

ANNUAL REPORT

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

ENGAGING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS



UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

FY 2010

ENGAGING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS



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Message from the Vice Chancellor

Engaging students for success is not a single process; it is the product of the programs, environment, and culture of service that make up **The UIC EXPERIENCE**. Each student's path to graduation and beyond is a unique and exciting adventure with twists and turns as they choose among the many options awaiting them along the way. From New Student Orientation through Commencement, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) works to enhance student learning and development through programs, services, and facilities that engage students in a dynamic and diverse campus community.

In partnership with our faculty colleagues and other administrators, the OVCSA offers support and guidance to assist with academic achievement. UIC students are encouraged to draw on the cultural and educational resources of the metropolitan area to broaden their exposure to other cultures, art forms, ideas, and disciplines through participation in **The UIC EXPERIENCE**. In 2009–2010, a new commuter services center opened in Student Center East. Informed by best practices influencing the retention of residential students, the Commuter Student Resource Center will equip students to overcome barriers that commonly impede academic progress for commuter students. From shower facilities and lockers to practical-skills workshops and advocacy on behalf of this segment of the campus population, this exciting new program affords numerous opportunities to increase satisfaction and persistence to graduation.

These initiatives were made possible by continued support from our colleagues and friends. The sustained interest and financial support for programs and scholarships allow the development of projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

On behalf of UIC students, I thank you for your continued support, which advances student success.

Barbara Henley
Vice Chancellor

Student Success

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) is dedicated to fostering student success by actively engaging students at UIC. Each department creates a blueprint for forging skill sets with competencies that prepare students for lifelong success. From orientation through graduation, the OVCSA equips students with the tools they need to achieve their educational goals and to prepare them for life after completion of their undergraduate college years. While success is the desired outcome, it is also a process that moves from establishing the foundation through completion. The OVCSA contributes to increases in student learning, student retention, and the graduation rate through intentional efforts to advance students' personal and academic growth. Some highlights of our contributions follow.

Laying the Foundation

Building a solid foundation is as vital for student success as it is for constructing a house. While college readiness is a major factor, availability and utilization of resources, acquisition of skills, and comfort with the campus all play important roles in achieving educational goals. OVCSA units assist precollege students, as well as first-year and transfer students, in their transition to academic life at UIC. Examples of these efforts include partnerships with the Chicago Public Schools, providing students with information about the resources available to them on campus, and follow up to ensure that students access the services they need to achieve academic success. The foundation the OVCSA helps to establish is evident in the work of several of our departments.

- The African American Academic Network (AAAN) and the Chicago Public Schools Department of College and Career Preparation sponsored the first Illinois State College and University Application Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to promote the pursuit of higher education amongst urban youth of Chicago. One hundred eighty-eight (188) Chicago Public School seniors achieved their goal of completing five college applications and establishing FAFSA pin numbers to file applications for financial aid.
- AAAN staff made 10,236 contacts with high school students either in person, by telephone, or by e-mail.
- The TRIO Upward Bound Program served 101 participants from Chicago public high schools in 2009–2010.
- The Talented 25 Program for high school African American males served 24 students.
- UIC's New Student Orientation hosted 3,432 freshmen, 2,087 transfer students, and 1,319 parents in fall 2009.
- New Student Convocation welcomed 1,415 students and 2,125 guests to UIC.
- The TRIO Academic Support Program (ASP) first-time freshmen attended a total of 23 academic-related workshops and participated in additional advising and tutoring appointments.



New Student Orientation leaders and students begin tour of UIC campus.



Opening ceremony at the New Student Convocation.

Outcomes

- High school students participating in the TRIO Upward Bound Program achieved an average GPA increase of 0.58 during the year, raising their overall grades from a C to B average.
- First-time UIC freshmen who attended New Student Orientation in 2008 returned in fall 2009 at a rate of 80.7%, compared to 80.4% of all first-time freshmen.
- Students participating in the TRIO ASP as first-time freshmen in 2008 were retained to the fall of 2009 at a rate of 91.2%. Learning outcomes for the low-income and first-generation students included improved study, time management, and communication skills.
- A 10% increase in the number of first-year students who remained enrolled in good standing for the spring semester was observed by Campus Housing in collaboration with the College of Business Administration for students participating in the

Making Achievement Possible (MAP) program. MAP is a comprehensive student retention and success program designed for first-year students and identifies those having difficulties early in the term, allowing for immediate support and intervention.



