



# EvanstonScholars





Evanston Scholars improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious Evanston students who are traditionally first-generation college entrants, students from low-income families, and students of color, starting with the college admissions process, continuing through college graduation, and into a career.



## Dear Friends,

2020. In hindsight, it appears that the pandemic has peeled back many layers to reveal the true essence of societal inequalities, our true selves, and perhaps even organizations. For Evanston Scholars, peeling back our layers has shown us that our network is strong, that our foundation is solid, and that we are well positioned for the future.

Looking back on our year, we know the impact of COVID-19 dominates our perspective. However, we need to recognize our accomplishments and growth before March hit. We supported nearly 75 High School Scholars, especially our graduating seniors who ended up receiving an average of \$128K of debt-free money to the schools they will attend. We supported 130 College Scholars – 94% of whom are persisting towards a college degree.

When the pandemic came in March, our solid structure remained intact. The power of the people and the relationships in our network was amplified. Staff stepped up. Mentors leaned in. Board members rallied. And community members stepped into the moment to support us. We had to pivot, adjust our modes of communication, and rethink and revise our strategies based on the changing needs of our Scholars.

Fundamentally, however, what we do has remained the same. We leverage our relationships to guide Scholars to college, assist them in the transition to college, and support them to get through college. We counsel through obstacles. We help to create social capital. We remind them of their short and long-term goals – to stay focused on the process and the product.

We all know the future is uncertain. Our Scholars are in a critical phase of their life-long journeys, and they want to keep moving down their paths. Now is the time for us to guide them and support them more than ever. There will be higher hurdles ahead – financial constraints, racial tensions, and other issues we can not even predict now. Evanston Scholars is ready. We are strongly positioned to address whatever comes next, and we will continue to rely on the relationships within our network. Thank you so much for being a part of that network.

**Steve Newman**, Executive Director



*“First Gen - Thanks for everything, Mamá.”  
—Translation of message on Scholar Brenda Zamudio’s cap during her December 2019 graduation from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Brenda is pictured here with her mother, Maria Isabel Reza.*

# Our Vision



We want every qualified Evanston Township High School student with the desire to earn a college degree to attend college, graduate, and obtain a strong career, thereby creating a more just and prosperous Evanston community.

# What We Do

Evanston Scholars delivers a comprehensive, **six-year program** that guides students through the college admission process, supports them to persist in and graduate from college, and prepares them for strong careers.

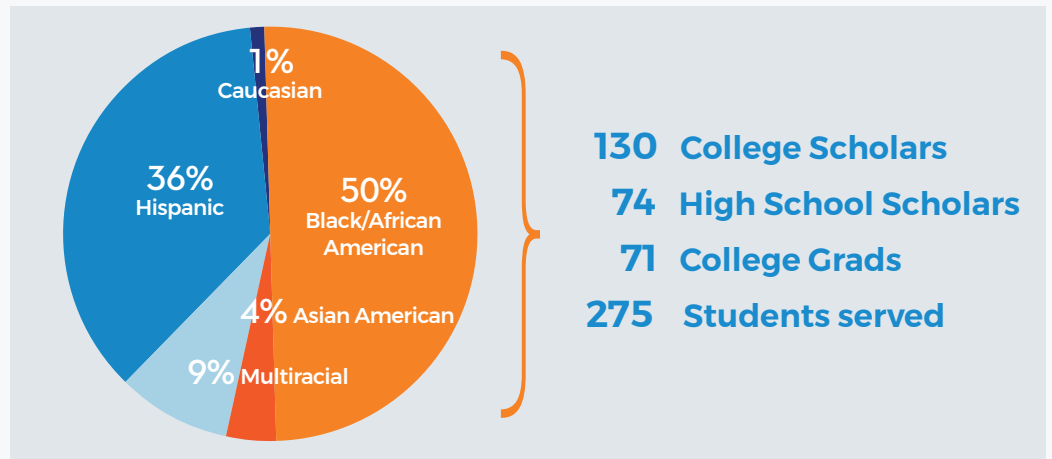
We break our program down into three phases: **College Access, College Success, and Career Readiness.**



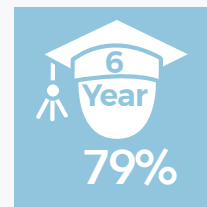
# Who We Serve

We serve Evanston Township High School students who want to earn a college degree and have the qualifications to attend college, but lack the support and resources they need to succeed.

