



Associated Colleges of Illinois



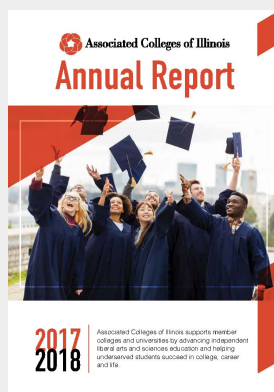
ACI Reporter

November - December 2018

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Just released: 2017-2018 ACI Annual Report



It's here: the 2017-2018 ACI Annual Report!

This new report is filled with information about ACI, including ACI highlights, facts and figures, member colleges and universities, leadership, program descriptions, plus financial information, donors, and corporate partners and sponsors.

Highlighting our report are a dozen student profiles featuring ACI scholarship recipients and Peer Mentoring Program leaders. Profiled are students from members including Benedictine University, Blackburn College, Eureka College, Greenville University, Judson University, Millikin University, McKendree University, Principia College, Rockford University, Trinity Christian College, University of St. Francis and Wheaton College.

[Click here](#) for an online copy of our new annual report.

ACI Scholars

Montserrat (Montse) Cancino-Aguilar
Knox College

Michele and Peter S. Willmott Minority Student Leadership Fund

"I am at Knox thanks to that (scholarship). It honestly made all of the difference in whether I could come back to Knox. If I didn't have it, I wouldn't be here. Both of my parents were unemployed my entire freshman year."

[Watch Montse tell her story!](#)

It wasn't easy for Montse Cancino-Aguilar to leave the southside of Chicago for [Knox College](#) in Galesburg. She knew that Knox was a good school and a place to grow. But interacting with people different from her was new, and she was often homesick. Fortunately, she says, Knox stresses diversity, inclusion and open-mindedness, ideals that were important to her, she says.

Now a sophomore, Cancino-Aguilar majors in biology, includes minors in Latin American studies and environmental sciences. "I want to go to medical school or go to graduate school first in botany or holistic medicine first, and then go to medical school," she says. "I actually want to work in a Latin American country because their ways of practicing medicine are more holistic than the United States, and they're more hospitality-based. I want to do something that I really enjoy, and that's working with people but at the same time, expressing my love for the sciences."



Cancino-Aguilar makes the most of her Knox education. When not in class, she is treasurer of Lo Nuestro, a cultural club focused on Latino awareness, a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and an alternate resident assistant. She also works in the college's financial aid office, where her bilingual skills are helpful.

Her ACI scholarship through the Willmott Fund is a vital piece of her college education, most which she funds on her own. "I am at Knox thanks to that. It honestly made all of the difference in whether I could come back to Knox. If I didn't have it, I wouldn't be here. Both of my parents were unemployed my entire freshman year."

"I want to say thank you," Cancino-Aguilar says. "This is a really tough topic for me to talk about. I have had to help my parents pay their bills, and I've had to buy my siblings clothes and shoes because my parents couldn't. So, I'm incredibly thankful to those people who don't know who I am but gave me the opportunity to come back and finish everything I've ever dreamed of. Thanks to the Willmott Fund scholarship that I have from ACI, I am here at Knox continuing my education as a first-generation student."

Martel McGee
Millikin University
ACI General Scholarship

"During my college career, I had certain classes where I didn't have a textbook. I'd have to find another student who would be willing to let me use their textbooks. With my ACI scholarship, I was able to purchase my own books."

[Watch Martel tell his story!](#)



Martel McGee left Chicago to attend [Millikin University](#), Decatur, because of its emphasis on performance learning. In high school, he played football, lacrosse and ran track. "When I learned about Millikin and hands-on experience through performance learning, that was very important to me," he says. "Performance-learning has led me to many great things in my undergraduate career like opening up a coffee shop in downtown Decatur called Blue Brew." Millikin, he says, is a great place for students to learn beyond the classroom and participate in the business world.

McGee, a senior and first-generation college student, is majoring in entrepreneurship. With his business experience, he has big plans for after college. "Eventually I would like to open up my own business, either in the Decatur area or in the Chicagoland area. That has always been a passion of mine."