Grand Opening of the Commuter Student Resource Center.

Building the Framework

A strong framework is essential to ensure the endurance of a skyscraper, but it is also necessary for career preparation and lifelong learning. The interplay between the classroom and out-of-class learning contributes to strengthening the structural integrity of a student's skill set by providing opportunities to apply acquired knowledge creatively for innovation and problem solving. OVCSA staff members assist students to learn to transfer concepts from the classroom to the real world as they prepare to be the next generation of global leaders.

Outcomes

- Enhanced learning related to child development, teacher-child interactions, nutritional concepts, classroom management, curriculum content, or conflict negotiation was reported by 71 UIC students who participated in graduate assistantship, practicum, internship, and observation opportunities at UIC's Children's Center.
- Learning outcomes, including enhanced listening and referral skills, were achieved by 33 undergraduate students while training for volunteer roles with the Counseling Center's InTouch Hotline crisis intervention, counseling, and referral service. Academic credit was received also.



President's Award Program New Student Ceremony and Welcome.

- Practical experience in assessing and teaching clients to maximize their personal fitness was obtained by seven students hired as personal trainers and two as fitness testing assistants in Campus Recreation.
- Increases in the areas of communication skills, leadership skills, relationship building, and decision-making skills were reported by student leaders. Students served in 5,126 leadership positions on campus committees or as student organization officers.
- Participation in direct, indirect, and cocurricular service offerings through the G.I.V.E. Program, UIC Cares Day, VolunteerMatch, Share Your Wealth Item Collection Drive, and UIC Service Corps engaged 1,347 UIC students. Learning outcomes for student participants included improved interpersonal skills, ability to work in a group, and organizational skills.
- Effective teamwork and interpersonal skills were demonstrated by the 2,270 students who participated in intramural sports offered by Campus Recreation.
- More than 100 students developed their organizational skills and applied their creative skills in executing the 30th Annual UIC Fashion Show, the largest student-run event at UIC.
- The federally funded TRIO Academic Support Program provided assistance to UIC students to increase their academic success. In 2010, 92.3% of the 182 ASP participants were in good academic standing, an improvement of 2.5% over the previous year.
- More than 13,000 undergraduates and 8,000 graduate students received assistance from the Office of Student Financial Aid.
- First-time freshmen advised by the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) were retained to the second year at a rate of 88.9% .



Student Development Leadership Case Study winners.



New Student Convocation and Orientation leaders.

THE UIC EXPERIENCE

Engaging students for success

THE UIC EXPERIENCE AND THE FINAL TOUCHES

UIC proudly produces credentialed professionals to support the economic infrastructure of the region. From providing supplemental instruction and tutoring to leadership development to financial assistance, OVCSA units strive to ignite the passion for learning and drive for success in each individual. Through The UIC EXPERIENCE, students are encouraged to explore the urban environment (Urban Exploration), to be engaged intellectually (Inquiring Minds), and to interact in our diverse campus community (Community). As a result of engaging students in academic support and cocurricular learning opportunities, OVCSA contributes to the increase in retention and graduation rates.



Urban Exploration: Students engage in exploring Chicago through a trip to the Art Institute.



Inquiring Minds: Cultural awareness engagement at the Native American Heritage Celebration.



Inquiring Minds: Students participating in women's retreats.



Inquiring Minds: Students participating in men's retreat.

Outcomes

- The UIC EXPERIENCE requirements were successfully completed by 518 students during the year. On average they reported learning eight skills from their six experiences: new job skill 24%, leadership skills 22%, new culture 18%, new academic discipline 17%, new art form 10%, and other skills 9%.
- On-campus career and graduate school fairs sponsored by the Office of Career Services were attended by 4,250 students. Students focused on practical application of job-seeking skills, such as interviewing and resume writing.
- TRIO ASP experienced outstanding results with fostering student success. Of the 2008 entering first-year students served by the program, 91.2% were retained to the second year. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the 2008 entering group were retained to the third year.



Urban Exploration: Students delve into urban dance in a hip hop dance class.



