

“ICAC is one of the most valuable programs that has been added to our school in the last 5 years.”

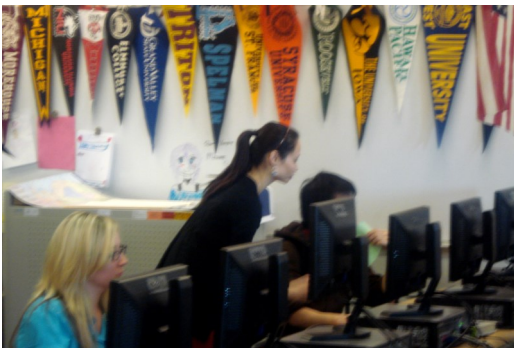
—**Jason Wind, Principal, Springfield Southeast**

“This type of qualified person is exactly what we have wanted in our Career Center since it opened, but were never able to secure funding. I can already see the difference it has made for our students and am very excited to see how many more of our students are able to go to college because of it.”

—**Jennifer A. Regnier, Counselor and Department Chair, East Aurora High School**

“Students see the ICAC Adviser as a role model. It is a positive experience for them to see that college is possible for anyone who is interested and takes the steps to get there.”

—**Sandy Davis, Director of Special Services, Rantoul High School**



## ILLINOIS COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

**Judith Flink**

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## The Illinois College Advising Corps



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

## The Program

**Mission:** to assist, educate, lead and inspire first generation, low-income, underrepresented youth in the enrollment and completion of post-secondary education.

*The average ratio of students to high school guidance counselors in Illinois is 672:1.\**

The University of Illinois recognizes that all Illinois students deserve the chance to attend college, but academic success requires access and opportunity. The Illinois College Advising Corps (ICAC) supports high school students throughout the state by placing college advisers in high schools that serve a high percentage of low income and first-generation college bound students. Initiated and administered by the University of Illinois, ICAC receives funding from the Illinois Student Assistance, Commission College Access Challenge Grant, through the Social Innovation Fund, and other community foundations. It is also affiliated with the National College Advising Corps.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Common Core of Data, National Institute for Educational Statistics-Public Elementary and Secondary School Student Enrollment and Staff From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2008-2009.

## Advisers

ICAC advisers support high school staff by preparing students for college application, acceptance, and completion. Advisers hold workshops covering ACT prep, FAFSA completion, and college search, build relationships with families and communities, and work one on one with students to prepare them for college preparation and success once they get there. Important events for ICAC include Decision Day, and the Financial Literacy Bowl. These events serve to provide continued motivation for students on the path toward college access and completion.

## College Adviser Impact 2012-2013 academic year

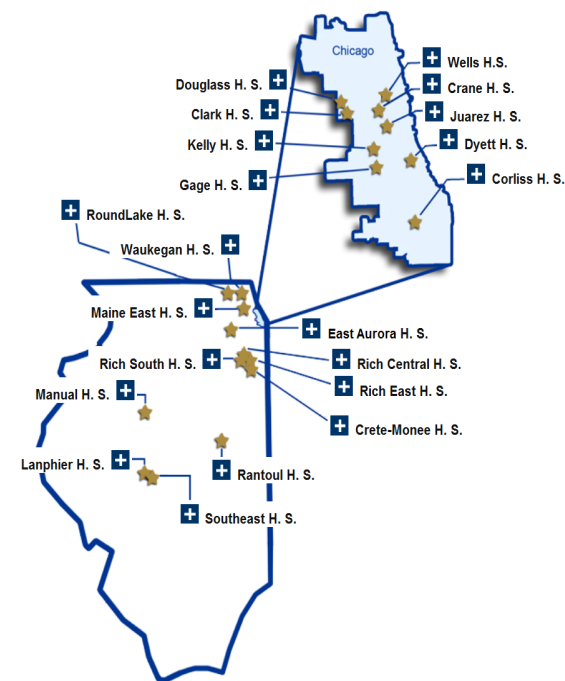
- Advisers had 23,050 one-on-one student meetings throughout the year.
- Advisers met with 4,107 seniors in one-on-one meetings, or 66% of the seniors in ICAC-served high schools.
- A reported 64% of ICAC-served seniors submitted at least one college application.
- ICAC Advisers met with 18,555 students in group meetings over the course of the Academic Year

### Basic Demographics:

Low-income: 75%  
 Black/African American: 29%  
 Hispanic/Latino: 37%  
 White/Caucasian: 10%  
 Asian: 4 %  
 Other/Multiracial: 1%  
 No Response: 19%

## 2012-2013 High School Locations

For AY 12-13, ICAC has expanded to a total of 22 high schools



## Retention

ICAC's retention initiative is focused on ensuring college students navigate their first year successfully and transition from year one to year two of college. Retention Coaches offer resources on: adjusting to college, campus programs, financial aid, transfer admissions, job opportunities, scholarships, and much more!

**83%**

Pilot year student cohort enrolled in year two of college!