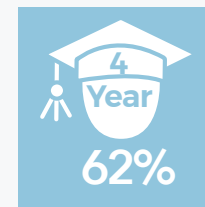
- Academically ambitious, motivated, and committed as evidenced by a strong academic performance (over 2.7 GPA Unweighted)
- First-generation college student
- Come from a low-income household
- Person of color
- Have a strong desire to complete college



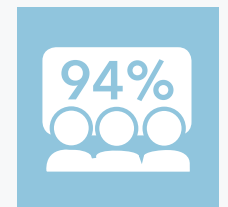
# Our Impact



Six-year graduation rate for our first three cohorts



Four-year graduation rate for our first five cohorts



College persistence rate (students who started college are still enrolled or have graduated)





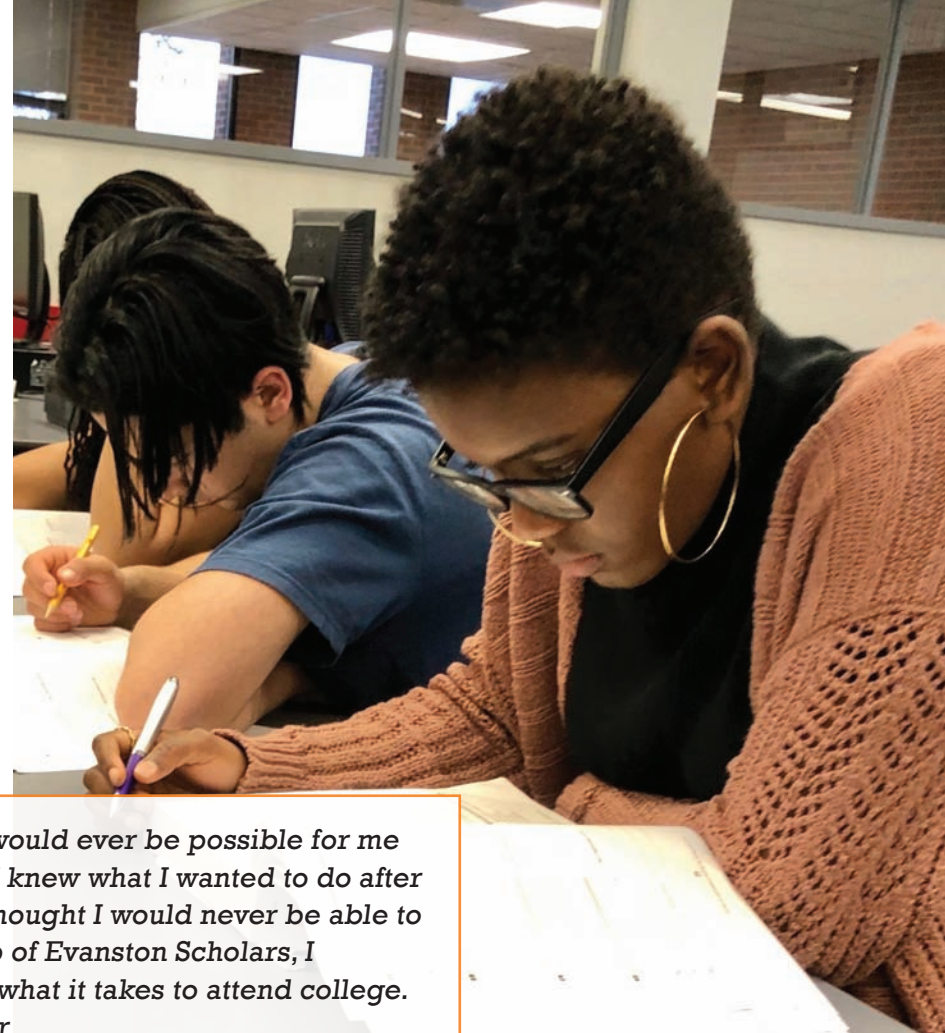
# College Access

Throughout their junior and senior years of high school, our College Access program provides High School Scholars with monthly college prep workshops, tutoring, college visits, test preparation, and **individualized college selection** and financial aid counseling.

