



annual report 2021



ignite your passion

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mission

To cultivate intentional engagement in partnership with and on behalf of each student by creating purposeful learning opportunities through innovative programs, supportive services, and welcoming spaces in an inclusive community on campus and in Chicago.

vision

To provide the premiere urban university student experience.

strategic priorities

- Student-Centered Culture
- Welcoming and Modern Environments
- Synergy with Chicago
- Organizational Innovation and Effectiveness
- Enterprising Strength and Resources

student affairs learning outcomes

COGNITIVE SKILLS. Students who engage with UIC Student Affairs programs and services will be able to evaluate problems, issues, and questions through cognitive strategies to make meaning of their integrated experiences.

RESILIENCY AND PRACTICAL SKILLS. Students who engage with UIC Student Affairs programs and services will be able to manage personal and professional experiences, behaviors, and skills to confidently achieve life-long success.

INTRAPERSONAL AND INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. Students who engage with UIC Student Affairs programs and services will be able to construct a personal identity with a sense of self that positively contributes to meaningful, collaborative, and interdependent relationships.

DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. Students who engage with UIC Student Affairs programs and services will be able to synthesize skills to identify differences with respect to multiple perspectives while acknowledging and constructively challenging one's own biases and maintaining a commitment to civic engagement in the pursuit of equity and social change.

Departments within UIC Student Affairs are directly responsible for providing programs, services, and facilities that support student engagement, learning, and success.



Campus Housing

Campus Recreation

- Career Services**
- Student Employment

Children's Center

Counseling Center

Creative and Digital Services

Dining Services

Office of the Dean of Students

- Community Standards
- Dialogue Initiative
- Student Assistance
- Student Legal Services
- Student Veterans Affairs

Office of Student Services

- Office of Testing Services

Student Affairs Financial Services

Student Affairs Human Resources

Student Affairs Information Technology and ID Services

Student Centers

Student Engagement

- Center for Student Involvement
- Commuter and Off-Campus Life
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- High Impact Student Engagement
- New Student and Family Programs
- Student Leadership and Civic Engagement

Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

TRIO Programs

- Student Support Services
- Upward Bound

Retail Operations

- Bookstores
- Tech Center

Venues & Events

- Credit Union 1 Arena
- Isadore & Sadie Dorin Forum
- Meetings and Conferences

Wellness Center

student-centered culture

FOSTER A STUDENT-CENTERED CULTURE THAT SERVES AS A CORNERSTONE FOR THE WORK OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

A “students first” culture will drive Student Affairs to ignite students’ passion by enriching their academic, personal, and professional goals. Inherent is our responsibility to support and advocate for diverse students, create engagement experiences, provide mechanisms for student learning/feedback, and support students in distress. In this process we foster a sense of belonging, career/professional astuteness, interest in lifelong learning, community service, and the application of tools to care for themselves and others. This Student-Centered Culture has been paramount to Student Affairs’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Campus Housing continued to provide a safe living environment to students during the pandemic. They successfully managed communications to residential students who tested positive for COVID-19 and provided support services for isolation housing and quarantine housing for all close contacts. There was an estimate of over 250 positive cases and over 500 close contacts. They also housed students in travel quarantine for fall and spring semester arrivals and return from holiday breaks.



As an essential service, the **Wellness Center’s** Pop-Up Pantry continued to serve students weekly or twice a week with fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, and more. A record-breaking 5,890 bags of food were given to food insecure students, demonstrating the high level of need.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wellness Center had 2,553 workshop participants, the highest number yet. Topics included safety, communication, sexual health, stress management, and more

The **Wellness Center** completed a long-term goal of writing the “When You Are Ready” guidebook for students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct. A distribution plan is under development.

Student Employment has been redesigned and restructured to support campus student employment as a learning and developmental experience that helps students prepare for off-campus experiences and complement their career goals. Hiring and onboarding processes for student employment are now centralized under **Student Affairs Human Resources**.

