



ACI Reporter

January - February 2018

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ACI Scholars

Erica Kemple Illinois College McGraw Foundation Emergency Financial Aid Fund

"The scholarship was really amazing. I thought I was going to have to leave school again until I could come up with a way to pay the difference. It took that feeling of being discouraged away. It helped a lot, so I could reach my goal."

Erica Kemple was about to begin her final semester at [Illinois College](#) in Jacksonville. A single mother, Kemple had experienced the struggles of attending college while working two or three jobs and raising a daughter and son. With the goal in sight, Kemple faced a big problem: Her eligibility for Pell Grants and Illinois MAP grants had run out. How could she finish a bachelor's degree in art and realize her dream of being a high school art teacher?

Kemple applied for a McGraw Foundation Emergency Financial Aid Fund grant through ACI. She was awarded a scholarship to help her finish and earn her degree in December 2017. "Without the scholarship, I would most likely not be finished today," she says.

Kemple, also from Jacksonville, had been out of school 10 years before entering the College full time, first as a biology major, then a psychology major. Ultimately, she chose art, a longtime personal interest. "When I was little, my grandfather, who retired from Illinois College, would draw, and he taught me how to draw when I was 3 or 4," Kemple said. "When I had my first class at Illinois College in the art department, it reminded me why art was important. It was always a part of me." Kemple says the inspiration to teach art came from Jeff Garland, associate professor of art. "His passion for art excited me about art," she says.

After high school, Kemple went to Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, then to cosmetology school to earn a cosmetology license. She has been a nail technician/manicurist, and worked in a factory and in retail, among other things.

Being a student at Illinois College inspired other interests. Kemple was treasurer and co-president of the Colleges Against Cancer chapter, an opportunity to act on a health issue that has affected many in her extended family. She was also a "pronunciation



partner," helping students from Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, improve their English skills as part of the College's Intercultural Exchange Program with the university.

Chelsea Yamin **Concordia University Chicago** **ACI Peer Mentoring Program**

"I knew very little about college. It was helpful to have the Peer Mentoring Program because it connected me with people."



Chelsea Yamin, Clinton Township, Michigan, is a sophomore at [Concordia University Chicago](#). She chose the university because she could live in Chicago, with its lively musical theater and the performing arts community. Concordia Chicago is also affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, fulfilling her desire to attend a Lutheran college.

Yamin is a music education major, with a minor in theology. Since second grade, Yamin has been singing in choirs and on stage, and playing various instruments starting with percussion. She is part of four performing ensembles, while keeping up with classes and music lessons. Combining music and theology, she looks forward to a possible career teaching music in a Lutheran high school.

Yamin's family has limited college experience, which led to her interest in the Peer Mentoring Program. "I thought it was good to connect to other people who were first-generation students," she says, recalling that her peer mentor checked with her regularly. "When I first came in to college, I didn't really know anyone my age. It was nice to have a friend."

Yamin talks often with other music students like her and helps with tutoring. "I talk to them a lot and make sure they're all right with all of the credit load. I know how that is."

Here you can go into detail about absolutely anything you want your readers to know about. Make sure to connect the story to your readers and how it relates to the mission of your organization.

You can add as many paragraphs and as much content to each as you want, but try to keep your stories to a manageable size to keep your readers engaged. When appropriate, create links to your website or any other related websites to increase traffic and awareness.

Meet ACI Members

More Than Two Decades of Progress at McKendree University, Illinois' Oldest College

University in Lebanon, Illinois, Innovates, Competes in a Changing World

About 25 years ago, the trustees of [McKendree University](#) had a vision to build a larger institution that would be stronger. They wanted to draw more students from throughout the country and internationally. They wanted to add an "entrepreneurial spirit" that would promote innovation, creativity and a willingness to try new things. They wanted McKendree to be a leader, rather than follower, in higher education.

"We've accomplished some of those things," says [Dr. James M. Dennis](#), McKendree's president since 1994. "We've never been more successful than we are right now."

The university's main home for the past 190 years is in Lebanon, Illinois, just east of St. Louis in the southwestern part of the state. The school owns the distinction of being the state's oldest college. Founded by early pioneer Methodists, the school opened as Lebanon Seminary. Two years later, the board of trustees changed the name to McKendree College, honoring the first American-born bishop of the Methodist Church, Bishop William McKendree. Beginning in 2007, the college has been known as McKendree University.

