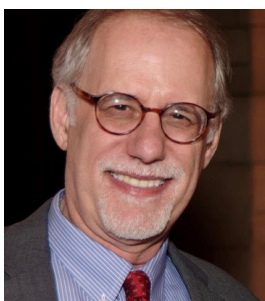


ACI Reporter, February - March 2022

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From the Executive Director



Mick Weltman
Executive Director, ACI

I am pleased to announce that we've re-engaged [Dan Reynolds](#) to support our major giving effort. Dan worked with ACI for more than two years and is president of [Holmes, Radford & Reynolds, Inc.](#), St. Louis, a 25-year-old nonprofit consulting firm that helps nonprofits achieve strategic fundraising goals.

Dan has conducted numerous planning and feasibility studies, written fund-development plans, facilitated annual fund programs, directed capacity-building initiatives and led highly successful capital campaigns raising millions of dollars with his clients. We're pleased to welcome Dan back to ACI.

Leadership Message



As reported in last month's newsletter, Mick Weltman, ACI's executive director, will retire this year. Since we hope to have a successor in place before Mick leaves, the process to find that person has already begun. Leading the search on behalf of the board is a team consisting of myself, Corporate Trustee Tony LoBello and Illinois Wesleyan University President S. Georgia Nugent. We are partnering with [Evolve Giving Group](#), a consultancy focused on the nonprofit sector that has worked with ACI before. Evolve will take responsibility for posting the vacancy and managing the initial response. Once a shortlist has been identified, our board team will interview the top candidates and make a recommendation to the full board.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in applying to be our next executive director, please see the job posting where you can find more information about the position, our requirements, and the process for being considered. We expect the job description to be posted on ACI's website and distributed in the near future.

We want to reach as many potential candidates as we can to ensure we find the best possible leader for our organization. Even if this role is not for you, we encourage you to share information about the opportunity throughout your network. You can also suggest potential candidates by emailing me at bulman@ameritech.net.

Lyn Bulman
Chair, ACI Board of Trustees

ACI Scholars

Elie Imani North Central College ACI Peer Mentoring Program

Elie Imani is part of a family of six in Rwanda and is the third of three brothers to attend [North Central College](#) in Naperville. The eldest earned a full scholarship to study political science at North Central, and went on to study at Yale University and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. A second brother also earned a full scholarship and studied computer science. A couple of years ago, Imani came to Naperville to attend high school and is now a first-year student at North Central, with interests in political science and computer science. Choosing to attend North Central seemed natural, the result of his brothers' influences.



Small classes and opportunities to work with professors are big plusses at North Central, Imani says. "I've been having deep conversations about politics, about computer science, with my professors," he says. "And I've been enjoying that. I'm very, very sure that will definitely help me with my future." Since he was young, Imani says he has been interested in political science and leadership. "I wanted to deal with politics because I understood that Africa faces a huge leadership crisis. That often results in an atrocious political reality. Ever since I was young, I believe that to accomplish this, I need to learn how to serve others first." He plans to return to Africa after school to be a mentor to other young people, providing hope for a better future.

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

ACI News

ACI’s 70th Anniversary Celebration is Next Month! *April 22 event celebrates members, students, donors and ACI's mission*



ACI’s [70th Anniversary Celebration](#) is 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](#).

Tickets are on sale at \$300 each. The evening features an open bar, a three-course dinner and live music.

Master of ceremonies is [Rob Johnson](#), president of Rob Johnson Communications and ACI board member. Keynote speaker is [Tracie Morris](#), U.S. chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer at BMO Financial Group. Student speakers are from [Saint Xavier University](#) and [Wheaton College](#). The [North Park University](#) Jazz Ambassadors will provide 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, contact Mick Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org, or call 312-263-2391, ext. 1.

Patron Sponsor



Partner Sponsors



'Adulting 101' is Theme for Spring 2022 Work and Life Skills Boot Camp *TikTok senation GiGi to address students*

The spring [ACI Work and Life Skills Boot Camp](#) is a virtual event, set for Thursday, April 14, beginning at 10 a.m. With a theme of "Adulting 101," this pre-employment event is composed of a series of curated sessions designed to help ACI students prepare for life after college. From his/her interview style inspiration, to employment law resources, each session will help tackle difficult questions many degree seekers and new college graduates may face when making the transition into the workforce.

