree and doctorate, studying topics such as religious epistemology and apologetics. "With all of that, my ministry would then be a music ministry – recording and healing through music," she says.

Pruvost is a soloist at her church, religion tutor and writing tutor. She helps in the music department and has been treasurer and secretary of Phi Alpha Eta, a scholastic honor society at Principia. She says her ACI General Scholarship has made it possible for her to continue singing. It also means she can plan for another study experience abroad to Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Palestine.

"I'm deeply grateful for the scholarship that I received," she says. "It's an investment in future thinkers, people that are really working to make the world a better place."

Meet ACI Members

North Park University: For More than 125 Years, a Chicago-centered University with Deep Christian Roots

University focuses on preparing diverse student body with innovative programs in a competitive college environment



Since 1894 -- before the city around it was even there -- [North Park University](#) has been an anchor of Christian higher education in northwest Chicago. Today, the university's president, Mary K. Surridge, left, sees the school emerging as the model for Christian higher education in 21st Century America.

“Three distinctive characteristics help distinguish us from other universities,” Surridge says. “We're distinguished by our Christian identity and deeply rooted in faith. Second, we are centered in this world-class city of Chicago, a competitive advantage with opportunities that are limitless for education and career development. And third, we are distinguished and blessed by the rich tapestry of a thoroughly intercultural student community. Our student population has no majority group, and identifies as nearly 50 percent students of color. That is a strength for us that is unparalleled."

“In my view,” Surridge says, "one of our Christian imperatives is that we prepare an intercultural, diverse student body to serve in the city -- that we help students find their calling and equip them to use their vocational gifts for a better world."

[Read the full story](#)

ACI Colleges and Universities Contribute More than \$3.5 Billion to Illinois Economy, Updated Figures Show

ACI'S [26 member colleges and universities](#) contribute an economic value of more than \$3.5 billion to the Illinois economy, according to updated, publicly available information compiled by ACI. In addition, the member schools employ more than 34,000 people, enroll nearly 70,000 students and provide \$900 million in financial aid.

The updated 2019 information is available on the ACI website on the [Member School Data web page](#).

MEMBER SCHOOL DATA										
Student population: 66,986										
Financial impact on state of Illinois: \$3.5 billion										
Jobs provided: 34,122										
Financial aid provided: \$898 million										
(Scroll down for more specific data for each member college or university)										
Member School	Student Population (Fall 2019)	Students Faculty	Academic Programs	Employed Total (2019)	Student Income Tax Paid (2019)	State Economic Impact (2019)	State Tax Revenue (2019)	Total Financial Aid Provided (2019)	Percentage of Financial Aid	Average Financial Aid per Student
Augustine College	2,547	121	75 majors	96%	\$50,000	\$165,521,300	1,540	\$71,644,110	99%	\$27,330
Benedictine University	5,100	171	58 majors	91%	\$40,000	\$208,310,502	2,792	\$40,785,407	99%	\$18,212
Blackburn College	2,542	111	40 majors	91%	\$27,000	\$102,686,302	230	\$10,976,627	99%	\$17,542
Concordia University Chicago	5,755	111	75 majors	90%	\$59,700	\$215,702,302	1,804	\$24,490,153	100%	\$16,999
Dominican University	3,127	101	60 majors	94%	\$47,500	\$177,605,200	1,616	\$40,415,903	100%	\$26,309
Edward College	3,801	141	75 majors	94%	\$48,300	\$180,377,400	1,130	\$60,172,060	100%	\$32,801
Evangel College	614	131	30 majors	90%	\$36,000	\$38,180,970	207	\$7,210,061	100%	\$11,907
Illiana College	909	111	36 majors	97%	\$42,000	\$40,443,370	644	\$23,000,490	100%	\$24,142
Marquette University	1,649	101	41 majors	96%	\$60,100	\$148,967,502	1,440	\$42,070,840	100%	\$26,448
Johnston University	1,393	91	51 majors	93%	\$42,000	\$61,196,204	646	\$14,318,864	100%	\$33,600
Ypsilanti College	1,046	111	37 majors	97%	\$60,700	\$95,197,000	7,640	\$42,657,000	99%	\$19,200
Ypsilanti College	4,405	141	48 majors	94%	\$48,000	\$200,881,872	1,609	\$55,400,470	99%	\$41,491

[Comparative data](#) also shows that ACI member colleges graduate significantly more education and nursing majors than larger, nonmember colleges and universities in Illinois.