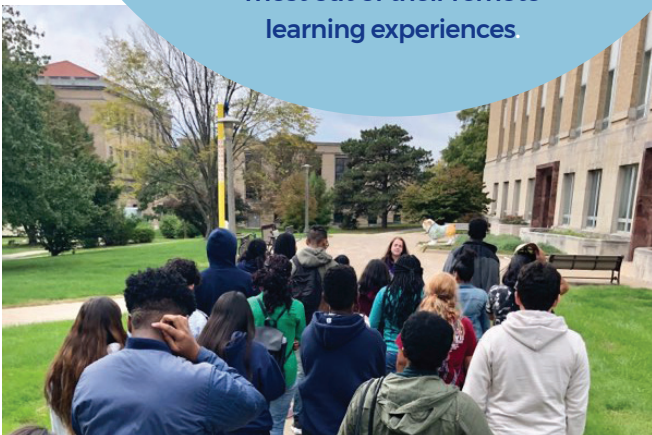
## COVID-19 Update

Once ETHS closed and High School Scholars began sheltering at home, we shifted to a virtual College Access program.

Staff offered regular check-ins and college advising over Zoom, helping our seniors **make their college choices and negotiate financial aid packages in a constantly shifting landscape**. They also helped Scholars adjust to and optimize remote learning. Evanston Scholars staff connected Scholars with resources to acquire any needed technology or tech support, and advised Scholars on how to create quiet spaces, adapt their study habits, and create at-home schedules to get the most out of their remote learning experiences.



*I didn't believe it would ever be possible for me to attend college. I knew what I wanted to do after high school but I thought I would never be able to do it. With the help of Evanston Scholars, I realized I do have what it takes to attend college.*  
—Evanston Scholar



# Scholar Profile



## WESLEY SHAVERS VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY, SENIOR

Major: Communications  
Minor: Greek and Roman Studies

“Without Evanston Scholars I probably would not have been able to go to Valparaiso University, let alone be as prepared as I was for college both emotionally and mentally. The transition was not easy for me my freshman year. I had to learn how to balance school and non-school related activities and discover what I really wanted to do with my major and my career.”

The Evanston Scholar workshops, individualized counseling, and mentoring allowed me to have a space where I could grow not only as a student, but also as a young adult navigating the professional world. I learned how to push myself academically by setting short-term goals for myself, and I gained a stronger grasp of what I wanted to study.

Many of the things I am doing now and the path I am on would not have been possible without the community support.”

# Class of 2020



99

Average **SAT**  
**point increase**  
after test prep classes



9

Average number of **college**  
**applications** submitted  
(national average is 3)



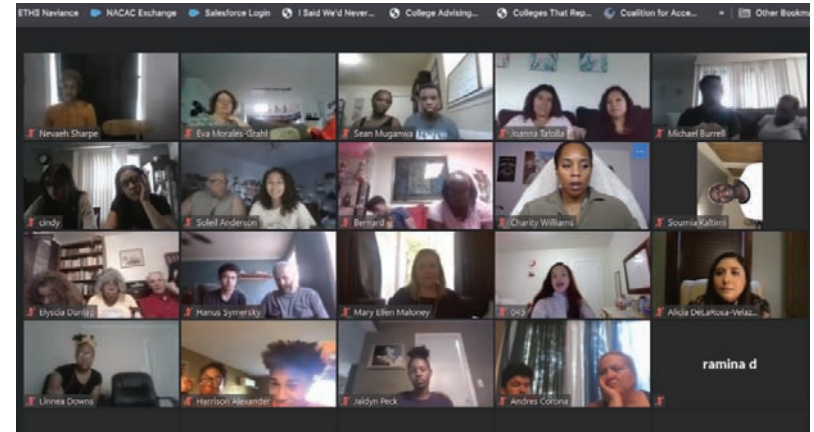
\$128K

Average **debt-free**  
**financial aid** per student  
over 4 years of college



59%

Percentage of students who  
had at least **90% of tuition**  
**covered** with debt-free aid







# College Success

For all four years of college, our College Success team provides College Scholars with regular check-ins, executive functioning and mental health support, **academic and financial counseling**, a yearly college textbook and supplies allowance, and access to funds in case of an emergency. College Scholars who thrive academically join our Circle of Honor. Those who struggle with their studies receive follow-up and support. Our team also helps connect College Scholars to their on-campus peers and to support and networking services provided by their institutions.



