ENGAGING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

I am honored to have this opportunity to communicate with our many friends, colleagues, and supporters. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, through a comprehensive array of departments, enhances student learning and development. We provide programs, services, and facilities that engage our 26,000 students in a dynamic and diverse campus community. Our departments collaborate with the faculty and Academic Affairs to offer UIC students a unique educational experience that draws on the cultural and educational resources of the campus and the metropolitan area. Our aim is to help students develop a passion for lifelong learning and a desire to benefit society. We continue to introduce strategies to ignite that passion and desire.

During the 2008–2009 Academic Year, we implemented The UIC Experience, a new program designed to expand linkages between classroom and out of class learning. The UIC Experience encourages students to explore the urban environment (Urban Exploration), to be engaged intellectually (Inquiring Minds), and to interact in our diverse campus community (Community).

In conjunction with The UIC Experience, we established a process for documenting student involvement on a co-curricular transcript. The documented record of leadership roles, volunteer service, and participation in The UIC Experience provides prospective employers and graduate and professional schools a more complete picture of our students’ accomplishments and preparation for future success.

Student involvement initiatives, especially The UIC Experience, were made possible by support from our colleagues, friends, and a generous donor. Our accomplishments with students who engaged in the opportunities and demonstrated their learning will be highlighted in this 2009 Annual Report.

On behalf of UIC students and my Student Affairs colleagues, I thank you for your support, which advances continued 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 designs learning objectives to assist students in acquiring a wide range of competencies and skills that prepare them to compete globally. Categorized fairly broadly, these skill areas focus on transferring learning from the classroom, collaborating with others, and developing personal skills for success. From academic support to leadership development, the OVCSA equips students with the tools they need to achieve their educational goals and to prepare them for life after completion of their college years. Through focused efforts that support and encourage students to take individual responsibility for their academic and personal growth, the OVCSA contributes to the increases in student learning, student retention and the graduation rate. Some highlights of our contributions follow.

Transferring Learning from the Classroom

According to educational researchers, student engagement outside the classroom adds to the overall learning experience. The increasing sophistication of the workplace requires that students are able to apply their acquired knowledge creatively for innovation and problem solving. Student Affairs staff 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. Some of the outcomes achieved follow.

Outcomes

- 1,400 students were employed by Campus Housing, Recreation, Student Centers, the Pavilion, Bookstores, Campus Programs, the Forum and other departments in roles as peer mentors, resident advisors, building managers, student supervisors, customer service attendants, personal fitness trainers, and child care assistants. The learning outcomes achieved by the students included enhanced Academic Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Cognitive Skills, Organizational Skills, Career-related Skills, and Life Skills.

- 68 UIC students participated in graduate assistantship, practicum, internship and observation opportunities at the UIC Children’s Center. Students reported enhanced learning related to child development, teacher-child interactions, nutritional concepts, classroom management, curriculum content, or conflict negotiation.

- 50 undergraduate students successfully earned academic credit while training for volunteer roles at the Counseling Center’s InTouch Hotline crisis intervention, counseling and referral service. The achieved learning outcomes included enhanced listening and referral skills.
Collaborating with Others

From corporate success to making life-saving discoveries to helping those in need, leaders of the future must cultivate interpersonal and communication skills. Cultural awareness, sensitivity, and respect for others underlie the forging of alliances to achieve organizational goals. Through engagement with the campus and the community, our students gain expertise in collaborating with others to accomplish common objectives. Selected examples and results follow.

Outcomes

• 4,658 students served on campus committees or as student organization officers. Through their participation, student leaders reported increases in the areas of communication skills, leadership skills, relationship building, and decision making skills.

• UIC students donated 12,091 hours of direct service during 287 service projects ranging from food drives to building homes. Based on the value of service in Illinois ($21.08/hour), the reported equivalent of $254,878.28 of labor was provided by UIC students through their direct service efforts. Students reported learning outcomes that included enhanced communication skills, teamwork, organizational skills, and compassion.