The **Children’s Center** reopened in July 2020 and remained open throughout FY21. The Center enrolled 26 children, primarily of families whose work or school required them to be in-person and on campus daily. Throughout the school year, the Center provided a developmentally appropriate, play-based curriculum with zero positive cases of COVID-19 among staff, parents, or children.

The **Center for Student Involvement** received over 1,000 submissions for their new involvement-calculator tool during the 2020-21 academic year. This tool collects information and interests from students and matches them with organizations by mission and keyword description. The Center will reach out to the students as sophomores during the 2021 – 2022 academic year to build their involvement journey.

The **Center for Student Involvement** was able to successfully host multiple online and in-person programs, including the Flames Summer Series, Winter Series, and Spring Series, Virtual Involvement Fair, and Flames in the City.



Career Services increased their resources surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) through website updates (careerservices.uic.edu/students/dei-career-resources), participating in trainings with Dialogue Initiatives, and creating and implementing several new workshops. Workshops included: The Crown: Black Hair in the Workplace; From the Search to Settling In: Practical Tips for Job Seekers with Disabilities; Career Success for Undocumented Professionals; Salary Negotiation Series; Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace; and Out in Engineering.

Career Services introduced several new programs to help support student decision making processes regarding graduate programs, including: Should I Wait or Should I Go; Graduate Student Panel; Admission Representative Panel; and Writing Personal Statements.

New employers were able to engage with **Career Services**, leveraging the virtual environment. **Career Services** became involved in two new consortium job fairs with the HSI Career Collaborative Summit & Expo and the Asian American Pacific Islander Job Fair, sponsored by the Asian American Network.

Career Services designed a number of new programs aimed at helping students navigate the job search during the COVID-19 pandemic and in an ever-evolving virtual world, including: Employer Etiquette & the Virtual Job Search; Virtual Interviewing Workshop; Maximizing Your LinkedIn Profile; and Job Search During a Pandemic.

With the assistance of **Student Affairs Technology**, a security compliant approach for the **Counseling Center** was successfully created to shift their staff to laptops capable of securely functioning off-site while providing resources necessary to the continuity of counseling services.

The **Counseling Center** launched the United Support Network (www.unitedsupportnetwork.org), a community of UIC students coming together to support each other through life’s challenges and connect around life experiences. Through peer-led support groups and monthly social events, the United Support Network helps students build a sense of community on campus and support one another’s mental wellbeing.

The **Counseling Center** had an increase of 40% in programs and events during the 2020-21 academic year. Also, to address the social justice needs of the university, the **Counseling Center** created numerous on-going series, which included topics on engaging antiracism Black mental health and wellness, a weekly support group for Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES), and more. They further created outreach programs on topics such as managing political uncertainty, a support workshop for student parents, and a support space for international students.

Dialogue Initiatives collaborated with the Office of Diversity to lead workshops for nearly 450 students, faculty, and staff from across UIC. **Dialogue Initiatives** has partnered with numerous groups across UIC, leading workshops that cover topics for instance listening for understanding, introduction to dialogue facilitation, introduction to social identities.

Dialogue Initiatives also collaborated with the **Counseling Center** to develop two three-week workshop series—one on white privilege and one on interrupting and apologizing when bias occurs. Both series have been run six times and will continue to be offered in the 2021-22 academic year.

High Impact Student Engagement greatly expanded their virtual Spring Impact and Research Day. With their regular partners, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and the Honors College, and with new and re-engaged partners, the Office of Undergraduate Research and L@s GANAS, they hosted 304 Impact and Research presentations with 342 presenters. This year also featured presentations from graduate and medical school students.

TRIO Student Support Services increased student recruitment by 10 percent.

Student Leadership and Civic Engagement successfully implemented the Multi-Institute Study of Leadership to undergraduate students. This national survey examines leadership engagement among college students. Student Leadership and Civic Engagement staff look forward to reviewing the data and sharing the insights discovered about student leadership development and social change at UIC.

The 2020-21 academic year saw a steep increase in the number of academic integrity cases adjudicated by **Community Standards**. This increase was related to the shift to online learning for most classes. Students who participated in the adjudication of these cases were challenged to consider the impact of their decisions on their fellow students and the ethics related to using unapproved online tools.