McGee is the recipient of an ACI General Scholarship, which provided him an important resource. "I've been financing my college career myself, so the ACI Scholarship was very important to me because it helped me buy textbooks," he says. "During my college career, I had certain classes where I didn't have a textbook to always do my homework. I'd have to find another student who would be willing to let me use their textbooks. With my ACI scholarship, I was able to purchase my own books. That was just a great help for me, and it also led me help other students who were in need to use my textbooks."

McGee participates in many Millikin activities. He is president of the Millikin Artists Guild, helping students who want to be in the music industry, or other artist-related industries. The club helps students record and distribute their own

musical creations to platforms such as Apple Music, Tidal and Spotify.

Meet ACI Members

True to Its Mission: Dominican University Educates Diverse Study Body, Maintains Top Academic and Value Rankings

President Donna M. Carroll now in her 25th year



"50-50-50" is a theme that [Dr. Donna M. Carroll](#) frequently uses when she describes [Dominican University](#), where she has been president for 25 years. "We are 50 percent Latino, 50 percent Pell-eligible, and 50 percent first generation in college," she says. "In terms of the distinctive demographic and the impact of the institution, I think that really says it."

Dominican University, in River Forest, Illinois, an embedded suburb of Chicago, is also known for academic excellence, a Catholic Dominican mission that drives social justice advocacy on issues such as immigration reform, undocumented students, affordability and equity, plus commitment to the poor and respect for the individual. These and other qualities have led the institution to a unique position as a top Midwest university educating a significantly diverse student body. For some in higher education, this can be a bit "risky," says Carroll. However, it is true to Dominican's mission – "grounded in the compatibility of faith and reason, which affirms the dignity of the human person and concern for the common good."

[Read the full story.](#)

ACI News

Illinois Wesleyan University, St. Augustine College Join ACI

ACI membership grows to 27 colleges and universities

ACI added two new member institutions in late fall, which will grow the organization to 27 member colleges and universities in 2019. Together, ACI members include about 70,000 students and 33,000 employees, plus the member institutions' economic impact to Illinois is nearly \$3.4 billion.

[Illinois Wesleyan University](#) (IWU), Bloomington, rejoined ACI effective Dec. 1, and [St. Augustine College](#), Chicago, will join ACI effective Jan. 1, 2019. Both were approved for membership by vote of the [ACI Board of Trustees](#), said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director.

IWU had been a member of ACI for many years until 2001. The university provides a combination of liberal arts and sciences with four nationally known professional schools of art, music, theatre and nursing, an exceptional business program and eight highly respected pre-professional programs. IWU's enrollment is 1,693 students. Dr. Eric R. Jensen, university president, has led Illinois Wesleyan since 2015.



Founded in 1980, SAC is the first bilingual (dual language) institution of higher education in Illinois (and one of only two in the U.S.) to make higher education accessible to a diverse student population. Its emphasis is on those of Hispanic descent to strengthen ethnic identity, reinforce cultural interaction and fill cultural, educational and socio-economic gaps. SAC applies the liberal arts and sciences with a career-oriented focus, enabling students to apply knowledge and skills productively in work-related settings and in all of life's responsibilities. SAC's enrollment is 1,529 students. Dr. Reyes González is president.

Blackburn College Appoints Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen its 17th President



The board of trustees of [Blackburn College](#), Carlinville, appointed Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen the college's 17th president, beginning Jan. 14, 2019. Murray-Jensen is currently vice president of enrollment and external affairs, and executive director of the KCC Foundation, for Klamath Community College (KCC), Klamath Falls, Oregon.

"Out of a pool of 79 candidates, Julie's skills and experience appeared to be a great fit for Blackburn," said Blackburn Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Hazel Loucks. "After our interviews she proved to be the perfect person for us."

"I enthusiastically accepted the position of President at Blackburn College because I believe there is no better model for higher education than what Blackburn proudly provides—broad quality liberal arts education coupled with strong work-based job skills to make our students the most competitive in the world for 21st century careers," said Murray-Jensen.

She previously served as vice president of external programs and vice president of student services at KCC. Murray-Jensen has held positions with University of Virginia, Pacific University, University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburgh, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Bowling Green-Ohio, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She will succeed Dr. John Comerford who left earlier this year to become president of Otterbein University in Ohio, and Dr. Jennifer Braaten, who has been the college's interim president this academic year.