Inquiring Minds: Fraternity sponsored lecture by Professor Angela Davis for Black History Month.



Community: Students prepare informational packets for breast cancer awareness.

- First-year students entering in fall 2008 and residing in Campus Housing were retained to the second year at a rate of 81%.
- The increase in the retention rate for first-year African American students entering in fall 2008 was 7.8%.
- The overall graduation rate for all UIC first-year students who entered in 2003 increased 6.7%. The graduation rate for the 2003 entering class of African American students increased 12.4%.



Community: Friday Night Live, a student event, highlighting community building.

UIC Athletics

Learning in the classroom and through participation in sports is an important focus for student-athletes. The UIC Department of Intercollegiate Athletics operates on three basic principles: excellence, integrity, and opportunity. Resources are provided to ensure that student-athletes make progress toward successful degree completion, as well as to develop the skills they need to excel as athletes and throughout their adult lives. During FY 2010, our student-athletes experienced success in academics and competition.

Outcomes

- The 2009 graduation success rate for UIC student-athletes was 90%, compared to the NCAA national average of 79%.
- First-year athletes were retained to the second year at a rate of 81.25%.
- A perfect 4.0 GPA was achieved by 19% of the student athletes.
- Overall, student-athletes earned a GPA of 2.96.
- In addition to classes, team practices, and athletic competitions, student athletes participated in **The UIC EXPERIENCE** with 18% of the 300 athletes from six different teams completing the requirements for certification. The athletes reported enhanced learning in areas similar to those reported by all students who completed certification for **The UIC EXPERIENCE**.
- Student-athletes performed 1,237 hours of service to the community, which increased almost 500 hours from the previous year.



Women's Softball works toward a win against the competition.



Men's Basketball in Horizon League competition.

Donor Honor Roll

Many factors contribute to a student's success at UIC. One crucial element in their growth and achievement is the enduring generosity of our alumni, friends and colleagues. Gifts made to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs as part of the Brilliant Futures Campaign increase access to scholarship funding, leadership preparation, diversity initiatives, and a vibrant campus community. Every gift has a direct impact on the education provided at UIC, and students are more successful as a consequence. We thank our many donors for their contributions during fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010).

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2009 Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Benefit guests.

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FY 2010 Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) scholars and vice chancellor—(left to right) Elias Pittos, Vice Chancellor Henley, Richard Nettles, and Chassidy Keys.

“I feel that I have expanded my teamwork and cooperation skills, as people I had never met before depended on my work so that we could accomplish our goals. The fact that I am a recipient of such an honorable scholarship gives me the confidence that I show when I apply for other scholarships or face any challenges in my life. The S.E.E. Scholarship is the first major scholarship that I have received, and thus it helped me become stronger as a person and much more self-confident.”—*Elias Pittos, S.E.E. Scholar*

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To learn more about supporting Student Affairs at UIC, please contact:

William Nalley
Director of Advancement
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (MC 600)
3010 Student Services Building
1200 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7165
(312) 413-0077
wnalle2@uic.edu
www.vcsa.uic.edu
www.brilliantfutures.uic.edu



Student Affairs Departments

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) departments are responsible for providing services, programs, and facilities that support student development and success.

- Academic Center for Excellence
- African American Academic Network
- Campus Auxiliary Services
 - ID Center
- Campus Housing
- Career Services
 - Student Employment
- Children’s Center
- Counseling Center
- Educational Opportunity Outreach/
 - TRIO Programs
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- International Services
- Meetings, Conferences, and Campus
 - Dining Services
- Native American Support Program
- Office of the Dean of Students
 - Judicial Affairs
 - Ombuds Services
 - Student Legal Services
- Veteran Affairs
- Office of Publications Services
- Office of Testing Services
- Retail Operations
- Student Centers
 - Campus Programs
 - Campus Recreation
 - UIC Forum
- Student Development Services
 - Commuter Student Resource Center
 - Leadership and Volunteer Services
 - Orientation
 - Wellness Center
- Student Financial Aid
- UIC Pavilion



Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (MC 600)
Student Services Building, Suite 3010
1200 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7165
(312) 996-7140 telephone
(312) 996-3111 fax
E-mail ovcsa@uic.edu
www.vcsa.uic.edu