Through staff trainings, **Campus Recreation** has been intentionally focusing on conversations surrounding equity, diversity, and inclusion. This year, they introduced the identity wheel to help better understand concepts around identity and power. During the 2021-22 academic year, they plan to dive deeper into conversations around identity in order to better serve students and guests.

Fraternity and Sorority Life successfully transitioned their community into a virtual environment. A total of 60 weekly **Fraternity and Sorority Life** email blasts were sent over the course of the academic year.

Collaborative networks of care occurred throughout the Division of Student Affairs in concert with additional campus partners. Through this collaborative effort, different levels of care were offered to develop comprehensive individual plans, provide case management support, advocate for students, and help students navigate and connect with UIC.



In partnership with the Office of Budget and Financial Analysis, Academic Affairs, and the Office of Diversity, **UIC Student Affairs** was the lead in the award of over \$7 million from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). **Student Affairs** led several strategies, including:

- **Paying past due balances upon registration.** In this strategy, Financial Aid identified students who were in good standing, but could not register for classes due to having a past due balance. Almost \$2 million dollars were awarded to students.
- **Campus housing and dining grants.** In recognition of the toll that the pandemic has taken on students' abilities to meet their basic needs, awards were provided to students to support living in campus housing and accessing campus meal plans. Specifically, over \$2 millions was awarded to four groups of students: housing insecure students who were working with the Office of the Dean of Students, vulnerable students who were referred by campus partners, students who had planned to live in campus housing but had to cancel their contact, and low-income students who were already planning to be in housing. Awards ranged from \$2500 to \$17,000.
- **Food pantry.** Given the increase for food support during the pandemic, funds from the GEER grant were used to hire additional staff to support the UIC food

pantry. This was an essential resource for many UIC students who lost employment during the pandemic.

- **New student support.** Student Engagement launched a new program to support students starting at UIC during the pandemic in a remote environment. Undergraduate students, many of whom served as orientation leaders, continued to reach out and support students after the school year started to help ensure a successful transition to college.
- **Financial aid counseling.** Given the increased financial struggles and support needed by the Office of Financial Aid, a graduate student was hired to provide assistance to students needing support.
- **Counseling Center counseling support.** Many students experienced heightened mental health challenges during the pandemic. Additional staff were needed by the Counseling Center to meet those needs. Two part-time counselors were employed to provide a range of mental health services, such as individual and group therapy.
- **Course fees.** Fall semester course fees of high need students were paid through the GEER grant. These awards totaled over \$220,000.



welcoming and modern environments

ENHANCE WELCOMING AND MODERN ENVIRONMENTS THAT BUILD COMMUNITY

State-of-the-art facilities should be an essential part of the UIC experience. UIC Student Affairs prides itself in providing, creating, and maintaining multifunctional, safe, and inclusive spaces, thus providing students an opportunity to meet a diverse body of peers, engage in a broad range of activities, and build community in support of their overall student experience. To achieve the UIC strategic priorities and be globally competitive, we must focus our efforts on upgrading and maintaining our facilities to the highest standards.

Several units updated their websites to better communicate their programs and services. The **Dialogue Initiative** website (dialogue.uic.edu) was moved off of the Red platform and updated to reflect current staffing. Until this revision, the site had not been updated in five or more years. **Student Affairs Human Resources** completed the launch of their new website (sahr.uic.edu), making more resources available for employees by reorganizing and

categorizing much needed information. As a part of a long-term strategic goal, **Campus Recreation** created a Health and Wellbeing page on their website, which contains resources for students campus-wide (<https://recreation.uic.edu/fitness-wellness/health-wellbeing/>). The focus on wellbeing continues into 2021-22, as they address marketing, staff training, and wellness coaching.



Campus Recreation expanded its virtual community through social media platforms. A library of resources was created to include instructional videos and fitness tips. They created a TikTok, receiving over 700 likes on their videos, and also increased their followers on Instagram by over 16.5% since February 2021.