Paul Szeliski Joins ACI Board of Trustees

At its Nov. 29 meeting, the [ACI Board of Trustees](#) approved the nomination of Paul Szeliski to join as a corporate board member.

Szeliski, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), is a senior associate with [Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond, Ltd.](#) (KRD), Schaumburg, Illinois, a CPA firm that offers a full range of accounting and business advisory services.

With Szeliski's approval, the ACI board consists of 34 corporate members, plus the presidents of the 26 ACI member colleges and universities.



Support ACI Programs with Year-End, Tax-Deductible Gifts

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



**Associated
Colleges
of Illinois**

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. 0523 or write to mweltman@acifund.org. Financial gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.

ACI HR, Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast Speakers Focus on Workplace Strengths

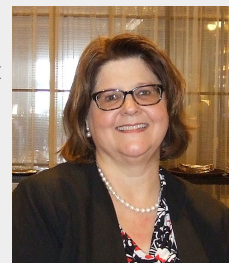
Two experts in organizational development told business and higher education leaders that helping employees put their character and cultural strengths to work helps businesses and their own leadership. Dr. Monika Black, left, co-founder and chief strategist, and Tomer Yogev, right, co-founder and chief synergist, [TandemSpring](#), Chicago, addressed more than 35 human resource, diversity and inclusion leaders at a Nov. 7 ACI breakfast meeting in Chicago.

Black and Yogev focused on four strength categories in their presentation, including executing, influencing, relationship building and strategic thinking. "Leading through strength inspires everyone to higher levels of performance," Black said.



"The reality is that when we bring strengths to the table, we're looking at measurable business outcomes that derive from this work," Yogev added. The presenters said when employees work from their own strengths, there are increases in workplace engagement, overall satisfaction, productivity and sustainability, all important for employers.

[Dr. Laurie M. Joyner](#), right, president of [Saint Xavier University](#), Chicago, one of 26 ACI-affiliated institutions, told the audience that ACI's "noble mission" helps underrepresented students learn and graduate from affordable and student-centered colleges and universities. "A liberal education at an ACI-member institution contributes to intellectual and personal growth, career success in the global economy, higher lifetime earnings, greater tax revenues, reduced public service expenses, and stronger families and communities," she said.



Sponsored by ACI, the annual breakfast meeting helps the organization build corporate connections and raise attention for the ACI Career Development Conference and Employer Expo, planned for Oct. 4, 2019, at North Central College, Naperville.

ACI Fall Conference Draws 150 for Professional Development Sessions



More than 150 college and university staff attended the [ACI Fall Conference](#), highlighted by a keynote presentation by a senior editor from *Inside Higher Ed* who spoke about trends in higher education, plus a series of professional development sessions in advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement.

Held at [Microsoft Technology Center](#), Chicago, staff from 21 of ACI's member colleges and universities attended and heard speakers in more than 20 professional development sessions, said Constance Willoughby, ACI director of conferences and scholarships.

Adam Hecktman, director of technology and civic innovation, Microsoft, Chicago, welcomed the ACI member staff to Chicago. The company needs students who bring significant communication and problem-solving skills to the workplace, he said. "We need people who have the skills that a liberal arts education gives us," he said. "We can't execute our vision without the colleges and universities creating, nurturing the best from this current generation of students."

[Doug Lederman](#), above left, co-founder and editor, *Inside Higher Ed*, Washington, D.C., said the best way to prepare for the future is to understand the present, and he said higher education is undergoing a time of enormous change and tumult.

"Higher education is so broad and so diverse, I've tried to stop using the phrase 'higher education,'" he said. "For some people it connotes four-year college. What we really have in this country is a post-secondary education and training ecosystem." Lederman presented a SWOT analysis of contemporary higher education.



Another featured speaker was [State Sen. Pat McGuire](#), D-43rd District, who spoke about the "Illinois General Assembly Higher Education Working Group: Bipartisan Success."

Materials from conference presenters are available at <https://bit.ly/2StFebO>. The next ACI professional development conferences are planned for June 2019.

Remembering James R. Donnelley, ACI benefactor and board member

[James R. Donnelley](#), a business executive, philanthropist and former member of the ACI Board of Trustees, passed away Sept. 25. Donnelley, 83, served on numerous boards and worked with many charitable organizations in Chicago.

