

## December 2021 - January 2022

### In This Issue:

- Leadership Message: Lyn Bulman, Chair, ACI Board of Trustees
- Student Scholar: Justin DeLeary, Illinois College
- Announcing ACI's 70th Anniversary Celebration
- ACI Awarded \$20,000 Challenge Grant to Promote Micro-Internships
- ACI Announces 150 Media Stream/Associated Colleges of Illinois Digital Arts Contest
- ACI Updates Corporate Partner Opportunities
- Andrea Talentino Named President of Augustana College
- ACI's Fall Conference, Held Virtually, Draws Significant Attendance
- Mark T. Neil 1949-2021
- Upcoming Events
- Help a College Student. Your Gifts Make a Difference!

## Leadership Message



At the November 2021 meeting of the ACI Board of Trustees, it was my job as board chair to advise members that Mick Weltman intends to retire as ACI's executive director at the end of July 2022.

Mick's contribution and engaging personal style will be impossible to replace, but I will be leading the process to find his successor starting in early 2022. I have encouraged board members who would like to be considered for the small team managing the search to contact me. The work will start during January to ensure that a successor is identified in time for a transition period between Mick and the new executive director.

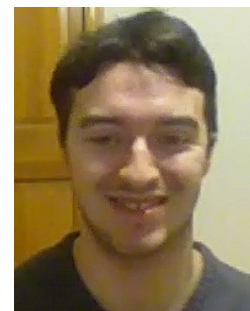
Mick has had a significant impact on ACI during his tenure, and as his retirement date approaches, I, along with others, will be taking the opportunity to recognize his nearly eight years as executive director and to mark his transition to the next stage of his life.

**Lyn Bulman**  
Chair, ACI Board of Trustees

## ACI Scholars

### Justin DeLeary Illinois College McGraw Foundation Emergency Financial Aid

Justin DeLeary is a history major at [Illinois College](#). He hopes one day to become an archivist for a museum, or work at a historical site. But his college plans were nearly derailed in late 2019. In the middle of his sophomore year, his mother died of ovarian cancer. That isn't the end of the story, though. With the help of an emergency grant from the McGraw Emergency Financial Aid Fund through ACI, DeLeary, Midlothian, Illinois, was able to remain in college and continue his education – honoring his mother's wish that he finish college and earn a degree.



DeLeary, an only child, spoke to his maternal grandmother about his future after his mother's passing. "It was either don't go back to school, find a scholarship or you might have to take out a really big loan," he said of the conversation. "So, getting this grant really helped me. I was able to come back to college because of this grant. Without it, I don't think I would have been able to come back." Also helping DeLeary meet college costs are a few other grants, scholarships and subsidized loans from Illinois College, he said.

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

## ACI News

### Announcing ACI's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration *Event celebrates members, students, donors and ACI's mission*

ACI is preparing for its [70th Anniversary Celebration](#), Friday, April 22, at the University Club of Chicago. The event will raise critical funds for scholarships and programs serving students attending ACI's 26 member colleges and universities.

Guests attending this newly formatted event will attend a cocktail hour reception followed by a sit-down dinner in Cathedral Hall. The evening will showcase talent produced by ACI-member institutions through selected student speakers and student musical performances.



Keynote speaker is [Tracie Morris](#), U.S. chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer at BMO Financial Group. Chicago United included Morris in its [2021 Business Leaders of Color](#), where she defined success "more by what we do for others than what we do for ourselves." Morris is a graduate of two ACI-member institutions, [North Central College](#) and [Benedictine University](#).

Tickets are on sale at \$275 each (early bird rate through Feb. 14). The evening features an open bar, food displays, a three-course dinner and live music. [Sponsorship opportunities](#) are available, ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Individuals and companies can purchase event program greetings ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. For additional information or to arrange sponsorships or greetings, contact Mick Weltman at [mweltman@acifund.org](mailto:mweltman@acifund.org), or call 312-263-2391, ext. 1.

## ACI Awarded \$20,000 Challenge Grant for to Promote Micro-Internships



[The Council for Independent Colleges](#), (CIC), Washington, D.C., awarded a \$20,000 challenge grant to ACI which aims to increase the number of students attending ACI member colleges and universities who apply for and secure micro-internships while they are in school. Micro-internships are paid, short-term, remote, professional projects that link students with employers.

The challenge grant is a First Opportunity Partners grant from CIC, with support from the UPS Foundation. ACI's commitment is to raise an additional \$30,000 to fund the project, for a total budget of \$50,000, according to the grant proposal. Called the "Micro-Internship Project," ACI will sponsor the project for the fall 2022 semester at its [26 member colleges and universities](#).

"Our strategic partner for micro-internships, [Parker Dewey](#), has facilitated these opportunities to help college students gain access to top employers, such as Microsoft and Abbott," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "Despite the great benefits of micro-internships, a limited number of students from ACI member schools have applied for these opportunities. This grant project will help us raise awareness of micro-internships with students throughout Illinois."