Our spotlight session, titled "Adam and Amelia Take on Adulting," features TikTok sensation GiGi who goes by the name First Gen Mentor and will focus on budgeting basics for young adults, debt repayment and credit building. GiGi is a first-generation college graduate and social media influencer with nearly 200,000 followers across several social engagement sites. She uses her platform to help educate college students and young adults about financial literacy and career development.

Registration is scheduled to launch Monday, March 14, and will close the day of the event. ACI is exploring the possibility of allowing non-ACI students to attend this event at a small cost while providing exclusive complimentary registration to ACI students. ACI will also provide lunch to campuses that employ viewing rooms for students who may have limited access to technology or prefer to attend in a collective capacity.

The ACI Work and Life Skills Boot Camps were launched in fall 2019. They were developed with funding from a [Council of Independent Colleges' First Opportunity Grant](#), with support from the UPS Foundation, to help prepare disadvantaged students for post-graduation employment, launch careers, and establish financial stability for themselves and their families.

Virtual ACI Spring Conference Set for June 1-2

The ACI Spring Conference is planned for June 1-2 via Zoom. This virtual event is designed exclusively for staff of member colleges and universities, as well as other ACI affiliates. The conference will include four unique tracks on specific dates:





- + June 1: Advancement (morning session)
- + June 1: Finance (afternoon session)
- + June 2: Public relations and marketing (morning session)
- + June 2: Student engagement (afternoon session)

Specific sessions and speaker lineups will be shared on the ACI Spring Conference webpage closer to the event date. Online registration will open in early May. [The 2021 ACI Fall Conference](#) drew 225 registrants for the two-day conference.

ACI Awarded \$52,000 Grant to Support Students from Middle-Income Families

The [A. Montgomery Ward Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee](#), Chicago, awarded ACI \$52,000 for its A. Montgomery Ward Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The grant period extends one year beginning in February 2022, according to the grant description. The foundation's funds are awarded to students from middle-income families attending one of ACI's 26 member colleges and universities, said Lauren Holhut, ACI director, foundation relations and grants.

Established in 1959, the A. Montgomery Ward Foundation supports and strengthens charitable institutions that provide quality educational and cultural programming for current and future residents of Chicago and surrounding communities. The foundation has provided grants to ACI for nearly 50 years.

A. Montgomery
Ward Foundation

Deadline is April 8 for 150 Media Stream/Associated Colleges of Illinois Digital Arts Contest



Teams from ACI colleges and universities have until Friday, April 8, to submit entries for the 150 Media Stream/ACI Digital Arts Contest. This is the second contest for students at ACI-member colleges and universities, aimed at stimulating 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 website
- 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](#).

One winning team will be announced by May 15. For additional questions, non-technical questions, please contact: Mick Weltman, mweltman@acifund.org, (312) 263-2391 ext. 1.

Located in downtown Chicago, [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. 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.

ACI Welcomes Two New Board Members

Two new corporate members, [Emily P. Bothfeld](#) and [Margaret M. Mueller](#), have joined the ACI Board of Trustees, following approval by the ACI Executive Committee. With these new members, ACI now has 34 corporate board members.

Bothfeld, left, is partner at [Robbins Schwartz](#), a Chicago law firm. She practices education law with a focus on student and higher education matters. She counsels school districts and higher education institutions on a variety of issues, including matters related to student discipline, Title IX, free speech, student disability rights, student data privacy and policy development.



Bothfeld earned a bachelor's degree in child development and religious studies at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and earned a juris doctor at George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C. Prior to attending law school, Bothfeld taught high school mathematics and science in Hangzhou, China.

Mueller, right, is president and chief executive officer of [The Executives' Club of Chicago](#). In this role, she oversees the strategic direction and operations of more than 120 programs annually for 16,000 executives. Throughout her career, Mueller has advised senior decision-makers across a range of industries. She has experience in supporting brand and business development strategies in the consumer, retail, pharmaceutical, health care, trademark and litigation, and financial services sectors.