Read [more](#)



Join us Feb. 21: Knox College, Millikin University Presidents Address City Club of Chicago

ACI and the City Club of Chicago will host presidents of two ACI-affiliated colleges and universities Feb. 21, as they discuss how their liberal arts institutions prepare students for the Illinois workforce. President Teresa L. Amott of [Knox College](#), Galesburg, and President Patrick E. White of [Millikin University](#), Decatur, will speak at the City Club of Chicago luncheon, Feb. 21. The event is at Maggiano's Little Italy, 111 W. Grand Ave., beginning at 11:30 a.m.



Their presentation is "What Employers Want, We Do: The Liberal Arts and Workforce Development in Illinois." The two leaders will make a compelling case for the liberal arts and sciences, focusing on sought-after employee skills such as collaboration, communication, flexibility and problem solving, says Mick Weltman, ACI executive director.

Registration is [here](#).

ACI Career and Internship Fair March 23 at North Central College

Employers: Reserve space now for Employer Expo at March 23 Career and Internship Fair

Career Services Professionals: Recruit students to attend this important career development event



ACI's first [Career and Internship Fair](#), Friday, March 23, is attracting prestigious employer partners and sponsors. [Citi](#) is the presenting sponsor of the day-long event at North Central College, in Naperville. [TTX](#) is sponsoring the keynote luncheon. A [Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC) National Venture Fund Challenge Grant of \$21,750 and a matching gift from the Shure Family Charitable Trust support the initiative.

In addition to Citi, and TTX, the March 23 Employer Expo will include Allstate, Call One, Dayton Freight Lines, Inc., GROWMARK, Inc., Farmers Insurance, Morningstar, Northern Trust, Pepper Construction, and many other major employers ready to recruit from ACI member colleges and universities.

Register for the ACI Career and Internship Fair [here](#).

ACI institutions are encouraged to send delegations to ACI's Career and Internship Fair, where students can interact with prospective employers in both formal and informal settings (see the [agenda](#)). The day includes skill-building sessions addressing in-person networking (sponsored by [GROWMARK, Inc.](#)), the diverse workplace (sponsored by the [Financial Services Pipeline Initiative](#)), first-time job searches and using LinkedIn to connect with employers. The Employer Expo and Networking Lounge will have morning and afternoon sessions, and a midday luncheon will convene employers, career services professionals and students to discuss the role of liberal arts graduates in the 21st century workforce.

Employer Expo space and exciting [sponsorship opportunities](#) are still available. Employers should contact Executive Director Mick Weltman, 312-263-2391, ext. 0523, or mweltman@acifund.org.

Career Services professionals at ACI member colleges and universities can secure modest transportation grants to defer the cost of bringing students to the March 23 ACI Career and Internship Fair, thanks to the CIC and Shure grants supporting the event. For information on these grants, colleges should contact Leslie Millenson, director of special projects, at lmillenson@acifund.org.

ACI Prepares for 2018 Benefit Reception April 20

Event to raise funds for ACI Peer Mentoring Program and Scholarships

ACI's 2018 Benefit Reception Friday, April 20, at the [University Club of Chicago's](#) Cathedral Room, will raise funds for ACI's Peer Mentoring Program and for student scholarships. [Aon](#) and [Gallagher](#) already have confirmed significant sponsorships for the event.

Confirmed speakers are Eureka College President Jamel SC Wright and Ana Dutra, chief executive officer, The Executives' Club of Chicago.

Benefit Reception sponsorships and tickets purchased by April 15 can help ACI significantly increase funds and expand the [Peer Mentoring Program](#). Last fall, the [Council of Independent Colleges](#), Washington, conditionally approved a \$32,000 matching grant to support ACI's Peer Mentoring Program. ACI can secure the grant by raising \$64,000 by the April deadline. The grant is funded through CIC's First Opportunity Partners Grant Program, with support from the UPS Foundation.

Sponsorships opportunities are available. Supporters may also purchase greetings for the event program booklet through March 29. Sponsorship and greeting information is available [here](#).

The ACI Peer Mentoring Program matches low-income college freshmen, many of whom are first-generation and/or minority, with trained peer mentors from similar backgrounds. The program, which seeks to improve retention rates, is available at [nine ACI-member colleges and universities](#). It currently serves 132 students, including 22 mentors and 110 mentees.



ACI Professional Development Conferences Planned for June

ACI professional development conferences for staff of member colleges and universities will be at ACI-member colleges in June.

