



Associated Colleges of Illinois



## OUR MISSION

Associated Colleges of Illinois supports member colleges and universities by advancing independent liberal arts and sciences education and helping underserved students succeed in college, career and life.

# Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI)



ACI is a network of 27 member colleges and universities in Illinois. Members are independent, private institutions, offering a variety of academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences tradition. ACI was founded in 1952 to strengthen the state's network of private colleges and universities through new sources of support for independent higher education. Since its founding, ACI has provided more than \$70 million in scholarship support to member institutions.

## Opportunities

- All students want to realize their dreams for a successful career and life
- Illinois businesses need to fill present and future talent needs
- Communities and neighborhoods need informed, engaged citizens to contribute to overall quality of life

## Solutions

- ACI institutions help develop employees who think creatively, communicate clearly, listen well, lead teams to organize and manage projects, and solve complex problems
- ACI business leaders and students mentor and teach underserved students about life and careers, help them stay in school, graduate and maintain successful careers
- ACI promotes liberal arts and sciences education as key to citizen engagement and success in the workplace and life

## Impact

- More than 70,000 students attend ACI colleges and universities, and the schools employ more than 36,000 people
- 148 of the top companies in Illinois employ more than 23,875 alumni of ACI colleges and universities
- The economic impact of ACI's 27 colleges and universities to the Illinois economy is \$3.75 billion
- ACI member schools provide more than \$945 million in financial aid to students

## ACI Programs and Initiatives

- **Scholarships:** ACI provides scholarships to support underserved students who attend member colleges and universities.
- **Emergency Financial Aid:** ACI provides funds to meet the financial needs of students experiencing unanticipated hardships that can disrupt their academic studies.
- **Peer Mentoring Program:** Increases the number of underserved students who remain in school, succeed and graduate from member colleges and universities. Underserved freshmen students are matched with trained peer mentors with similar backgrounds who guide them through the critical first year at college, with retention rates as high as 97 percent.
- **Professional Development:** ACI provides professional development conferences for member staff working advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement roles.



- **College-to-Career Program:** ACI offers a range of activities that enhance students' career readiness while providing employers forums to screen and recruit college-educated employees:

❖ **Career Mentoring:** Seniors work with business professional volunteers who serve as mentors for one semester, helping the seniors with advice on job searches and careers

❖ **Employer Expo:** ACI hosts an annual career development conference for students at member college or university, which includes learning sessions, opportunities to network with Illinois employers and a job fair

❖ **Jobs and Internships Postings:** Employers can place free, online listings of jobs and internships at <https://acifund.org/jobs-internships/>

❖ **Micro-Internships:** Through ACI's partnership with Parker Dewey, students from member schools can work with employers in short-term, paid, professional assignments, gaining valuable skills while helping employers complete projects

❖ **Work and Life Skills Boot Camps:** These one-day workshops help equip students to meet employers' expectations and provide a foundation for rewarding lives and careers



## ACI Highlights

**\$3.75 billion**

ACI schools' economic impact  
on the Illinois economy

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More than

**70,000**

**students**

attend ACI schools

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**36,000**

**employees**

work at ACI schools



# Member Colleges and Universities

1. Augustana College
2. Aurora University
3. Benedictine University
4. Blackburn College
5. Concordia University Chicago
6. Dominican University
7. Elmhurst University
8. Eureka College
9. Illinois College
10. Illinois Wesleyan University
11. Judson University
12. Knox College
13. Lewis University
14. McKendree University
15. Millikin University
16. Monmouth College
17. North Central College
18. North Park University
19. Olivet Nazarene University
20. Principia College
21. Quincy University
22. Rockford University
23. St. Augustine College
24. Saint Xavier University
25. Trinity Christian College
26. University of St. Francis
27. Wheaton College



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