



ACI Reporter

November-December 2017

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ACI Scholars

Erin Fleshren
McKendree University
 ACI General Scholarship recipient



"The ACI General Scholarship has made such a difference for me. I don't have to work quite as many hours. I don't receive funding from other sources. This has helped relieve financial stress so much."

ACI Scholar Erin Fleshren plans to attend law school and is thinking about a career focused on personal injury or medical malpractice. At [McKendree University](#), Fleshren is a speech communication major, with minors in political science and leadership, which support her interest in law, she says. She plans to complete her college education in three years, with graduation in spring 2018.

Fleshren is learning about her career interests at the Belleville, Illinois, law firm of Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD, where she is a file clerk. "Working there has given me some insight to the different types of law because they have a transactional side and they also have a litigation side," Fleshren says. "I find both to be extremely interesting. Right now, I'm leaning toward the

litigation aspect."

Fleshren, from Belleville, always knew she would attend McKendree. Her grandfather, Woody Derickson, served many years on McKendree's Board of Trustees, and an uncle also attended the school. Fleshren has stepped into several leadership positions at the university, including roles as vice president of the student government association, vice president of the National Honor Society of Leadership, new student orientation leader and peer mentor for first-year students. Her favorite leadership role is that of president of her sorority, Tri Sigma (Sigma Sigma Sigma). She has also worked in the campus activities office.

A new role this year is chair of the Student Advisory Committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), which she previously attended as McKendree's student representative. She work with two student voting representatives to the board and regularly attends IBHE meetings as an observer.

Stacie Gill Augustana College ACI Peer Mentor

Senior Stacie Gill says it's a "great experience" to be a mentor in ACI's Peer Mentoring Program at Augustana College. "I've had the opportunity to meet new students. You can share so much about your story, and reassure students that 'I was in the same position as you' and also create friendships within this program," she says.

Gill, the youngest of four children, majors in psychology and sociology. She chose [Augustana College](#) because it's a small liberal arts college where professors know their students. Plus, she has access to many resources, career opportunities and it's just over two hours from her Chicago home. Gill's mother works with students with disabilities in the Chicago Public School system. Her father is a substance abuse counselor in a hospital and a sister has a psychology background. Those influences, along with her own interests in mental health and social justice, have led Gill to consider a career as a counselor, perhaps in a school setting.



Gill benefited from having a mentor when she came to Augustana and says that's probably why she is involved in the ACI Peer Mentoring Program now. "It sparked an interest in me to be a mentor in this program," she says. Gill has been a leader in organizations such as the Black Student Union, Latinx Unidos, Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology, and she has worked in the Office of Multicultural Student Life. She has worked on campus diversity initiatives and served on the President's Student Advisory Council. Gill made the dean's list multiple times and earned scholarships and an endowment that paid for a summer internship through the Psychology Department.

Gill checks in regularly with students she mentors. There are also group peer mentoring workshop activities such as creating online profiles, self-care in college, time management and balancing college activities with academics.

Peer mentoring allows students to develop their identities and learn about their passions, which is why the program is a good investment, Gill says. "People who invest in this program are investing in so many students who are looking for an awesome experience and future," she adds.

Meet ACI Members

University of St. Francis Offers Students 'Bigger Thinking, Brighter Purpose'

Joliet university focuses on liberal arts education, emphasizes respect, integrity, compassion and service



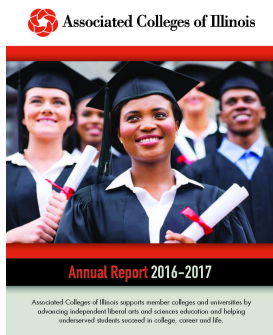
Like most liberal arts institutions of higher education, the [University of St. Francis](#) (USF) in Joliet educates students for careers in a variety of fields. But there's more. Woven throughout the academic curriculum and campus life are USF's four core values, central to the Roman Catholic university's Franciscan values and charism: respect, integrity, compassion and service. Students visiting the campus consistently hear these values, says USF President Arvid C. Johnson, left, and they see and hear how servant-leader students, faculty and staff carry them out.

"We're a campus of doers. We're a welcoming community of learners. We provide an ethic of care. We serve those who aspire to serve others," he says. The USF mission is summarized in the university's tagline, "Bigger Thinking, Brighter Purpose," reflecting its roots in liberal arts education, while seeking to make a difference in the world. It is one of 24 ACI member colleges and universities.

Read [more](#)

ACI News

It's Ready: ACI's 2016-2017 Annual Report!



ACI's Annual Report for 2016-2017 is now available. The report summarizes significant ACI initiatives and events, and includes profiles of students in the ACI Peer Mentoring Program, as well as ACI Scholars. The report includes listings of ACI's 24 member colleges and universities and their presidents, members of the ACI Board of Trustees and staff. Significant programs, giving opportunities, financial information donors and corporate partners are also part of the report.