A multi-track conference for professionals in advancement, finance and student engagement is planned for Friday, June 1, at [Illinois College](#) in Jacksonville, said Constance Willoughby, ACI director for conferences and scholarships. Requests for presentation proposals have been sent and are due April 6, she said. Registration for the conference is expected to open in April.

Public relations and marketing professionals will meet Tuesday, June 19, at Augustana College, Rock Island. This conference combines Augustana College's Summer Get-Together and ACI's spring public relations and marketing conference into one meeting. The conference is sponsored jointly by [Augustana College](#) and ACI. Details will be announced in the near future.

Students and Employers: ACI Launches Webpage for Jobs and Internships

ACI launched a new, free resource on its website for finding [jobs and internships](#). Beginning in mid-January, ACI began posting jobs and internships on its site, intended for [students and recent graduates](#), and it created a place for [employers/partners](#) to complete a form with information about current jobs and internships.

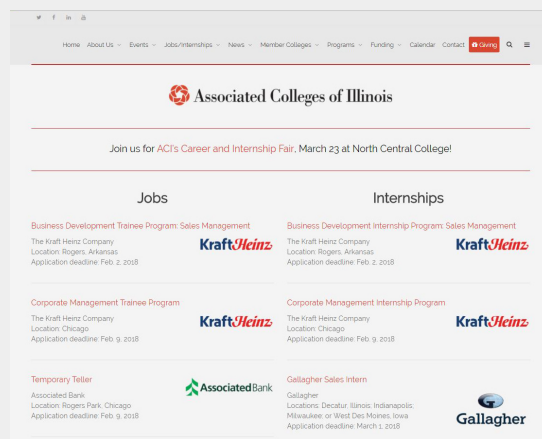
This new service will take time to develop, but ACI hopes that the combination of [ACI's Career and Internship Fair](#), March 23, and the new jobs and internships feature, will grow productive relationships with employers, which will benefit [ACI member institutions](#) and their students. Once the service is established, career services professionals at ACI-affiliated colleges and universities will receive brief monthly reports that display a sampling of jobs listed and the link to ACI's Jobs and Internships site.

Students who visit the page will find:

- listings that appear in two categories: jobs and internships
- each job title links to the job description on the hiring company's webpage. Once at that destination, students can apply for the job or internship.
- jobs and internships are arranged by application deadline date. The closer the deadline for the job, the higher the listing will appear on the page. When the application deadline is reached, the job will be removed from the site.

Career services professionals at ACI members colleges and universities have been asked to post the ACI jobs and internships link with other job boards in their online career development systems. ACI webpage postings are free to employers through May 31.

Questions about ACI's Jobs and Internships webpage should be directed to ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or by calling 312-263-2391, ext. 0523.



Did You Know?

New Tax Law's Effect on Tax-Exempt Entities

From Baker Tilly, an ACI corporate partner



now, for tomorrow.

The recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the Act) provides numerous direct changes to tax-exempt entity taxation, as well as major changes to individual and corporate taxation that will indirectly affect tax-exempt organizations beginning in 2018. For example, some provisions of the new rules for individuals and corporations may leave many charitable organizations with reduced critical revenue from gifts or charitable donations in coming years. [Read this alert](#) from [Baker Tilly](#) to learn more about the important changes included in the Act that impact tax-exempt organizations, as well as a

few provisions not included in the Act which may be included in future legislation.

ACI Welcomes New Corporate Board Member

Anthony "Tony" Lobello joined the [ACI Board of Trustees](#) in January as a corporate board member, following approval by the ACI Executive Committee.

Lobello is principal and higher education studio leader for the Chicago office of [SmithGroupJJR](#), one of the nation's largest integrated design firms, specializing in health, workplace, higher education, research, urban, cultural and waterfront environments. Lobello's experience includes higher education facility planning and design for the health sciences; engineering education; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); business, law and professional schools; and student life.



Consider a Tax-Deductible Gift to ACI



Your gift to ACI can help provide scholarships to underserved students or provide support for peer mentoring for low-income, first-generation college students at ACI-affiliated colleges and universities. Financial gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.

To provide financial support for ACI [Scholarship](#) and [Peer Mentoring Programs](#), please visit the ACI [website](#) or contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391, ext. 0523 or mweltman@acifund.org.



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*Augustana College - Benedictine University - Blackburn College - Concordia University Chicago
Dominican University - Elmhurst College - Eureka College - Greenville University - Illinois College
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