**43** Scholars who earned a G.P.A of 3.0 or higher during the Spring 2020 semester



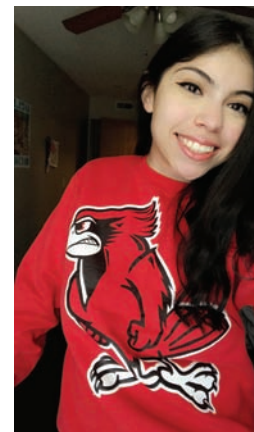
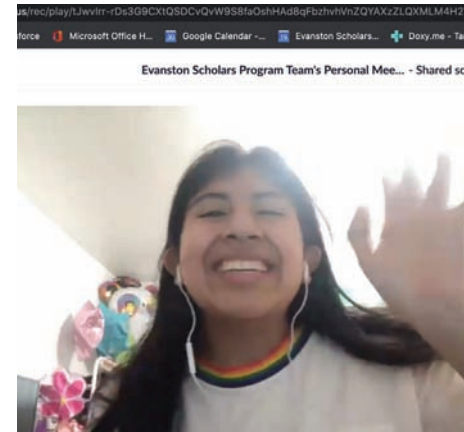
**\$108,067** Total direct financial support for books and emergency funds (tuition, housing, food, and fees)

*Even though I'm far away from home, I know Evanston Scholars has my back and is ready to help me with whatever I'm going through.  
—Evanston Scholar*



## COVID-19 Update

College and university closings in mid-March were especially tough on College Scholars and their parents. Many families were unable to take time off from work or afford the cost of bringing their student home. As schools began to shut down, our College Success team **connected with every College Scholar**. They offered moral support, guidance, and travel assistance to make sure everyone returned home safely, even helping one Scholar make it home from New Zealand. Once our College Scholars settled in, College Success staff supported their transition to being at home and attending classes remotely, **enabling them to persist** through the semester despite their new challenges.





# Scholar Profile



**NAOMI JONES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS at**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, B.S. '20**  
 Major: Natural Resources and  
 Environmental Sciences

"With Evanston Scholars, I never felt like I had to go through a situation alone. I could always rely on them if I needed help. If I asked questions on how to navigate certain situations, whether it

be at school or in life, they have helped me find answers. Even if I just needed someone to talk to, Evanston Scholars was available and has always been there for me; they are definitely invested in my emotional well-being.

If I needed any help finding a job or internship, Evanston Scholars has served as an excellent resource. When I was searching for a particular opportunity, I would sit down with one of the staff members and we would go over what I was looking for and before you know it I would have a list of opportunities of interest. Evanston Scholars has helped me in all of my internships and even helped me land my first job after college!"

## Evanston Scholars have attended:

- |                                  |                              |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alabama A&M University           | Jackson State University     | Southern Illinois University |
| Amherst College                  | Kent State University        | Carbondale                   |
| Arrupe College                   | Knox College                 | St. Olaf College             |
| Augustana College                | Lake Forest College          | St. Louis University         |
| Baldwin Wallace University       | Lawrence University          | Triton College               |
| Ball State University            | Lehigh University            | University of Illinois at    |
| Barry University                 | Lewis University             | Chicago                      |
| Beloit College                   | Loras College                | University of Illinois at    |
| Boston College                   | Manhattanville College       | Springfield                  |
| Bowling Green State              | Marist College               | University of Illinois at    |
| University                       | Marquette University         | Urbana-Champaign             |
| Bradley University               | Massachusetts Institute of   | University of Iowa           |
| California College of the Arts   | Technology                   | University of Minnesota-     |
| Carleton College                 | Millikin University          | Twin Cities                  |
| Colgate University               | Morgan State University      | University of Missouri-      |
| Colorado College                 | North Carolina               | Columbia                     |
| Columbia College Chicago         | Agricultural and             | University of Ottawa         |
| Columbia University              | State University             | University of Pennsylvania   |
| Denison University               | Northeastern Illinois        | University of Redlands       |
| DePaul University                | University                   | University of Southern       |
| Dominican University             | Northern Illinois University | California                   |
| Drexel University                | Northwestern University      | University of Wisconsin-     |
| Eastern Illinois University      | Oakton Community College     | Madison                      |
| Elon University                  | Ohio Wesleyan University     | Valparaiso University        |
| Grinnell College                 | Purdue University-           | Vanderbilt University        |
| Hampton University               | Calumet Campus               | Washington University in     |
| Hope College                     | Reed College                 | St. Louis                    |
| Howard University                | Ripon College                | Wellesley College            |
| Illinois Institute of Technology | Santa Clara University       | Western Illinois University  |
| Illinois State University        | Sewanee-The University of    | Western Michigan University  |
| Illinois Wesleyan University     | the South                    | Wheaton College              |
| Indiana University-              |                              | Xavier University            |
| Bloomington                      |                              |                              |



# ES Career Readiness

Career Readiness begins in junior year of high school when High School Scholars explore their interests, assess their strengths, and start building their resumes. Once students matriculate in college, our staff helps them **navigate the networks and career-related resources** available at their schools. We show them how to maximize their profiles online and assist them in securing summer internships. On school breaks and during the summer, students prepare for their career launch by participating in career workshops, interview coaching, and networking opportunities with our community and corporate partners.

