

ACI Scholar Katherine King, Concordia University Chicago
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Katherine King is an elementary education major at Concordia University Chicago.

When Katherine King was younger, she remembers visiting her grandmother's home, and spending time in the basement, pretending she was a schoolteacher. She would "teach" her imaginary students, just as she experienced in her own school. "It was really cool to be in my own little world," she recalled, "because I was able to experience that before I came to college." Those early years were the beginning of a journey that led King to [Concordia University Chicago](#).



She began visits to Concordia University from her home in Peoria when she was a sophomore in high school. The small-school university atmosphere at Concordia was ideal, King said, recalling her small Lutheran grade school and small high school. Concordia's affiliation with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was also important in her college decision.

At Concordia King majors in elementary education with a minor in theology. The two will help qualify her to teach in a Lutheran school and meet the theological requirements as well.

A Vacation Bible School session at her home congregation helped her realize that a real career as a teacher was her calling. "I was helping out the week of Vacation Bible School that, and I remember it hitting me that this was what I wanted to do with my life. I love kids, and I love being able to change their lives in some way. That's how I knew," she said. King hopes to teach grade school students foundational subjects such as English, math and reading. One day, she may pursue a master's degree or higher.

To help meet the costs of college now, King is the recipient of a \$2,900 A. Montgomery Ward Scholarship awarded to her by Concordia University from ACI. The scholarship is for students with a 3.0 average or higher who need financial assistance. King's family includes her brother and mother, a stepbrother and stepsister. Her father passed away in 2011. For her, the scholarship funds were timely, she said.

"I had been paying for college all on my own, and I've been trying not to take out student loans," King said. "Besides the financial aid that I'm given, I have to find other resources. It's definitely helpful. It makes my life at school a lot less stressful, because I know I don't have to worry about paying monthly bills and things like that."

King is not only learning in the classroom, but her extracurricular activities are teaching her as well. She is a co-leader in the campus women's ministry, and lives on a freshman dormitory floor, where she advises new students and helps them adjust to college life on campus.