"Members, donors, employers and other ACI partners have expressed a significant interest in this information," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "The data shows ACI member colleges and universities have small faculty-student classroom ratios, a wide range of academic programs and strong employment rates for their students within two years after graduation."

The updated data is available in aggregated form, as well as individual data per member school. ACI's compilation includes several data points:

- Demographic information
- Academic programs
- Employment statistics after graduation
- State economic impact and jobs
- Financial aid provided by each institution

"We want to encourage sharing this information with individuals, families, school personnel, human resources professionals, business contacts and others," Weltman said.

The data were updated by Quinn Leach, intern and North Park University graduate, and Eli O'Sullivan Kurtz, ACI manager of operations and research, using publicly available sources. Sources included member schools' own websites, plus data from the Federation of Independent Colleges and Universities' Economic Input Calculator and the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

ACI Welcomes Three New Corporate Members to Board of Trustees



This summer, the ACI Executive Committee approved the nominations of three people to join the [ACI Board of Trustees](#).

With these three new members, the ACI Board of Trustees consists of 39 corporate members, plus the presidents of ACI's 26 member colleges and universities. The three new corporate board members are:

[Justin Lee Allen](#): Allen, left, is assistant general counsel for TCS Education System, Chicago, a private, nonprofit education system of colleges advancing student success and community impact. Allen has

extensive experience in higher education, both as a practicing attorney and as an operational leader for providers of postsecondary education services. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from ACI member Concordia University Chicago and earned a law degree from Loyola University Chicago.

[Kelly Kirkman](#): Kirkman, center, is senior manager, audit services for RSM US LLP and is a certified public accountant. She leads and manages audit and attest engagements in the firm's Great Lakes practice and has been with the firm for more than 18 years. Since the beginning of her career, she has served clients in the nonprofit and public sector. Kirkman earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

[Debora L. Osgood](#): Osgood, right, is a partner in the law firm Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose, Ltd., Chicago. Osgood has worked on civil rights issues for nearly 30 years, serving in leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Education and most recently, in private legal practice at Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose, Ltd. She earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University and a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

ACI Visits Chicago's 1871 to Explore Partnership

Fifteen people, including presidents and member-college representatives, corporate trustees and staff visited [1871](#), Chicago's Center for Technology and Entrepreneurship, Aug. 20, to explore a formal collaboration.

Currently seven colleges and universities maintain partnerships with 1871. [Betsy Ziegler](#), 1871 CEO, led the 30-minute tour and discussion that included possible benefits of collaboration for ACI member schools and students, and how collaboration would work, said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director.



Possible benefits include access to the 1871 network of entrepreneurs and venture capitalists, and its soon-to-be released digital curriculum focused on entrepreneurship. Partnership discussions will continue this fall, Weltman added.

ACI Leaders, Educators plus Illinois Business Leaders, Meet at Midwest Roundtable on Talent

Presidents from at least five ACI member colleges and universities, several Illinois business leaders and ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman attended the [Midwest Roundtable on Talent](#) at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan, June 30 to July 2.

Since 2013, the Michigan Colleges Alliance has hosted the meeting, which brings together business leaders and private higher education leaders. They discuss new ways of preparing college students for success in the modern workplace. In



recent years, the annual meeting has included business and higher education leaders from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

This year's event brought together representatives from more than 60 leading companies and some 45 college and university presidents. The theme was "Fostering the Entrepreneurial Mindset," and it featured nationally recognized speakers such as Barry Nalebuff, Yale University School of Management, Cheryl Bachelder, CEO, Pier 1 Imports, and Lynn Pasquerella, president, Association of American Colleges and Universities.

In the News: Leaders at ACI Member Colleges and Universities

In the past few months, several ACI member colleges and universities made leadership announcements, including appointments, retirements, contract extensions and other recognitions:



Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, named [Dr. Russell P. Dawn](#), right, its 12th president. Dawn, who was professor of history and political thought at Concordia University Irvine, began his new role Aug. 1. He succeeded the Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard, who retired.



Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU), Bloomington, named [Dr. S. Georgia Nugent](#), left, interim president, effective Aug. 15, for the 2019-2020 academic year. Nugent is a senior fellow with the Council of Independent Colleges, Washington, D.C., and former president of Kenyon College. She succeeded Dr. Eric R. Jensen, who retired, plus former IWU President Richard F. Wilson, who was acting president following Jensen's retirement.

