

Work and Life Skills Boot Camps Will Support Students at ACI Colleges and Universities

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Students of color, low-income and first-generation students at ACI member institutions soon may benefit from *Skills for Work, Skills for Life Boot Camps*, a new project ACI plans to launch in 2019. The project has been funded through a \$19,050 First Opportunity Partners matching grant from the [Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC) with support from the UPS Foundation.

The Saturday morning boot camps, designed to support campus career services programs, will begin in fall 2019 and offer students intensive instruction in resume development, interviewing/presentation skills, workplace technology skills, and financial literacy and career paths in financial services. Each session will conclude with a luncheon introducing students to a key Illinois employer that hires large numbers of alumni from ACI members.

“Students from low-income backgrounds or who are first in their families to graduate college have few role models in their lives who can offer career advice and support for job searches,” explains Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. “ACI boot camps can help bridge that gap and give underserved students a better chance at launching satisfying careers after they graduate.”

In 2019-20, ACI plans to offer three boot camps: two in the metro Chicago area and one outside Chicago -- all on ACI member campuses. ACI is now actively seeking corporate sponsorship for *Skills for Work, Skills for Life Boot Camps*. A minimum of \$19,050 is required to match the CIC grant and fully fund the program. The matching deadline is March 2019. ACI also will also seek presenters for the programs and recruit host campuses. For more information, contact Executive Director Mick Weltman, 312-263-2391, ext. 0523 or email at mweltman@acifund.org.