

To Whom It May Concern at Illinois School Counselors Association,

Academic Year 2018: \$4,992,000 in scholarships awarded within 6 months to Illinois High School Seniors in the Greater Chicago region!

I am, Michael Aul, Department Chair of Aerospace Studies for 18 universities and colleges across the Chicagoland area (Illinois Institute of Technology, Loyola, Depaul, Northwestern, Univ of Chicago, Univ of Illinois in Chicago, Lewis Univ, North Central College, Wheaton, Elmhurst, Northern Illinois Univ, Governors State Univ, St Xavier Univ, Chicago State Univ, etc.). We also represent over 1,100 universities and colleges across the nation as university liaisons.

I would like to advocate for your time/consideration to spread scholarship news to “ALL” Illinois students.

This year, in coordination with my corporate leadership, we awarded 53 scholarships out of 65 applicants. That is an amazing 81% scholarship award rate! The national rate is 70%, so that says a lot about the quality of education Illinois High School students are receiving. In total, we gave out \$4,992,000 in scholarships to students from Northwestern part of Illinois. Most of our recipients are interested in STEM majors (Electrical Engineering, Aero-Engineering, Mech-Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Computer Sci). However, we offered scholarships to students seeking degrees in nursing, business, languages and etc. Our average scholarship award winner: 30 ACT or 1300 SAT, involved in extracurricular activities such as Theater/Drama/Robotics/STEM clubs/Athletics/etc. Our recipients are a direct reflection of the excellent HS educators across the greater Chicago-area.

Another important note: our partnering Universities also provide students valuable subsidies in addition to our scholarships. Here at IIT, our university matches our recipients tuition scholarships with room & board scholarships. Loyola, North Central College, Lewis University and Northern Illinois Univ all provide very similar subsidies. This provides Illinois students with greater flexibility while minimizing debt incurred for attending some of the most prestigious schools in the nation.

One of our 53 scholarship recipients is graduating from the Illinois Math and Science Academy and was awarded a full scholarship to Yale University where he will study World Economics with a double major in Russian. We have another scholarship recipient that was awarded a full scholarship to MIT.

We offer Illinois HS students excellent opportunities. Those dreaming to be astronauts (we have them), those thinking of the next great big development to push civilization into the next century (we have those engineers/scientists as well) or those wishing to respond to natural disasters in impoverished countries by delivering supplies on massive transport aircrafts (we have them too) and those wishing to provide free healthcare to the sick/ill in less than fortunate countries as a medical provider (they are among us as well). Many of our engineering students go on to work at one of our National Research Labs across the nation with research and development budgets that are fully funded.

Where I need your advice/assistance.... How do I get the word out to the entire state? Is there an avenue, an electronic bulletin board, web portal/site where I can post this amazing opportunity for "ALL" Illinois High School students to be exposed to the scholarship application process? I would like to solicit your feedback on how we can partner to provide opportunities to "ALL" IL students.

Our program is federally funded, therefore--I wear two hats, one as the Department Chair of Aerospace Studies at Illinois Institute of Technology and the other as the Commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 195. Additionally, I am a Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF. NOTE: our program has zero commitment to serve for these outstanding students in their first 12 months--if they decide service is not something they would like to pursue they are free to make that choice and walk away having their first year of school fully funded. What a great opportunity!

Again, I appreciate your time and any feedback you can provide on how to assist me in my goal to inform all IL HS upcoming seniors about the program

Respectfully,
Michael Aul

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