## COVID-19 Update

Many College Scholars lost summer jobs and internships that would have provided much-needed experience, as well as income. To help replace these summer opportunities and wages, Evanston Scholars implemented **Scholar-Designed Internships (SDI)**. The Evanston Community Foundation and the Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation funded this seven-week paid experiential learning and research project. Fifteen SDI participants researched and reported on a topic that aligned with their academic and career interests. At the end of the program, each Scholar presented their findings to Evanston Scholars staff, mentors, and other supporters.



**90%**

Percentage of high school and college students with a job-ready resume



**67%**

Percentage of alumni in a job that requires a bachelor's degree, is full time, and meets other criteria for salary, benefits, and career path, or are in graduate school



**ONE**

A new Job Board was launched providing Scholars with exclusive access to opportunities provided through our network of mentors, donors, and friends







*“College will stretch you and require different things from you that you may not have even known were possible. I’ve learned to listen to myself and I just know the options are endless.”*  
 —Evanston Scholar College Graduate

## Thank you to our Career Partners

- ABBVIE
- CHICAGO COMMERCIAL APPRAISAL GROUP
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- COMPASS REAL ESTATE
- EQUITY RESIDENTIAL
- GALILEO
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- SOCIAL POLICY INSTITUTE AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
- SUMERU EQUITY PARTNERS
- UPKEY







# Mentors

One-on-one mentors serve as **a source of information, inspiration, and moral support** for Scholars throughout their college journey. In the first two years, mentors accompany High School Scholars and their families through the college application and financial aid process. Once students gain admission to college, mentors support them through the ups and downs of their college years and help celebrate graduation. Many provide assistance with career readiness and networking. It's a relationship that can endure for years and deepen over time.



**191**

Total number of current mentors



**2,800**

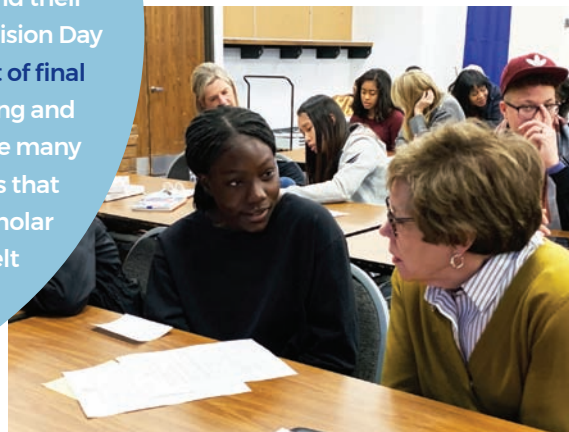
Total hours mentors volunteered in 2019-2020



## COVID-19 Update

Since, outside of workshops and outings, Evanston Scholars mentors often cultivate relationships with their Scholars through phone calls, texts, and emails, they made the switch to virtual programming seamlessly. Many mentors **attended Zoom workshops and counseling meetings** to help support and advise Scholars and their families during the pandemic. They attended Decision Day calls to **share in the deliberation and excitement of final college decisions**. Our mentors were also honking and cheering their Scholars from the curb during the many Evanston Scholars Graduation Parade convoys that steered proud supporters past graduating Scholar homes, making sure their achievements felt celebrated despite the upheaval caused by the pandemic.

