



Corporate and Foundation Relations

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**ANNUAL
REPORT 20-21**

Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR)

BY THE NUMBERS

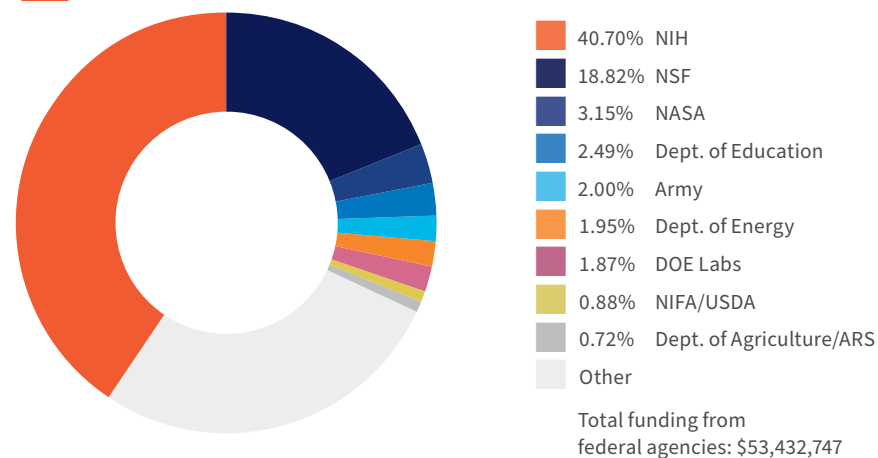
The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Illinois is grateful for the strong relationships we have built with our external partners including government agencies, corporations and private foundations. This report is intended to provide a broad overview of investments by external partners in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Illinois and to share select stories that highlight the impact of these partnerships. In FY20, the College of LAS received \$74.8 million in funding from external partners to support research, scholarships, professorships, and programming among other activities in LAS units and student organizations. Students graduating with degrees from units in

\$74.8 MILLION

IN FUNDING FROM
EXTERNAL PARTNERS

the College of LAS were hired by 487 unique employers, demonstrating the broad range of disciplines and skill sets our students bring to industry.

CFR RESEARCH FUNDING SOURCES



FY20 CORPORATE GIVING



Funding Purpose	Amount
Conference/Seminars/Workshops	\$28,761.52
Facilities	\$100.00
General Student Support	\$7,950.00
Grad Student Fellowships	\$136,500.00
Instruction	\$249,000.00
Lectureships	\$34,300.00
Multiple Programs	\$78,256.90
Professorships	\$3,600.00
Program/Course Development	\$1,000.00
Public Service	\$225,985.00
Research	\$3,986,385.79
Research Unrestricted	\$687,346.01
Scholarships	\$250,089.00
Specific Programs	\$150,049.00
Unrestricted to Units	\$256,602.75
TOTAL	\$6,095,925.97

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Recruitment and professional development on campus

Access and Achievement Program partners with companies to host career skills panels

The LAS Access and Achievement Program (AAP) provides recruitment, retention services, and enrichment programming to approximately 2,000 undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Many students in AAP are from backgrounds that have been historically underrepresented in higher education institutions, and many are the first in their families to go to college. AAP strives to break down the barriers to education by providing access to resources that will enable student success academically, personally, and professionally.

During the fall and spring semesters, AAP teamed up with the following corporate partners to offer Career Exploration Panels:

- Addison Group
- American Family Insurance
- Deloitte
- Google
- Insight Global
- Milliman
- NISA Investment Advisors
- Synchrony Financial

These panels provided students with the opportunity to engage with professionals from a broad range of industries to gain a high-level understanding of the products and services provided by each company, as well as, professional development and employment opportunities offered by these organizations.

Panelists also provided valuable insight into how students can leverage their unique experiences and skills to build their professional brands, identify employment opportunities that are a good fit for their interests and professional goals, and shared how students can tell their stories effectively to stand out as job candidates.





Some interesting bits and bytes about the ATLAS Internship Program:

Beginning in Spring 2016 with just eight students, the program has grown to place nearly 100 students each semester with clients.

As a technology focused initiative, ATLAS consistently has more female than male participants. The overall ratio female to male in the program: **2:1**

As of Spring 2021, ATLAS has found internships for and placed nearly

850
STUDENTS

During the Spring 2021 semester, the program served more underrepresented minority students than white.