The ACI Annual Report 2016-2017 is available [online](#) as a PDF, and a limited number of printed copies are available. For information, contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391, ext. 0523 or mweltman@acifund.org.

Hear ACI's Message from Knox and Millikin Presidents at City Club Feb. 21

Presidents of two ACI-affiliated colleges and universities will discuss how students educated in the liberal arts and sciences contribute to a vibrant Illinois workforce, when they appear together at the City Club of Chicago Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The two presidents – Teresa L. Amott of Knox College, left, Galesburg, and Patrick E. White, right, of Millikin University, Decatur – will discuss "What Employers Want, We Do: The Liberal Arts and Workforce Development in Illinois." The presidents 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.



The City Club of Chicago meets at Maggiano's Little Italy, 111 W. Grand Ave., Chicago. [Online registration](#) opens soon.

ACI Career and Internship Fair Set for March 23, 2018, at North Central College

CIC and Shure Family Charitable Trust provide key funding

ACI will hold its first-ever Career and Internship Fair Friday, March 23, 2018, at [North Central College](#), in Naperville. The event is supported by a Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) National Venture Fund Challenge Grant of \$21,750, matched by a generous gift from the Shure Family Charitable Trust.

Nearly 250 students representing ACI's 24 member-colleges are expected to attend the full-day event, with programming scheduled from 8:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. The schedule includes an employer expo, where students can present credentials to employers, skill-building workshops to help students prepare for career paths, and opportunities for students and employers to interact informally, including a sit-down lunch and a networking lounge.

Career services professionals at ACI colleges and universities have been asked to host groups of students to ACI's Career and Internship Fair, and ACI will offer modest transportation grants to help cover travel costs, especially for schools from outside the Chicago metro area.

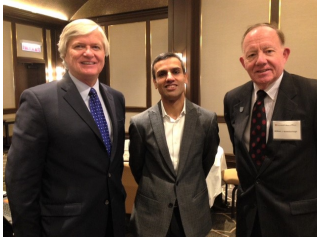
ACI is reaching out to corporations and large not-for-profits to participate in the March 23 fair as partner employers or sponsors, and a range of investment opportunities and benefits are available to match employers' specific needs. "ACI's Career and Internship Fair offers employers the chance to meet the critical thinkers and problem-solvers who will drive our future economy," said ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman. "The students studying right now at ACI's liberal arts-based colleges and universities are the promising prospects employers need to reach today's goals and achieve success in the years to come."

Interested employers should act now to secure their participation in ACI's 2018 Career and Internship Fair. To reserve a sponsorship or for more information, contact Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or call 312-263-2391, ext. 0523.

Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities Produce Quality Employees, Says Morningstar CEO

Kunal Kapoor is a graduate of Monmouth College, an ACI member

The chief executive officer of [Morningstar](#), an investment research firm, said his firm wants to hire candidates who are "emotionally aware, self-aware, empathetic and gritty" – qualities graduates of liberal arts colleges and universities often bring to the workplace.



Kunal Kapoor, who became Morningstar's CEO this year, earned a bachelor's degree in economics and environmental policy from ACI member [Monmouth College](#), a private liberal arts college in Monmouth. He later earned an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

"We've found the best hires at Morningstar are the folks who've done really well at smaller liberal arts colleges versus folks coming out of big universities," said Kapoor. He said that in his senior year at Monmouth, he reluctantly took an art history class his academic adviser recommended. "I ended up loving it," he said, because it helped him see the world from others' viewpoints.

"If you want diversity, and if you want a balance of men and women in the workplace, liberal arts colleges are usually a very good place to be looking," he said. "I would encourage you to always think about the fact that the people that you aspire to work with and have as clients are often the ones who have a diversity of ideas and diversity of knowledge."

Dr. Clarence R. Wyatt, Monmouth College president, introduced Kapoor. He told the audience that Illinois liberal arts colleges and universities tend to have many first-generation college students. The "transformative power" of the liberal arts experience touched his own life, he said, pointing out that he was a first-generation high school student and college student; his parents' formal education ended with eighth grade. "Our family didn't have many financial resources. It was the philanthropy of others who made this path possible for me," he said.

"Every day, the independent liberal arts colleges and universities of Illinois make miracles happen. They enable young people to see and seize opportunities they would never have dreamed of, much less realized, without this experience," Wyatt added.

Kapoor and Wyatt addressed a Dec. 6 meeting of 35 Chicago-area wealth advisers and guests, sponsored by ACI. Its purpose was to introduce ACI to the financial advisers as a possible investment for their clients. Morningstar is represented on the [ACI Board of Trustees](#).

More Than 140 College and University Staff Attend ACI Fall Conference



The president and chief executive officer of Chicago's [Shedd Aquarium](#), a marine research and conservation organization, said her liberal arts education at [Knox College](#), Galesburg, helped her discover a lifelong interest in science and a specialized major in biochemistry. Dr. Bridget C. Coughlin made the comment Nov. 3 at ACI's Fall Conference.