In addition to his ACI board service, Donnelley contributed significant funds to the organization. He sponsored receptions and helped recruit board members. The Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelly Foundation contributed financially to

ACI, and it funded environmental conservation internships for students at ACI member institutions for many years.

"We are enormously grateful for Jim's years of service and financial support for ACI," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "I shall always remember his friendship and encouragement, and we will miss him."

"I learned much about leadership from Jim, and his legacy lives on through the many people he mentored," said Jerry Fuller, former ACI executive director. "Our world is smaller without Jim."



Donnelley, who grew up in Lake Forest, Illinois, was a printing executive for RR Donnelley and Sons Company, Chicago. He retired as vice chairman of the company, founded by his great grandfather, and served on its board until he was 70. He also served on the boards of Sierra Pacific Resources in Nevada, and PMP Limited, Australia, where he was past chair. His charity work involved board service for The Chicago Public Library Foundation, Chicago Youth Centers and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, where he served as board chair. He also served on the boards of The National Recreation Foundation and Lake Forest College, along with ACI.

A 1957 graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, he served in the U.S. Navy on a destroyer and earned silver dolphins in the submarine service. Donnelley later earned a master's degree in business at the University of Chicago. He is survived by his wife Nina, to whom he was married 38 years, son Niel (Kristin) and a daughter, Nicole, plus six grandchildren, and three brothers and their families.

A memorial service for Donnelley was held Oct. 10, at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.

Frost Chicago Establishes Named Scholarship Through ACI

[Frost Chicago](#), a premiere event production company which specializes in lighting, staging, audio, video and fabric, established a named scholarship through ACI to help up to two students attending member colleges and universities.



"Frost Chicago was looking for an impactful way to give back," said Amy Current, Frost Chicago strategic communications. "ACI provided the perfect vehicle through scholarships, helping two young adults realize their higher education goals." One recipient visited the company's Bridgeport office and learned about several behind-the-scenes elements involved with high-caliber event production. "This was beneficial for both the student and Frost staff," Current says.

Frost Chicago offers custom lighting, AV, decking, drape and fabrication solutions. The company boasts a diverse portfolio, including collegiate, corporate and nonprofit work.

Did You Know?

From ACI Corporate Partner Baker Tilly

Donor gift management: Identifying risks and implementing leading practices

Donations provide critical support to institutional operations. However, gift agreements and acceptance processes can include complex restrictions that should be assessed for potential risks.

[Read the full article](#)



UPS Provides Education Assistance to Part-time Employees in Chicagoland

As many companies have become increasingly concerned with offering benefits that reflect the urban challenges faced by the ever-growing American workforce, most exclude their part-time team members. Since 1999, UPS has committed nearly \$20 million to ensure higher education is an attainable path for all team members, regardless of their financial situation.

What's it all about?



Earn & Learn, a UPS exclusive program, is available at many employment locations across the United States and is offered to part-time team members from the start of their employment.

Available at most UPS locations across the United States, the UPS Earn & Learn program offers part-time employees immediate financial support to achieve their educational goals. With a maximum benefit of \$25,000 and an annual allowance of \$5,250, program eligibility begins the day of hire. Benefits are prorated to align with the academic calendar.

Where do you get started?

UPS is actively seeking part-time team members across the greater Chicago area. With competitive hourly wages and weekly bonuses at select locations, there has never been a better time to join the UPS team. Click the location nearest you to apply now!

- [Addison, Illinois](#)
- [Bedford Park, Illinois](#)
- [Northbrook, Illinois](#)
- [Westmont, Illinois](#)
- [Palatine, Illinois](#)
- [Chicago O'Hare Airport](#)



Know the facts

In 2010, approximately 56 percent of our current full-time drivers were once part-time employees, and more than 73 percent of our full-time managers (including most vice presidents) were once non-management employees. Our part-time workforce totaled 180,000 people at the end of 2010. During the year, 2,642 part-time employees advanced to full-time work. Our management ranks at the end of the year included 1,174 employees who moved into management for the first time.

Apply today at UPSJOBS.com

Please Save These Dates for Upcoming 2019 ACI Events!

- **Friday, April 12, 2019:** ACI Annual Benefit Reception, University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe St., Chicago.
- **Friday, Oct. 4, 2019:** ACI Career and Internship Fair, North Central College, 30 N. Brainard St., Naperville.



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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
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