To address and respond to on-going race-related violence and COVID-19 stress and anxiety, the **Counseling Center** used their website and newsletters to provide support. There were 10 website postings during the 2020-21 year (<https://counseling.uic.edu/online-resources/coping-with-recent-events/>) and the newsletter addressed topics such as Supporting International Communities, Responding to Racism, Supporting Black Communities, the Unique Grief of COVID-19, Coping with End of Semester Stress, the Cultural Impact of COVID-19, and more (<https://counseling.uic.edu/news-stories/introducing-counseling-center-e-newsletters/>).

Multiple units spent time during the pandemic to renovate and update their spaces in order to create a more welcoming and modern environment. **Student Centers** resurfaced the first floor of the Student Center East. **Dining Services** removed the 1949 “Fish” ovens from the catering kitchen, allowing for the catering kitchen to be reorganized to make it work more efficiently. The **Center for Student Involvement** has updated their space, with final touches to be completed August 2021 with door coverings and digital screen installations.

synergy with chicago

CREATE SYNERGY WITH THE CITY TO FOSTER MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR STUDENTS AND CHICAGO

UIC Student Affairs is well positioned to be a bridge between the university, the city, and its residents, including alumni, by embracing our relationship and commitment to Chicago. We have an opportunity to model the relationship the university can have with the city through our programs on and off campus, in our facilities, and through partnerships created to support our students and surrounding community. We must further create intentional opportunities for students to learn by doing and develop into socially responsible active citizens by getting involved with neighborhood communities and the city. Capitalizing on Chicago's rich diversity will allow for students to interact with and learn from communities different than their own.



UIC Venues and Events led the operational effort in testing students, staff, and faculty for COVID-19. They staffed, maintained, and operated three permanent sites on campus since August 2020 and several temporary sites around campus. As of June 30, 2021, over 148,000 specimens were collected for testing. The sites operated six days a week, with times varying depending on the density of campus. Location totals include the Forum at 41,174 tests, Student Center East at 63,352 tests, Student Center East at 43,004 tests, and other and 550 tests. Testing is continuing into FY22 at both Student Centers East and West.

The **Credit Union 1 Arena** was opened as a mass vaccination site on February 1, 2021. **UIC Venues and Events** worked in cooperation with UI Health in administering the Pfizer vaccine. A seamless entry

process was created for patients to enter, register, receive their vaccine, and exit to the waiting area in an orderly and efficient manner. During February 2021, 1,000 shots were administered a day. The daily number of doses increased and peaked in late April with other 2,600 shots administered in one day. The site provided over 180,000 vaccines through June 30. The site administered its last first dose on June 25, 2021 and closed permanently on July 16, 2021.

Student Leadership and Civic Engagement was the central hub of information for voter education, early voting, Election Day, and other programs. Information specific to UIC on student voting will be shared in the next year via the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report.

organizational effectiveness and innovation

FOCUS ON ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION

The heart of Student Affairs is its staff, a diverse collective of professionals responsible for working toward a bold vision. We must transform and empower the organization so that we are appropriately resourced, staffed, and structured to fully address ever-changing strategic priorities in support of our mission to intentionally engage each student.



Student Affairs Technology has completed multiple transition projects, including the completion of a majority of the transition of their server technology footprint on the East and West campus to a single consolidated co-location in the Benjamin Goldberg Resource Center, and transitioning **Student Centers** and **Housing** into having updated IP security cameras.