ATLAS Internship Program provides hands-on experience with technology

The ATLAS Internship Program is an effort to give LAS students hands-on experience with technology before graduating.

The program's initial goal was to help humanities students build their resumes by supplementing their traditional curricula with technology skills and to apply their knowledge in a professional setting. The program has now grown to become popular with students in STEM areas seeking applied experiences both inside and outside of their major areas of study.

ATLAS works with university departments, faculty researchers, local non-profit organizations, and startup companies to find appropriate internship experiences in the areas of digital communications, project management,

website design and development, data analysis, and a variety of related areas. Students are then interviewed and placed by ATLAS in positions where they can grow and be successful. Some clients and students have developed lasting relationships resulting in students transitioning out of learning-focused internships to paid employee relationships.

The ATLAS component of these internships uses tools such as regular status reports, meetings, evaluations, and presentations to help students develop good professional practices while improving their communication and team building skills. ATLAS staff are available to provide job coaching skills for those students who may be struggling for any number of reasons.

With the slight decrease in client experiences during the pandemic, ATLAS created several Skills Track courses designed to take students through processes common in many of the internships. These Skills Track courses are expected to continue for students who want to develop some skills and confidence before being placed with a client.

Startup clients are based in Champaign Urbana, Arizona, and Colorado and include:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Campus Ventures | ■ Inquire |
| ■ Display Infinity | ■ Mega Service Solutions |
| ■ Earnest Earth | ■ Red Clover Reader |
| ■ Granular | ■ Rootlo |
| ■ In2GreatMe! | ■ Saddleye Bicycles |
| ■ Innovate 5G | ■ VRtuMind |

SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARS

Longtime Phillips 66 support helps students thrive in and out of class

For more than 15 years, Phillips 66 has partnered with the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (ChBE) at the University of Illinois to equip students with the support and educational opportunities to prosper in college and beyond.

“We greatly appreciate the continued support of Phillips 66,” said department head Paul Kenis, the Elio Eliakim Tarika Endowed Chair of Chemical Engineering. “Their contribution to a variety of programs allows us to deliver on our commitment to our students’ success.”

In 2017, Phillips 66 created a merit-based scholarship program to support high-achieving women and students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. They have awarded 15 scholarships so far, including six recipients just this year.

“This scholarship served as a great financial relief for my preparation and relocation to my upcoming co-op, where I’ll be able to learn and

gain hands-on experiences about practical chemical processes,” said 2021 recipient Anh Nguyen, a junior in ChBE. “I really appreciate Phillips 66’s generosity in making this scholarship available.”

“I am so honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Phillips 66 scholarship,” added Megan Shamsi, another 2021 recipient and ChBE sophomore. “This award will help me over the course of my studies while serving as a reminder that I am capable of success in ChBE.”

Phillips 66 is also investing in the department’s cross curricular design, a concept where team-based engineering design projects are threaded through several courses: Principles of Chemical Engineering; Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics; Momentum and Heat Transfer; and Chemical Reaction Engineering. Through these team-based projects, students learn how to apply fundamental concepts and how to cooperate and delegate to solve

problems and create successful designs — even in challenging circumstances — much like they will in industry.

“We can’t underestimate the value of teamwork, leadership, and communication skills that are just as vital as their understanding of chemistry or mathematics to be successful,” said Uzoma Monye, a teaching assistant professor who is implementing design projects in several ChBE courses.

Students have reported increased confidence in their engineering, design, and teamwork skills.

Unrestricted support from Phillips 66 allows the department to allocate funds to timely needs and forward-thinking projects. Their contribution is kick-starting a new campaign to revamp the department’s undergraduate laboratory facilities and capstone lab-based courses. Part of the Phillips 66 gift also supports the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) at UIUC.

Written by Claire Benjamin, associate director of communications, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering.

15
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

SINCE
2017



“We are thankful for what Phillips 66 has done for Illinois AIChE. Illinois AIChE aims to prepare students for their chemical engineering careers, and the contributions of Phillips 66 have gone a long way toward helping us facilitate that goal.”

