



# Associated Colleges of Illinois

**Erin Fleshren**  
**McKendree University**  
***ACI General Scholarship***

ACI Scholar Erin Fleshren plans to study for an MBA at [McKendree University](#) after she graduates this spring from the university with a bachelor's degree in speech communication, and minors in political science and leadership. She says a graduate degree in business will help her in a future law career focused on personal injury or medical malpractice.



Fleshren is learning a lot about her career interests at the Belleville 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.

[Click to see video!](#)



Fleshren, from Belleville, Illinois, 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 the 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, and her favorite leadership role, that of president of her sorority, Tri Sigma (Sigma Sigma Sigma).

Contributing to her success is the ACI General Scholarship, which "has made a difference," she says. "I don't have to work quite as many hours because I don't receive funding from other sources," Fleshren says. "This has helped relieve financial stress so much."

A new role this year is chair of the Student Advisory Committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), a role Fleshren sought after attending committee meetings as McKendree's student representative. She and others work with the two student voting representatives to the board, and Fleshren regularly attends IBHE meetings as an observer.