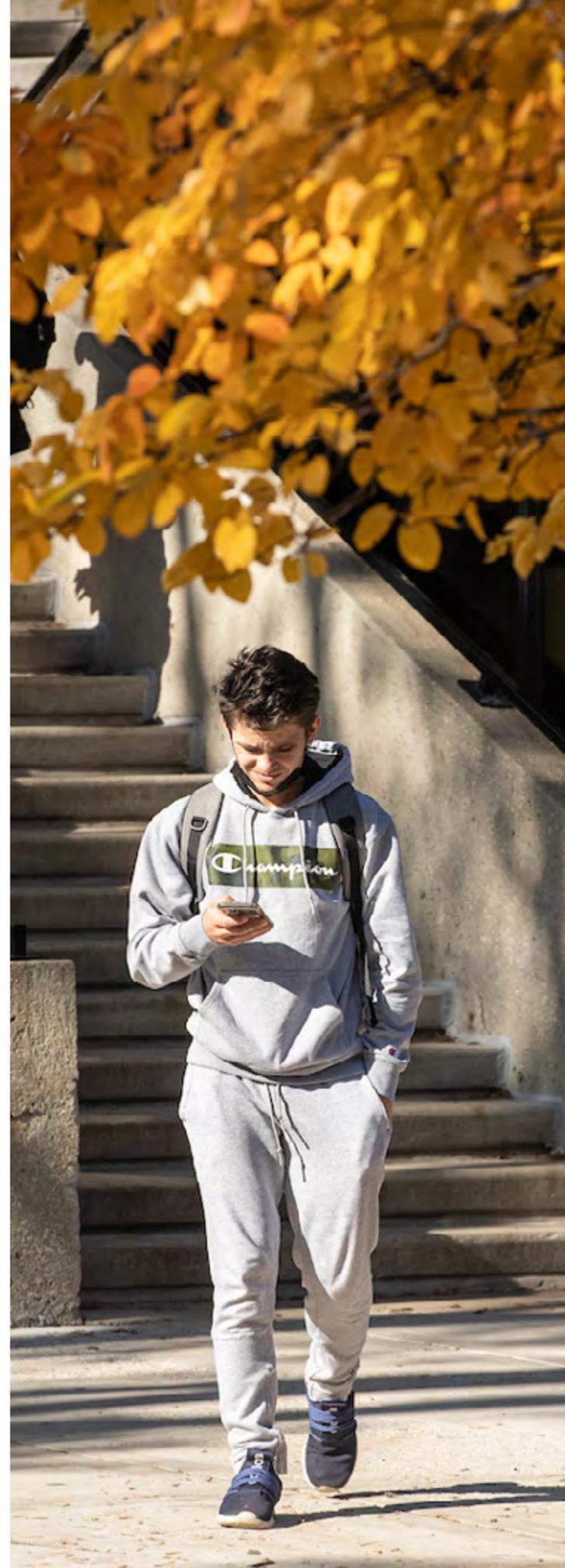
Student Affairs Technology reinvigorated the service desk through the hiring of a service desk manager and 3 new service desk staff. With new Service Desk leadership, the Service Desk team has found new levels of cohesion amongst themselves.

Student Affairs Technology successfully upgraded and rolled out the new Kronos (hosted) WFR product.

Student Affairs Human Resources completed and implemented a new Academic Professional search committee process, including job aids and search committee training. Through this method, **Student Affairs Human Resources** has hired 4 new Academic Professional employees.

To accommodate the virtual environment, the **Counseling Center** converted all initial modes of therapy to telehealth equivalents (e.g., initial consultations, individual therapy, short-term structured groups).

Creative and Digital Services increased vertical integration of production services with the addition of machines that allow kiss cut, contouring, and engraving of materials, as well as faster run times and a wider array of compatible stocks.



With an awareness of the dramatic shift over the last year of how people engage with each other and consume content, **Creative and Digital Services** introduced a new webinar support service to assist the campus in adding additional production value to 60 scheduled virtual events.

Testing Services hired a new Test Specialist responsible for coordinating and administering exams to UIC students and those in the Chicago community.

Student Centers remained fully engaged with their large client base during the pandemic. Many of their large clients (Live Nation, AEG, Jam, FOBAB, etc.) have contracts for events in FY22. **Student Centers** currently has three contracts on sale for FY22, with FOBAB committed to November, Bar Exam committed to February, and Chicago Elite Classic returning in December. At this time, bookings for the **Credit Union 1 Arena** are slightly above FY19's levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic and online classes moved the use of digital materials forward at a much faster rate than in previous years. **Retail** provided all materials that they were able to obtain in a digital format.

High Impact Student Engagement successfully completed their rebranding and launched the roadmap of Engagement with the 3E Phases: Explore; Expand; and Excel.