JONATHAN GONG,
CHBE SENIOR & AIChE PRESIDENT



State Farm provides critical support through actuarial science prizes

With corporate headquarters based in Illinois, insurance and community leader State Farm has been a steadfast supporter of the Department of Mathematics and the Actuarial Science Program. Among the ways they have been a good neighbor to UIUC is through the direct sponsorship of annual awards and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from State Farm, the Department of Mathematics provides 10 awards annually to outstanding actuarial science undergraduate and graduate students. Since the award's establishment in 2014-2015, 70 students have received State Farm Actuarial Science Prizes that have helped make their educational pursuits possible. However, this year has been more significant than most, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"I have always thought of State Farm as a leader in the insurance industry, and a company that cares about its policyholders and the communities they represent, even at life's toughest moments," said Brendan Watson, a junior actuarial science and statistics major and 2020-2021 recipient of the State Farm Actuarial Science Prize. "I am so grateful to be recognized for my achievements, and I appreciate State Farm's continued commitment to awarding scholarships every year to actuarial students, even during this pandemic."

STATE FARM
ACTUARIAL
SCIENCE PRIZES
AWARDED TO

70
STUDENTS
SINCE 2014

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT



FOUNDED IN 1947,

Milliman is committed to promoting a high degree of diversity and inclusion within the actuarial field. The program strives to increase the diversity of ethnicity and racial backgrounds, which reflects growing trends in the actuarial profession.

MENTORING

Milliman and Department of Mathematics launch scholarship and mentoring program

In May 2021, the Department of Mathematics and Milliman — a global independent risk management, benefits and technology firm — launched a new actuarial mentorship program for students who identify as underrepresented minorities at the University of Illinois. This mentorship opportunity will allow students to learn about the field from a practicing actuary at Milliman through one-to-one mentoring sessions and will provide a professional resource for students as they progress through the actuarial science curriculum.

In addition to learning from a mentor, mentees will be offered financial aid to help cover the costs of their first actuarial exam, including financial support for both preparation materials and courses, as well as, exam sitting fees. These exams are critical steps along the path to becoming an actuary and are often required by employers for both internships and full-time job offers.

“The Milliman Scholarship and Mentoring initiative will greatly help the Actuarial Science program to attract students of color and raise

the awareness and visibility of our program among prospective students,” said Professor Runhuan Feng, director of the UIUC Actuarial Science Program. “We are very excited about this new partnership with Milliman, which has a long tradition and history of advancing social causes.”

This program, which will run through May 15, 2022, is directed toward students of color, early in their college career, who may be interested in a STEM-oriented field.

RESEARCH

Microsoft provides Azure Grants to support LAS faculty research

Microsoft Corporation generously provided Azure grants to two units in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, including the **Cline Center for Advanced Social Research** and the **Program in Comparative and World Literature**, to support faculty research projects that require large-scale cloud computing capabilities. Microsoft Azure, commonly referred to as Azure, is a cloud computing service created by Microsoft for building, testing, deploying, and managing applications and services through Microsoft-managed data centers.

Led by Director Scott Althaus, the Cline Center for Advanced Social Research will utilize Azure resources to support its work mining news reports to better understand human conflict, law enforcement legitimacy, and racial justice. The center plans to explore the use of Microsoft technologies in a number of areas, including the training and deployment of deep learning models, text analytics, data visualization, applications that enable users to interact with Cline Center data, and news search, collection, and archiving capabilities. This Azure grant will support the Cline Center's ongoing efforts to publish a comprehensive registry of police uses of lethal force in the United States that will enable researchers and local communities to assess disparities in policing practices.

Rini B. Mehta, associate professor of comparative literature and undergraduate program director, will utilize an Azure grant to pursue a research project entitled Close Watching, which seeks to create a bridge between film studies and data science through digital analysis of

feature films by extracting data of the screen-time and speaking-time of actors. Apart from producing fine-grained statistics that will be of interest to film scholars, Close Watching will inspect gender and racial data. In the context of growing debates about inequity and inclusion, this project seeks to count the occurrence of female stars in frames in comparison with male stars and to compare between occurrence of actors of different races and skin tones juxtaposed with how much they speak, either on- or off-camera.

Close Watching will make use of a sampling from various national cinemas and genres to gather differential data to answer questions such as the ways in which actors' bodies are positioned with respect to the camera, which stars have more frontal appearances than other character actors, how frontality varies with gender, race, and class, and how the rules of frontality vary between genres.