Mueller earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been a guest-lecturer and taught graduate business courses at the University of Chicago and Loyola University Chicago, and has appeared on various media outlets, speaking to issues such as consumer sentiment, marketing trends and the economy.

Five Mentors Needed for ACI's Career Mentoring Program



Are you interested in working as a mentor with a college junior or senior? ACI is seeking five mentors to join the second year of ACI's Career Mentoring Program and work directly with students.

This program matches business leaders with juniors and seniors at one of ACI's member colleges and universities to provide mentoring for one year. Mentors meet students biweekly for one hour. Mentor training is provided. For more information and to participate, please visit the [ACI Career Mentoring website](#) or contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director at 312-263-2391, ext. 1, or send a message to mweltman@acifund.org.

ACI's 2020-2021 Annual Report Available Online

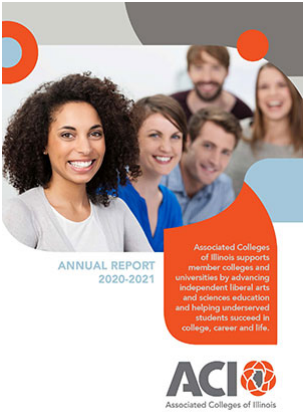
ACI's newest annual report is now available [online](#). The report provides a review of the organization for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

The report focuses on stories about students who have benefitted from ACI programs and scholarships, news events, organizational mission and leadership, corporate partners and sponsors, and financial information.

A limited number of printed copies of the report are available by contacting Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391, ext. 1, or by email at mweltman@acifund.org.

The report was edited by John R. Brooks, ACI director of communication. Design work was done by Walter Freeman, owners and creative director for [ef Design Group](#), Chicago.

In four of the past five years, ACI's annual report has been recognized with top awards by Chicago-area public relations organizations, including the [Public Relations Society of America \(PRSA\) Chicago chapter](#) and the [Publicity Club of Chicago](#).



Toni Cornelius, 1954-2022

Toni Cornelius, president at Tamarind Tree Consulting LLC, Chicago, and ACI Board of Trustees member from 2017-2018, passed away Feb. 17.

During more than 30 years in corporate human resources and development, Cornelius led traditional human resource functions, and the development and implementation of strategies that supported and enhanced diversity and inclusive efforts. Her experience included organizational readiness, leadership development training, talent acquisition, retention and workforce management. She also was as an independent consultant.

In recent years, she was a contributor to Chicago United's (CU) mission. "First as a Leaders Council member and then as a partner, Toni was passionate about equity and demonstrated that commitment through her support of CU's programs and initiatives," the organization said. She developed several CU programs.

Cornelius earned a bachelor's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, and a master's degree from Loyola University Chicago. She held multiple teaching and coaching certifications.



Did You Know?

From ACI Corporate Partner PNC Institutional Asset Management

The Road to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Is Paved with Action



At PNC, one of our core values is diversity and inclusion. Learn how we can integrate those values into the portfolios we construct.

For the full review, please contact Chris Miceika at Christopher.Miceika@pnc.com, or by phone at (312) 338-5323.

[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

- **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, 11 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
- **Thursday, April 14:** ACI Work and Life Skills Boot Camp, 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
- **Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2:** ACI Professional Development Conference, via Zoom

Help a Student Earn a College Degree through ACI
For 70 years, ACI has helped students finish college and earn rewarding careers

This year, ACI celebrates 70 years of supporting students attending liberal arts institutions in Illinois! Through the years, ACI has provided financial support and guidance to low-income and first-generation students attending [member schools](#). Through peer mentoring, scholarship support, career fairs and more, ACI has bridged the gap to help students succeed in college and beyond. Help ACI continue this important work. You can donate online via [ACI's website](#) or simply text ACI to 44321 to contribute. Your support is truly appreciated! To see the impact of your generosity, watch some of the [student scholarship recipients tell their stories](#).



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

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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
Saint Xavier University - Trinity Christian College - University of St. Francis - Wheaton College

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