McKendree University, Lebanon, announced that its president, [Dr. James M. Dennis](#), will retire June 30, 2020.

Millikin University, Decatur, announced that its president, [Dr. Patrick E. White](#), will retire June 30, 2020.

Quincy University, Quincy, welcomed its 24th president, [Dr. Brian McGee](#), July 1. McGee joined Quincy from the College of Charleston in South Carolina, where he served several years as provost and executive vice president. McGee succeeded [Phil Conover](#), who was named president emeritus by the Quincy University Board of Trustees.

University of St. Francis announced that its board of trustees extended the contract of [Dr. Arvid C. Johnson](#) to serve as president through June 2027. Meanwhile, Johnson was elected chair of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' (NAIA) [Council of Presidents](#). His two-year term began July 1.

Elmhurst College to Become Elmhurst University in 2020



ACI member [Elmhurst College](#) will change its name to Elmhurst University, effective June 30, 2020, according to a news release from the college.

"At this pivotal time in our history, less than two years away from our 150th anniversary in 2021, the decision to change our name to Elmhurst University marks the exciting start of the next chapter of our story," said Elmhurst College President Troy D. VanAken. "While this is certainly a new and significant development, it is the result of an ongoing, collaborative process. It reflects discussions that have been taking place for some time regarding how we should celebrate who we are, what we

have become, and what we need to be in order to best serve our students for generations to come."

The Elmhurst College Board of Trustees approved the new name June 15, according to the release. The university name more accurately reflects Elmhurst's current educational profile as a comprehensive higher education institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and applied sciences, while anticipating opportunities for new programs and partnerships. The change comes at a time when the college has seen record enrollments and fundraising in the past couple of years.

PRSA Chicago Chapter Recognizes ACI for Communication Work

The [Public Relations Society of America's \(PRSA\) Chicago chapter](#) presented three awards to Associated College of Illinois (ACI) for its work in communication in 2018. ACI was one of the few nonprofit organizations to win multiple awards this year. Awards were presented this summer in Chicago.

[Skyline Awards](#) – top awards in their categories – were presented to ACI for its [2017-2018 annual report](#) and for its [student stories video series](#), featuring scholarship recipients and Peer Mentoring Program participants. The video series won in the "Shoe String Budget" category, for projects produced with very limited budgets.



In addition, the organization's digital newsletter, [ACI Reporter](#), was presented an Award of Excellence, given to high-scoring entries.

ACI previously was presented an Award of Excellence by PRSA Chicago for its 2015-2016 annual report.

PRSA Chicago's Skyline Awards program is an annual competition that recognizes projects and programs demonstrating excellence in the communications profession. The awards competition is open to all public relations and communications practitioners who reside in the Greater Chicagoland area.

Did You Know?

From ACI Corporate Partner PNC

2018 NACUBO-TIAA Study of Endowments
Executive summary flash update



The 2018 NACUBO-TIAA Study of Endowments found that the average endowment returned 8.2 percent (net of fees) in fiscal year 2018. In this market commentary, we review this report and its implications for higher education investors.


For the full review, please contact Simon Reeves at simon.reeves@pnc.com, or by phone at (312) 338-8185.

[Read the full story](#)

Please Save These Dates for Upcoming ACI Events!

- **Friday, Oct. 4, 2019:** ACI Career Development Conference and Employer Expo, North Central College, 30 N. Brainard St., Naperville.
- **Friday, Nov. 1, 2019:** ACI Fall Conference, Doubletree by Hilton, Lisle. For advancement, communications, finance and student engagement professionals at member colleges and universities.
- **Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019:** HR, Diversity and Inclusion Officers Breakfast, University Club of Chicago.
- **Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020:** Wealth Advisors Breakfast, University Club of Chicago.

Your Gifts to ACI Help Students Earn College Degrees



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Consider supporting ACI's mission with financial gifts! Your gifts make a difference for many underserved college students attending ACI-affiliated institutions across Illinois. To learn more, [watch these students](#) tell their stories, including how ACI scholarships make a difference in their lives.

You may designate your gift for [scholarships](#) for first-generation, low-income college students, or for support of the [ACI Peer Mentoring Program](#), which helps first-generation students through the critical first year in college on the way to earning a degree. You can also provide [ACI Named Scholarships](#) to deserving students in honor of individuals, businesses or organization.

ACI welcomes [online gifts](#) at any time. For more information about giving to ACI, contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391, ext. 1, or write to mweltman@acifund.org. Financial gifts may be tax deductible.



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