IRisk Lab leads variety of research projects

Officially established in Fall 2018, the Illinois Risk Lab (IRisk Lab) grew out of the **Undergraduate Research Program in Risk and Actuarial Science**, which was sponsored by the Society of Actuaries from 2014-2017. IRisk Lab currently serves as an industry-academic collaboration hub, facilitates integration of discovery-based learning experiences for students, and showcases state-of-the-art research in all areas of risk analysis and advanced analytics.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, IRisk Lab conducted a variety of research projects, including developing a novel quantitative framework for the design and engineering of peer-to-peer insurance that was recently commissioned by the **Casualty Actuarial Society** to develop a review of existing business models and rising opportunities and challenges for practicing actuaries. The lab also developed loss prediction models for **COUNTRY Financial** and **Pekin Insurance** and developed a model that predicts a commercial/residual building's age for COUNTRY. In addition, the lab completed an actuarial data science project provided by **Carpe Data** — an Insurtech company that provides insurance companies with next-generation data solutions to gain a more in-depth insight into risks — using text mining and natural language processing to extract actuarial-related information from business online customer reviews. These projects not only provided the students with key real-world experiences but also opportunities for partnerships and networking with industry leaders.



RESEARCH

AbbVie summer research fellowship for underrepresented students

AbbVie and the **Black Business Network**, in partnership with the **School of Molecular & Cellular Biology (MCB)**, have funded a new Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) that provides financial support for a student conducting research on campus. The new fellowship will support an MCB student who is from a population that has been historically underrepresented in the sciences and research careers.

AbbVie is a global research and development-based biopharmaceutical company based in North Chicago, Illinois. The Black Business Network, an employee resource group at AbbVie, promotes career advancement and professional development by sponsoring career

initiatives to develop and sustain the next generation of leaders at the company.

“We are committed to diversifying our student body and removing any barriers that may exist for underrepresented students who are passionate about research and want to gain experience working in one of our faculty labs,” wrote Milan Bagchi, director of the School of Molecular & Cellular Biology and Deborah Paul, endowed professor of Molecular & Cellular Biology.

MCB’s Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships program provides financial stipends to students who conduct full-time research in faculty labs. Approximately 35-40

awards are offered each year thanks to funding from the school and its generous alumni and friends. The stipends range from \$4,000-\$6,000 for a summer appointment.

The program provides students with hands-on experiences and opportunities to work alongside innovative and supportive Illinois faculty and graduate students. Students also develop their analytical and communication skills as they manage projects and deliver presentations about their research.

The AbbVie BBN SURF will be effective for Summer 2021.



“We are committed to diversifying our student body and removing any barriers that may exist for underrepresented students who are passionate about research and want to gain experience working in one of our faculty labs.”

EXPERIENCE

EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2020-21 CORPORATE AFFILIATES PROGRAM

\$27K

INVESTMENT

3000+

STUDENTS

Bayer supports annual GIS Day celebration

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020, the **Department of Geography & Geographic Information Science** partnered with a diverse group of campus units and **Bayer** to present a virtual celebration of GIS Day, the annual salute to geographic information science and technologies for achieving broad and transformative impacts.

This event celebrated the diversity of GIS applications and the capability of geospatial technologies to bring synergies in GIS research and education across campus and beyond. The contributions of Illinois students to geospatial data science, geovisualization, and geospatial technologies were also highlighted through a virtual student poster competition and poster presentations.

Bayer generously provided financial support and a keynote speaker in addition to facilitating a networking event for students interested in learning more about how GIS concepts and technologies are applied in a corporate setting. Keynote speaker Martin Mendez-Costabel, leader of the geospatial data asset team at Bayer's Products and Engineering organization, shared his GIS journey — highlighting challenges and opportunities and discussing how GIS is implemented within Bayer Crop Science to enable digital innovation globally. Mendez-Costabel also co-facilitated a networking session for GIS Day participants with Blake Giles, head of the Bayer Crop Science Innovation Center at the University of Illinois Research Park.

Campus partners for this event included the WebStore, the Office of the Provost, CyberGIS Center for Advanced Digital & Spatial Studies, Prairie Research Institute, Illinois State Water Survey, and Scholarly Commons at the University Library.

LAS launches Corporate Affiliates Program

In Fall 2020, the **College of LAS** launched the **Corporate Affiliates Program**, which provides participating companies with the opportunity to invest in specific units including academic departments, schools, centers, and research institutes across the college.

Leadership from each participating LAS unit collaborates with LAS corporate relations to

develop a suite of engagement opportunities, including course presentations, competitions, workshops, student research projects, scholarships, and special events, in which corporate affiliates can participate. This program facilitates the creation of a customized annual engagement plan for each corporate partner while providing additional resources for college units and professional development opportunities for students.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, three companies participated in the Corporate Affiliates Program, including **Addison Group, Eli Lilly, and Procter & Gamble**. These companies made a collective investment of \$27,000 in participating LAS units, engaging with more than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students in nine programs across the college through courses, professional development events, competitions, and career fairs.