Studies have shown that students who successfully complete micro-internships have a competitive edge in securing and keeping jobs, according to the grant application. "This is especially the case for ACI students from underserved groups who may not have family or social connections that can open doors to promising careers, but who can benefit from the competitive edge that paid internships can offer," Weltman said.

The grant will include 260 students, representing 10 underserved students (juniors and seniors) at each of ACI's 26 member campuses. Each student is expected to apply for at least four micro-internships by Nov. 30. ACI will provide micro-webinars to help students write successful applications.

To help students financially, ACI will provide a \$500 scholarship for one student and nine \$100 gift cards for other participants at each campus. Scholarship recipients will be randomly chosen by computer drawings. Scholarships and gift cards will be awarded in January 2023.

In addition, a student ambassador will be appointed at each ACI member campus to recruit students to apply for micro-internships. Ambassadors will earn \$480 for their efforts.

## ACI Announces 150 Media Stream/Associated Colleges of Illinois Digital Arts Contest

[150 Media Stream](#) is sponsoring its second contest for ACI-member colleges and universities to stimulate students' interest in digital media, to practice their skills in creating digital art, to acquire experience in producing art in public spaces and to provide a prestige platform to showcase their work.

Each ACI member college or university can submit one entry. The winning person(s) will earn:

- \$1,500 scholarship per person from 150 Media Stream
- Opportunity to work with a world-known artist and display its winning entry in a prestigious Chicago office lobby for two-to-four weeks
- Opportunity to display winning project on both 150 Media Stream and ACI websites
- Recognition as winning entry at spring 2023 public reception when work is released



Complete details about entering and related information are in the [submission guidelines](#).

150 Media Stream is a multi-faceted achievement in art, architecture and technology that celebrates and explores the interplay of art, space and viewership in both public and private contexts. Located at 150 N. Riverside, Chicago, 150 Media Stream is the only structure of its kind dedicated to showcasing local artists alongside renowned and emerging artists from around the world. Eighty-nine LED blades stretch 150 feet long and rise 22 feet high, igniting into light, color and movement. Developed in partnership with Chicago's premier arts, culture, higher learning institutions and private supporters, 150 Media Stream is an international platform for rising and established local, U.S. and global media artists featuring competitively selected collaborative works.

Deadline for submissions is April 8. One winning team will be announced by May 15. For additional questions, non-technical questions, please contact: Mick Weltman, [mweltman@acifund.org](mailto:mweltman@acifund.org), (312) 263-2391 ext. 1.





A public reception was held for the [2020 winning entry](#) from Knox College. The Knox team included students Patrick Steppan and Odessa Sagli, plus faculty advisor Tim Stedman.

## ACI Updates Corporate Partner Opportunities

ACI recently updated its [corporate partner program](#), offering potential partners three partnership levels, depending on the company's annual revenue.

New membership levels include organizations with annual revenue of more than \$100 million (\$25,000 investment); organizations with annual revenue of between \$10 million to \$100 million (\$10,000); and organizations with annual revenue of \$10 million or less (\$5,000). Depending on the membership level, corporate partner benefits include publicity and email messaging to members, opportunities to meet college presidents, introductions to key college and university staff, attendance and possible presentations at ACI conferences and tickets to ACI's annual fundraising event, held each spring.

ACI corporate partners offer services and products that meet higher education needs in Illinois. Member institutions are encouraged to make ACI corporate partners their first call when they require the services or products partners provide. In addition, ACI provides corporate partners opportunities to showcase their firms to prospective customers on member campuses.

Corporate sponsors help fund ACI's professional conferences, which offer continuing education to staff of member colleges and universities.

## Andrea Talentino Named President of Augustana College

*Current president Steven Bahls will retire after 19 years as president*

The Augustana College Board of Trustees named Dr. Andrea Talentino, provost of Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., as the next president of [Augustana College](#). She will be the ninth president in the college's 161-year history, effective July 1, according to a [college news release](#).

"Dr. Talentino is a scholar, a teacher and mentor for students; an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion; and an innovator and engaged citizen," said John Murabito '80, chair of the board who led the national search. "She is looking forward to connecting with the Augustana community, including alumni around the world."

Talentino will succeed Steven C. Bahls, who will retire. Bahls has served as Augustana's president since 2003. The search committee recommended Talentino after reviewing materials from more than 100 candidates and conducting 50 interviews — some in-person, some virtually.



Before arriving at Nazareth, Talentino served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont. She was an associate dean at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. She also held a faculty position at Tulane University, New Orleans, and did a postdoc at Princeton University in New Jersey.

"Augustana's mission and vision reflect what I most care about," Talentino said. "I've focused on creating an inclusive, holistic, challenging, integrated student experience that offers a real transformational opportunity. Any institution can have internships, study abroad, opportunities for research, but it's how you put them together, how you create natural connections and meaning between all of them that makes the difference in what's outstanding and what is 'just fine,' and Augustana is committed to being outstanding."