Coughlin said she chose Knox, one of [24 ACI colleges and universities](#), because it offered her a theatre scholarship, but added it was not the best major for her. "Knox College allowed me to discover who I was," Coughlin said. "I learned how to speak and write and think at Knox." Another important life lesson that helped Coughlin in her current role was learning how "pivot" toward something else after her experience with theatre, she added.

Sponsored by [BKD](#), an accounting and advisory firm based in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, and hosted by Morningstar, the ACI Fall Conference was attended by about 140 people. The conference featured 34 speakers in four professional development tracks for college and university staff working in advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement.

ACI Hosts HR, Diversity and Inclusion Leaders

An [ACI breakfast meeting](#) in Chicago Nov. 2, highlighting liberal arts education and workforce development in Illinois, drew more than 60 corporate and higher education leaders in human resources and career services, as well as diversity and inclusion officers.

Speakers included Doug Harris, left, CEO of The Kaleidoscope Group, Chicago; Robyn Clark, center, managing partner and founder, SuccessWise, Chicago; and President David J. Livingston of Lewis University, Romeoville.



Each speaker discussed how to recruit and retain a diverse range of talent from ACI's 24 member colleges and universities. The breakfast event was also designed to generate interest in the first ACI Career Fair, March 23, 2018, at North Central College, Naperville.

Please Save These Dates for Upcoming ACI Events

- **Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018:** ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman is a panelist for a program sponsored by the [Financial Services Pipeline Initiative](#), focused on recruiting diverse students into the Illinois workforce. Program is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. **Location:** Morgan Stanley, 70 E. Madison St., Chicago.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018:** Presidents Teresa L. Amott of Knox College and Patrick E. White of Millikin University address the City Club of Chicago on "What Employers Want, We Do: The Liberal Arts and Workforce Development in Illinois." **Location:** Maggiano's Banquets, 111 W. Grand Ave., Chicago (**see details above**).
- **Friday, March 23, 2018:** ACI will hold its first-ever Career and Internship Fair. Nearly 250 students are expected to attend the full-day event, beginning at 8:30 a.m. **Location:** North Central College, Naperville (**see details above**).
- **Friday, April 20, 2018:** ACI Annual Benefit Reception, an evening fundraising event to support peer mentoring for underserved students at ACI colleges and universities. **Location:** University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago.
- **Friday, June 1, 2018:** ACI Professional Development Conference, includes learning tracks for college and university staff working in advancement, finance and student engagement. **Location:** Illinois College, Jacksonville.
- **Tuesday, June 19, 2018:** Summer Get-Together for public relations and marketing professionals, jointly sponsored by ACI and Augustana College. **Location:** Augustana College, Rock Island.

ACI Welcomes Paycor, a New Corporate Partner

In November, ACI welcomed Paycor as a corporate partner, bringing to eight the number of corporate partners supporting ACI's work.



Paycor helps companies and organizations manage their people better with intuitive, cloud-based HR, payroll and timekeeping software. More than 35,000 small- and mid-sized organizations across America, including ACI, have chosen Paycor for personalized customer service and easy-to-use solutions that improve efficiency and enable them to focus on their strengths. Colleges and universities across the country depend on Paycor's modern and intuitive HR and Payroll solutions. Paycor's personalized support and intelligent technology ensure that key business processes, including payroll, timekeeping, reporting, onboarding and recruiting, run smoothly across your organization. Paycor provides easy-to-use Payroll, Time & HR solutions that will cut hours of administrative, transactional work and enable your staff to focus more on recruiting, engaging and supporting your people. Learn how Paycor can transform your organization. Contact [Paycor](#) or visit Paycor's [higher education site](#).

ACI Welcomes Two New Corporate Board members



Two new corporate trustees joined the [ACI Board of Trustees](#) this fall. Richard Lynch, left, is a CPA and a partner in Sikich's Springfield office. Sikich is also an ACI corporate partner. Lynch succeeded Frank Jakosz, CPA, who previously represented Sikich on the ACI board.

Ranko Jovicevic, right, is finance manager, UPS Illinois District. Jovicevic succeeds Mark Cross, who previously represented UPS on the board.

Please join us in welcoming these two new leaders to ACI!

Consider a year-end, tax-deductible gift to ACI

Want to support underserved college students attending Illinois liberal arts colleges and universities? Your gift to ACI can help provide scholarships to college students who need them, or provide support for peer mentoring for first-generation college students at ACI-affiliated colleges and universities.

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 or mweltman@acifund.org.





Associated Colleges of Illinois
70 East Lake Street, Suite 1418
Chicago, Illinois 60601
www.acifund.org

*Augustana College - Benedictine University - Blackburn College - Concordia University Chicago
Dominican University - Elmhurst College - Eureka College - Greenville University - Illinois College
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 - Trinity Christian College
University of St. Francis - Wheaton College*

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