Financial Aid and Scholarships successfully integrated the UIC Law School into the UIC Financial Aid office, with official approval by the U.S. Department of Education on July 1, 2020.

Student Employment processed 2,742 student employees with 4,858 jobs. Some student positions worked in different capacities related to COVID-19 tracking and safety, with roles such as: COVID-19 Saliva Testing; Test Site Operator; COVID-19 Lead Housing Public Health Assistant; and COVID-19 Contract Tracer.

Assessment and Planning launched a number of initiatives to support staff in developing high-quality assessment practices, such as an assessment workshop series and one-on-one support of annual goal development. Further, **Assessment and Planning** developed a program review process that all Student Affairs offices will participate in over the next three years.

enterprising strength and resources

CULTIVATE ENTERPRISING STRENGTH AND RESOURCES

Creative revenue streams and targeted spending are hallmarks of an organization with a strong economic awareness. We must ensure that our budgets are aligned to our priorities aiding the broader goals of the university.



During the 2020-21 Association of Campus Unions International (ACUI) conferences, **Creative and Digital Services** received awards in the Steal This Idea contest, which showcases work designed to promote campus events, activities, and more during the year. In the regional conference, **Creative and Digital Services** received five 1st place awards and one viewer's choice award in 9 of 16 categories, and in the National conference, **Creative and Digital Services** received three awards for 2nd and 3rd place in 8 of 16 categories.

The **Children's Center** received \$172,470 in Child Care Restoration Grant funding to help subsidize operational expenses for FY21. The grant made available to childcare programs by the Illinois Department of Human Services, has approved the Children's Center to receive funds for the first half of FY22.

The **Children's Center** received a \$6,000 Quality Improvement grant sponsored by Illinois Action for Children. Funds were used to replace playground equipment including bikes, wagons, playground toys, and storage.



Staff from the Offices of **Assessment and Planning**, **Dean of Students**, **Student Services**, and **Financial Aid** were awarded a \$225,000 grant from the Crown Family Philanthropies to address the basic needs and financial barriers of first-year students to increase their academic success as indicated by first-year on-track. With these funds, two programs were developed and a major research project was launched. For the first program, which was developed and facilitated by staff from **Student Services**, scholarships were awarded to high achieving students who had an unpaid balance on their account making them ineligible to register for spring classes and at-risk for not being on-track for college graduation at the end of their first year.

Upon payment, students were then able to register for classes. As a contingency of receiving the scholarship, students agreed to participate in financial health programming provided by **Student Services**. The second program was developed and facilitated by staff from the **Office of the Dean of Students**. Staff identified students

who were experiencing housing insecurities and provided them an award (funded by GEER) to move into campus housing. This grant allowed staff to provide the students with a semester-long tailored program to address a range of services, such as workshops on securing housing and mental health, as well as one-on-one consultation to provide holistic services to support this vulnerable student population. The aim was to alleviate these substantial barriers so the students could focus on their studies and be successful in school as indicated by being on-track at the end of their first-year in college. Finally, staff from **Assessment and Planning** launched a major research project to better understand how food and housing insecurities impact being on-track for college graduation at the end of students' first-year in college. This mixed methods study assessed the two programs, analyzed institutional data and conducted interviews with students in both programs, as well as students who received housing awards through GEER. This project is ongoing and will be complete in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Faculty Research Fellows Program

The Student Affairs Faculty Research Fellows Program collaborates with faculty to conduct research project to address important questions concerning Student Affairs at UIC. Faculty Fellows identify important research questions relevant to UIC Student Affairs and answer those questions during a year-long research fellowship. Student Affairs funded three faculty in the pilot year of the program.



The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on the Academic Engagement and Retention of UIC Undergraduate Students: A Mixed-Methods Study

Principal Investigator: Alexios Rosario-Moore, PhD

As students have returned to UIC's campus, administrators lack data that examines the scale and character of the pandemic's impact on undergraduate students, their academic engagement, and decision-making related to retention or departure. COVID-19 has had a disproportionately negative economic and health-related impact on Cook County, and a disproportionately negative impact on Black and Latinx communities. This mixed-methods study is designed to assess and describe racial and ethnic disparities in the pandemic's impact so that the university can better support the students who are most affected by this crisis.