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, then completed a master's and doctorate in political science from UCLA. While serving as dean at Norwich, she earned an MBA with a concentration in organizational leadership.

Early in her 22-year career in higher education, she was honored twice for excellence in undergraduate teaching at Tulane University. Since then, even as she rose within the administrative ranks at the institutions she served, she has continued to teach.

## ACI's Fall Conference, Held Virtually, Draws Significant Attendance

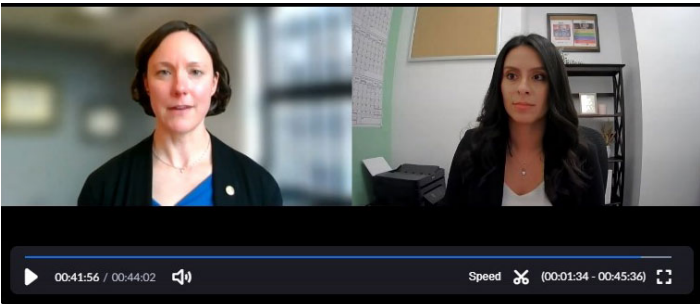


ACI's Fall Professional Development Conference, held via Zoom Dec. 1-2, 2021, drew 225 registrants and a 70 percent attendance rate, according to Daisy Gomez, ACI director, events and scholarships.

The virtual conference featured four unique tracks in advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement. Each track offered three 45-minute sessions. Presenting speakers represented four ACI-member institutions, four ACI-affiliated organizations, two corporate partners and the corporate sponsor.

[McKendree University](#), Lebanon, Illinois, and [Saint Xavier University](#), Chicago, each had more than 18 staff and faculty members attending, Gomez said. All conference recordings and presentations were sent to each registrant, regardless of attendance, she added.

The conference was sponsored by [BKD CPAs & Advisors](#) and was exclusive to staff of member colleges and universities, as well as other ACI affiliates.



## Mark T. Neil 1949-2021

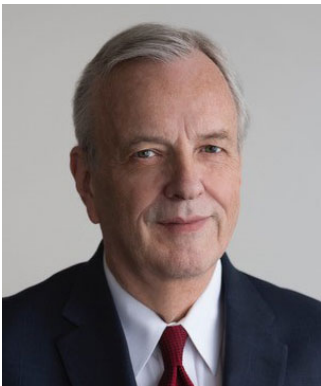
Mark T. Neil, a former ACI Board of Trustees member, and attorney with Mark T. Neil & Associates, Chicago, passed away Dec. 12, 2021. Neil served on the ACI board from 2018-2021.

Born in 1949 in Peru, Illinois, Neil graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and served as a law clerk to Justice Howard C. Ryan of the Illinois Supreme Court, according to a tribute in the [News-Tribune](#), LaSalle, Illinois. He

studied at Oxford University and graduated from Shimer College with honors. Neil worked with Harris Trust and Savings Bank, now BMO Harris Bank, and managed the Trust and Investment Group at Cole Taylor Bank.

Neil served on the Treasurer’s Business Roundtable for then Illinois Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka and was chair of the Unclaimed Property Division. He was director of the Institute for Clinical Social Work, the Rogers Park Builders Group and was director for an organization dedicated to seeking equal property rights. He was on the Professional Advisory Committee of the Chicago Community Trust, and was a member of both the Illinois State Bar Association and Chicago Bar Association. Neil was a speaker on financial and legal topics. His work was recognized by national and local organizations.

He is survived by a son, David (Laura) Neil, and a daughter; Deanna (Tal Wolfson) Neil, a brother, sister, grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held Dec. 15, 2021, at Waltham Cemetery, Waltham, Illinois.



## Upcoming Events

- **Monday, Jan. 17:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, ACI office closed
- **Thursday, Feb. 17:** ACI Executive Committee, 4 p.m., via Zoom
- **Tuesday, March 8:** Advancement officers quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Wednesday, March 9:** Presidents quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Thursday, March 10:** Communication officers quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, March 11:** Provosts quarterly meeting, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, April 8:** ACI Program Committee, 9 a.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, April 8:** ACI Communications Committee, 9 a.m., via Zoom
- **Thursday, April 14:** ACI Trusteeship Committee, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Thursday, April 14:** ACI Advancement Committee, 3 p.m., via Zoom
- **Wednesday, April 20:** ACI Finance Committee, 10 a.m., via Zoom
- **Friday, April 22:** Presidents Forum, 8 a.m., University Club of Chicago
- **Friday, April 22:** ACI Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, 3 p.m., University Club of Chicago
- **Friday, April 22:** ACI's 70th Anniversary Celebration, 5 p.m., University Club of Chicago

## Help a College Student. Your Gifts Make a Difference!

ACI helps underserved students remain in college and earn degrees by raising critical dollars for scholarship support. Funds raised throughout the year enable students at our [member schools](#) to realize their career aspirations.

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, and [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

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

## ACI Member Colleges and Universities

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

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