"THE CORPORATE AFFILIATES PROGRAM WAS A LIFE-LINE FOR MY STUDENTS WHEN THEY had lost all of their traditional connections to employers this past year. Without job shadows, volunteering, and research opportunities students had very little opportunities to engage with employers and explore their career options. Having a personal connection with a recruiter from Eli Lilly to share career options and how to stand out to employers in a competitive job market will make a significant impact on their career success. Eli Lilly and the Corporate Affiliates Program have directly impacted the career journeys of my students. I am excited to work with them and collaborate to find ways to connect with even more students within the School of Integrative Biology."

CHRISTINA SWANSON,
ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SCHOOL OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

Campaign to Restore & Renovate ALTGELD HALL

WITH ITS ICONIC TOWER AND PINK SANDSTONE

construction, Altgeld Hall is one of the most easily recognized buildings on campus and has served a variety of important purposes over the past century. With the support of our corporate partners, the University of Illinois is embarking on a project to restore and renovate Altgeld Hall. Corporate investment in this project provides branding opportunities through the naming of spaces such as classrooms, common areas and student club offices. The renovation of Altgeld will provide students and faculty collaborative spaces that are essential for learning and discovery in the 21st century and make the building accessible to all students.

This campaign is part of With Illinois, through which we can ensure that the College of LAS remains a place where progress and innovation flourish.

For more information about how an investment in Altgeld Hall and Illini Hall can empower students and faculty while generating significant visibility at the University of Illinois, please contact:

College of LAS
Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations
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FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL for support from corporate and foundation partners. These gifts make it possible for our faculty to pioneer innovative research that tackles global problems and expands the human experience, and they provide transformative student learning experiences that produce alumni who make a significant societal impact.

3M
AbbVie
Academic Engagement Network
Acıbadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar University
Addison Group
Allan and Meline Pickus Foundation
American Academy for Jewish Research
American Academy of Religion
American Chemical Society
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Mathematical Society
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Atotech USA
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Casualty Actuarial Society
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Chinese Progressive Association
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Corteva Agriscience
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Cystetic Medicines
Direct Relief
Duolingo
Eli Lilly
Epic Games
Exelon Nuclear Partners
Exxon Mobil
FMC
French Government
GDL Foundation
General Society of Colonial Wars
Georges Family Foundation
Goodwin Wright
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Griswold Auctioneering and Real Estate
Hard Yaka Foundation
Health Care Service
Honeywell International
Institute for Citizens and Scholars
ISS USA
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
The Hillels of Illinois
John and Margaret Witt Family Foundation
John R Oltman Private Foundation
Johnson and Johnson
KETV Channel 7
Language Learning
Law Offices of Adam E Bossov
Lee Family Trust
Lemann Foundation
Louisville Institute
Lucky Clark Books

Lumibird
Lyons Law Group
Margolis Family Foundation
Max Kade Foundation
McDougal Family Foundation
Mean Trail Trust
Microsoft
Milliman
Mutual of Omaha Insurance
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Ohio University
Olive Advisors
Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting
Pasteris Energy
Pfizer
Plantpure Communities
Pollinator Partnership
Positively You
Procter and Gamble
Project Apis m
Qatar Foundation International
Research for Science Advancement
Richard and Marianne Reinisch Foundation
Richard J and Linda J Sieracki Foundation
Riv Data
Rocky Mountain Biologicals
Roy J Carver Charitable Trust
RTA Laboratories Biological Products
Russell Sage Foundation
Samuel Eells Literary and Educational
Foundation
Sandia National Laboratories
Searle Scholars Program
Seemon H and Natalie Pines Foundation

Shell Oil
Sigma Aldrich
Simons Foundation
Smick Family Rev Trust
Society of Colonial Wars in the State of
Illinois
St Pauls United Church of Christ
Steven J Kaplan
Sullivan Family Charitable Foundation
Synchrony Financial
Systems Oncology
T Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Study
TDS Telecom
Terry Consulting
The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
The Elizabeth Chipman and James Newton
Coker Foundation
The Israel Institute
TIAA CREF
West Enterprises
Wolfe Foundation



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Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

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