• The first annual “You’re the Chef” Cooking Competition sponsored by UIC’s Meetings, Conferences and Dining Services provided an outlet for teams of students to create a meal choosing from a set of available ingredients. Each of the teams demonstrated the ability to plan collectively and execute a gourmet meal utilizing available resources. Learning outcomes included enhanced skills in the areas of teamwork, problem solving, creative thinking, and time management.

Students contribute to awareness of UIC diversity through sharing of culture at the Native American Heritage Celebration.
Developing Personal and Academic Success Skills

Sound academic skills foster student learning in the classroom. In addition, they serve as a foundation for expanding organizational skills, critical thinking, self-discipline, and motivation necessary for navigating the real world. Developing an affinity to the campus and a sense of being valued by the institution are key factors in persistence and academic success. A few illustrations follow.

Outcomes

• 265 freshmen were identified and enabled to find necessary academic support through the Early Alert Program piloted by the African American Academic Network, Academic Center for Excellence, Native American Support Program, and the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services in cooperation with the UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. One outcome was an improvement in the freshman GPA.

• 3,800 students attended on-campus career and graduate school fairs sponsored by the Office of Career Services. The desired learning outcomes focused on the practical application of job-seeking skills such as interviewing and resume writing.

• 91.2% of first time freshmen in the federally funded TRIO/Academic Support Program were retained to the second year, compared to the 79% retained last year. After academic interventions with the low-income and first generation students, learning outcomes included improved study, time management, and communication skills.
**UIC Athletics**

Learning in the classroom and through participation in sports is an important focus for student-athletes. Leadership, teamwork, and resiliency skills are enhanced. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics operates on three basic principles: Excellence; Integrity; and Opportunity. Academic resources are provided to insure that student-athletes make progress toward successful degree completion, as well as to develop the skills they need to excel as athletes and in life. During FY2009, our student-athletes experienced success in academics and competition.

**Outcomes**

- UIC student-athletes achieved a graduation success rate of 86%, ranking second among public institutions in Illinois.

- Flames Athletics teams achieved 6 conference championships: men’s soccer; baseball; men’s gymnastics; men’s swimming and diving; softball, and women’s tennis.

- Flames Athletics teams competed in 3 NCAA post-season tournaments: men’s soccer; men’s gymnastics; and women’s tennis.

- UIC student-athletes, coaches and staff participated in 18 organized community service activities and logged more than 750 combined community service hours.
The UIC Experience encourages students to integrate classroom learning with practical experiences. It is a collection of co-curricular opportunities that enhances students’ learning and development as tomorrow’s global leaders. 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).

Students who register for the program and provide proof of completion of two activities from each of the three categories receive a certificate and documentation on their co-curricular transcripts. Attending cultural performances, exploring museums, experimenting with ethnic cuisines, participating in academic research, and volunteering in the community and more all comprise The UIC Experience. The documentation of engagement outside the classroom through the co-curricular transcript that lists involvement on campus and in the community adds another dimension that will distinguish UIC graduates for employers and graduate programs.

Outcomes

- 155 students successfully completed the requirements of The UIC Experience during its pilot year. On average they reported enhanced learning in eight skills from their six experiences. Students learned: a new discipline (19%), a new culture (16%), a new art form (18%), a job skill (14%), a leadership skill (26%), or other skills (7%).
Numerous avenues for participating in The UIC Experience and to satisfying the criteria for certification existed. Some of the experiences in which students engaged follow.

**Urban Exploration**

- The UIC student chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association provided a series of health talks at Deborah’s Place, a women’s homeless shelter in Chicago.

- New Life Volunteering Society, a UIC student organization, reached out to area communities to tutor elementary and middle school students, prepared meals for 90 senior citizens, and volunteered at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

- Students attended cultural events such as symphony concerts, plays, operas, and museums through tickets offered by Campus Housing and Campus Programs.
Inquiring Minds

• Students performed simple water quality monitoring to learn more about the health of the 12th Street Beach through a UIC student organization, Terra Society.

