

## Peer Mentoring Program expands to seven campuses for 2016-17

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ACI's [Peer Mentoring Program](#) will expand from three to seven member campuses beginning with the fall 2016 semester.

The Peer Mentoring Program, which seeks to increase the number of minority, low-income and first-generation college students who successfully graduate from college, will continue at [Augustana College](#), Rock Island, [Dominican University](#), River Forest, and [North Park University](#), Chicago, with new cohorts established this year at [Blackburn College](#), Carlinville, [Concordia University Chicago](#), River Forest, [Monmouth College](#), Monmouth, and [Quincy University](#), Quincy.

“Our goal is to boost graduate rates among students who face may not have the family resources or experience to succeed in college,” explained Executive Director Mick Weltman. “So far, the results of our Peer Mentoring Program are so encouraging that we are taking steps to grow it to all ACI member campuses.”

ACI's Peer Mentoring Program supports students who arrive at ACI member institutions with risk factors that could prevent them from graduating, such as educational inequities to poverty and lack of family experience with higher education. To counter those risks, ACI matches these freshmen with peer mentors recruited from among juniors and seniors who faced similar challenges when they came to college.

By building a “relationship bridge” between mentees, mentors and the campus community and its support services, ACI's program provides an early warning system that can anticipate and address the particular challenges these students face before those challenges derail students' college career.

In academic year 2016-17, ACI's Peer Mentoring Program will serve 160 students, including 130 mentees and 30 mentors across the seven member campuses, which represent urban, suburban and rural settings throughout Illinois.