Many UIC students today need tuition aid to fulfill their dreams. And at the College of Engineering—where enrollments are up—need has risen accordingly: growing numbers of highly qualified students are competing for existing scholarships. We remain steadfastly committed to providing the broadest possible access to an engineering education, yet many qualified students are not in a financial position to get the education they need. With your help, we can assure that a UIC education remains attainable.

Access Illinois: The Presidential Scholarship Initiative at UIC makes the most of private scholarship support through a matching gift program. It’s an ideal opportunity for you to increase the value and impact of your gift and minimize the debt burden for students with the most need. At UIC, we draw our diverse student body from the rich cultural milieu of a great city. Many of our students are—or could be, with your help—the first in their families to attend college and gain access to the benefits of an engineering degree. With the solid education and enriching experiences that UIC can provide, our graduates position themselves to become leaders in a world that needs their talent, their passion, and their knowledge. Help them achieve great things.

A Student Perspective on Scholarships
Knowledge obtained via experience and education plays a key role in ensuring personal success. Unfortunately, with the cost of a post-secondary education, it can be difficult for a student to excel. I am a student in that category. My family has proven to be a huge help in my current endeavors, but there is only so much they can contribute.

The middle child of five, I completed a B.S. in social sciences at Florida A&M and then joined Americorps’VISTA, volunteering at Chicago’s Gary Comer Youth Center. While there, I worked with the civil engineering cohort of high school students whose daily activities sparked childhood memories of taking apart the family computer and field trips to the NASA–Kennedy Space Center. My love of math and science rekindled, I mustered up enough courage to enroll in UIC’s College of Engineering.

After I complete my degree as an electrical engineer, I plan to continue volunteering, while working in the aerospace/ aeronautical arena or in product development/design. Thanks to the scholarships I’ve received, I can now apply my passion for science, technology and math and continue working with young people.

—TaTanesha Lee ’12
HOW THE MATCH WORKS

Both current-use and endowed gifts can realize matching benefits. Matches are made on a 1:1 basis according to these criteria:

- Gifts must support undergraduate, need-based scholarships.

- To qualify for a match, current-use gifts must be at least $2,500 per year for a minimum of four consecutive years. This ensures continuity in student financial assistance for a major portion of a student’s academic career.

- The money donated will go directly to a qualifying student, as will the matched portion. A $2,500 gift that qualifies for a full match will be doubled, providing students with $5,000 each year, for a total scholarship of $20,000 over four years.

- Endowments may also qualify for the match program. Either establishing an endowment with a gift of at least $100,000 or adding to an existing endowment to bring it up to at least $100,000 can qualify for the match. As with all endowments, the spendable payout, which is an approved portion of the endowment earnings, is awarded as scholarships. For an Access Illinois endowed scholarship, the spendable payout is matched 1:1, thus doubling the impact of your gift.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

All gifts to Access Illinois at UIC will be given to individual students who qualify for need-based scholarships. A College of Engineering development officer will work with you personally to plan your gift and answer questions.

Two Ways to Give:

Current-use gifts to Access Illinois have immediate impact—scholarships are awarded for the next academic year and can provide four years of support to an individual student.

Endowments, or endowed funds, have long-term impact. The larger the endowment, the greater the interest income generated for scholarships and the larger the scope of benefit to students.

Together, current-use gifts and endowments provide powerful, steady support to students as they pursue a UIC degree.