• To create awareness of the impact each person has on carbon emissions, the Student Centers Board sponsored educational tables with computer programs on “How to Measure Your Green Imprint on the Earth.”

• Students participated in opportunities to enhance quality study time and receive tutoring in various academic subjects in preparation for final examinations through two “All Night Study” sessions offered by the African American Academic Network.

• Students participated in a pilot program on InterGroup Dialogue dedicated to educate students on the distinctions between discussion, debate and dialogue as it related to diversity issues. The experience was offered by Student Development Services and the Honors College.

Inquiring Minds: Students participate in the 2009 UIC Student Leadership Conference.

Inquiring Minds: UIC students present financial aid impact statements at the Governor’s Town Hall Meeting.
Community

• The Public Health Student Association at UIC held a holiday toy drive for “Toys for Tots” and encouraged the campus community to donate.

• Attendance increased by 28% at UIC Flames indoor and field athletic competitions.

• Student organizations at UIC raised $139,200 during the 2009 academic year to fund philanthropic endeavors. Alternative Spring Break raised $18,500 to sponsor 9 Alternative Spring Break Trips for the UIC students in 2009.

The UIC Experience: Learning Outcomes

The students who engaged in The UIC Experience demonstrated a range of learning outcomes. Students increased their awareness of social and economic issues such as poverty, inequitable educational opportunities, homelessness, hunger, and health disparities. Communication skills were enhanced relative to diversity. Students’ organizational effectiveness and presentation skills increased, and the cultural activities in which the students engaged engendered an appreciation of an excellent UIC education in a world-class city. The combination resulted in a unique educational environment. The UIC Experience, sponsored by the OVCSA, continues to enhance students’ learning outside the classroom by providing countless opportunities to practice theories and skills taught in the classroom.
Donor Honor Roll

The UIC Experience encompasses all that is “uniquely UIC”. The continued support of the generous friends and alumni of UIC facilitates the development of the many programs, services, and learning opportunities offered by Student Affairs. As part of the Brilliant Futures Campaign, your support has played a vital role in nurturing excellence in many ways – increasing scholarships for students in financial need, providing opportunities for students to grow as leaders, enhancing diversity opportunities, and improving the quality of campus life. Every gift impacts the quality of the student experience, instilling in our future leaders a lifelong commitment to learning and contributing to society. We thank our many donors for their generosity and commitment to student success during fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

$30,000+

- Caterpillar Foundation
- South Campus Development Team, LLC
- Edward Swietek
- Target
- Washington, Pittman & McKeever, LLC

$20,000+

- Bright Start Scholarship Trust
- TCF Foundation

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- Sodexo

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- Lorilyn E. Aquino Andor
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- Crisis Hotline Foundation, Inc.
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- Blackout Sealcoating, Inc.
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- Warren G. Lavey and Holly Rosencranz
- Kelly McCray
- James W. Schmidt
- Michael J. Scott

“In my personal life, the S.E.E. Scholarship really lifted the burden of a need to work or a loan for my final year of school. The scholarship enabled me to directly focus on my activities as a leader on this campus and my studies... I have been able to excel in my classes and become even more involved in activities, which allowed me to make a difference in other students’ lives also.”

—Dwayne Young (2009 UIC Senior and 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
(312) 996-3111 fax
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
- Campus Housing
- Career Services
  - Student Employment
- Children’s Center
- Counseling Center
  - Testing 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
  - Student Legal Services
  - Ombuds Services
- Publications Services
- Retail Operations
- Student Centers
  - Campus Programs
  - Campus Recreation
  - UIC Forum
- Student Development Services
  - Orientation
  - Leadership and Volunteer Services
  - Wellness Center
- Student Financial Aid
  - Veterans Affairs
- UIC Pavilion
UIC

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