*“The support from my mentor pushed me forward, motivated me, and made me believe that I would be able to be the first in my family to graduate from college.”*  
—Evanston Scholars College Graduate





# Thank You to Our Mentors

## MENTORS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Jeni Alcakovic, **Pam Allen**, Patricia Avila, Dina Berger Koecher, Derrick Blakley, Catherine Bourke, Katie Brady, Cathy Brubaker, Betsi Burns, Shannon Cahill, Brenda Campbell, Rachel Chiss, Mary Clark, Jim Cousineau, Mary Beth Cox, Ellen Cushing, Alexis Dillon, Katherine Dong, Anne Eaton, Laura Egerter, Pam Eisfielder, Tim Flood, Erin Formiller, Carmen Francellno, Marya Frankel, Ellen Frank-Miller, Edwin Getz, Sam Goldsmith, Allison Gordon, Debra Hill, J.J. Hill, Timothy Holbrook, Elizabeth Hubbard, Joel Huerta, Cory Jackson, Christopher James, Joe Kupresanin, Karen Larson, Michael Laughlin, Jeff Libman, Deborah Linder, Craig Long, Erik Long, Jonathan Lustig, David Mack, Tania Margonza, Mary Miller, Damali Mills, Adam Newman, Doug Nickels, **Stephanie Oettinger**, Eugene Perkins, Heather Perkins, Jean Petrick, Michael Pfeifer, Tracy Quattrocki, Anamaria Rosales, Em Roth, Kathy Ruhl, Kevin Russell, Julia Sagraves, Linda Schneider, John Schroeder, Matt Sommer, Bill Springer, Anja Spruston, Caryn Summer, Pamela Swenson, **Pam Tingley**, Karen Van Ausdal, Kristen Watson, Sarah Williams

## MENTORS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Kris Anderson, Liane Anderson, Betsy Banks, David Bennett, Anne Berkeley, Emily Berlinghof, Mary Brennan, Judy Callans, Fernando Campos, David Cerra, Ray Coleman, Rebecca Collora, Thomas Conley, Llyoandra Cooper, Dan Cox, Mary Beth Cox, Debbie Crimmins, Khadijah Davis, Salvatore Di Bernardo, **Eric Dortch**, Julie Doyle, Laura Egerter, Margie Falter, Marcelo Ferrer, Carl Finamore, Mary Finnegan, Jocelyn Francoeur, Djuwanna Frazier, Jared Frye, Sheryl Fyock, Bill Gaul, Jill Gerber, Evan Girard, Michael Girard, Candice Green, Kathleen Hagerty, Jackie Haimes, Rick Hemwall, Lisa Henkemeyer, Carly Herrera, Kristin Hill, Beth Hirshman, Jessica Horwitz, Heath Howe, Matthew Hunter, IB Ikene, Kay Israelite, Dan Israelite, **Tanya Jenkins**, Ed Job, Laurel Johnson, Steven Johnson, Tammytha Johnson, Michelle Judon, Dan Kanter, Wendy Kaplan, Divya Kathuria, Jason Keyser, Todd Kihm, Soo La Kim, Amy Knepper, Becky Kremin, Sara Later, Julie Levine, Michele Lutz, David Mack, Gwen Macsai, **Camila Marquez**, Emeric Mazibuko, Ganae McAlpin-Toney, Karen McCormick, Therese McGuire, Pete McNamara, Jason Miles, Leslie Miles, Mark Miller, Jodi Morton, Ellen Muench, Sarah Muir Ferrer, Brian Murphy, Steve Murtos, Kate Newman, Emily Nidenberg, Ebele Onyema, Chaka Patterson, Robert Porter, Danny Profit, Julie Rapisarda, Joey Reiff, **Robin Remich**, Michele Rogers, Judy Royal, Gail Rubin, Blanca Ruiz, Paola Ruocco, Dave Schoenfeld, Paul Selden, Mark Severin, Julie Shufro, Max Shure, Christopher Siebert, Jeff Simon, Sadia Sindhu, Adriane Slaton, Meredith Stevens, Erica Suennen, Pam Swales, David Taylor, Deborah Thorne, Pam Tingley, Kris Uhler, Cindy Ulrich, Jon Viner, Margarita Vizcarra, Sachin Waikar, Chris Ward, Nancy Williams, Gavin Wilson, Corey Winchester, Juleya Woodson, Keith Woodson, Jasmine Wright, Ann Zastrow, Reena Zigelman

Names in **bold** are members of the Evanston Scholars Mentor Steering Committee



# Thank You to Our Donors

Donations received August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

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## \$25,000+

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FINANCIAL DATA AUGUST 2019 - JULY 2020	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Individual Donations	320,255
Events	285,147
Family Foundation Donations	271,865
Foundation Grants	48,267
Corporations	27,779
Other Income	15,247
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$968,560</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Program Services and Scholarships	756,461
Management and General	111,646
Fundraising	13,346
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$881,453</b>





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