Queering Our Campus: An LGBTQIA+ Campus Climate Study

Principal Investigator: Nic M. Weststrate, PhD

In a proud moment earlier this summer, UIC was recognized as Illinois' best college for LGBTQIA+ students. This accolade reflects UIC's robust commitment to fostering the well-being and success of LGBTQIA+ students through inclusive policies, programs, and services. Little is known, however, about how these institutional commitments translate to LGBTQIA+ student experiences. In partnership with the UIC Gender and Sexuality Center, this research project will illuminate the experiences, needs, and concerns of LGBTQIA+ students through a campus climate study. Utilizing a sequential mixed-methods design, this campus climate study will proceed in three stages: (1) in-depth qualitative interviews to center diverse student voices and inform survey development; (2) a largescale quantitative survey to generate a broad understanding of campus

climate and to examine links between experiences and outcomes; and (3) focus groups to contextualize survey findings and provide policy recommendations. The results of this campus climate study will enable Student Affairs professionals and other campus stakeholders to develop intentional policies, programs, and services that meet the emergent and evolving needs of LGBTQIA+ students in these unpredictable and uncharted times.

Scanning for Engagement: How People Assess Support and Fairness in Organization

Principal Investigator: John Lynch

Engagement is a crucial issue to organizations, whether they be employers or universities. In the workplace, employee engagement takes the form of cognitive, emotional, and physical energy workers commit to their jobs (Rich, LePine, & Crawford, 2010). On campus, student engagement similarly takes the form of immersive participation in class and other co-curricular activities (Astin, 1984). Whether at work or school, engagement can facilitate performance and learning, and thus, understanding what drives engagement is important for organizations. A climate of inclusion is one such driver. While much research has focused on what organizations do to create climates of inclusion, less research has considered how individuals collect information to determine if their workplace is inclusive. Drawing from theories related to fairness, inclusion, and identity, we are investigating how employees (i.e., student-workers) scan their work environment to determine how inclusive it is and consequently how much they can engage themselves there. This research contributes to theory by considering how people collect information about their social environments and how this influences their level of engagement. This research also contributes to practice by identifying ways organizations can encourage perceptions of inclusion and engagement amongst their employees and students.



Student Affairs Special Project Fellows

The Student Affairs Special Project Fellows Program supports Student Affairs staff to start a new program or initiative or improve a current practice or service to better support student success and enhance the quality of campus life. In the pilot year of the program, four projects were funded.

Building a Dialogue Campus: Supporting Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation Training for Students, Faculty & Staff
Project Lead: Dr. Jessica Joslin

Demand for dialogue programming and support across campus has accelerated in recent months as campus units are looking to learn how to engage thoughtfully across differences, and have thoughtful and informed conversations about racism, implicit bias, identity and related topics. The increase in requests for dialogues has followed national and local calls to address racial injustice. To address this desire across campus, funds are used to develop two interrelated programs: 1) A Dialogue Peer Educator program to train undergraduate and graduate students to facilitate student-designed workshops on topics such as social identities, communicating across difference and listening for understanding. 2) A Dialogue Fellows program to support initial training and continuing education of dialogue facilitators and partners across campus, and provide a community for connection and collaboration between faculty and staff who are invested in dialogue and social justice education.

College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) Sophomore Experience Course
Project Lead: Joy Vergara

This project combines the resources of Student Leadership & Civic Engagement (SLCE), UIC Career Services, the UIC CUPPA Alumni Association and other campus partners with faculty, staff, and student leaders within CUPPA to design and deliver an intensive pilot sophomore experience course that will strengthen the life, career, and leadership skills of CUPPA students. This course will provide coaching, training, and immersion experiences in community and job contexts after the freshman seminar and before students apply for internships and take capstone courses. While there are many outcomes associated with this pilot, the central aims are to enhance the ability of CUPPA students of all backgrounds to flourish in the program, to attain internships and jobs, and to become socially just leaders in their communities and workplaces.

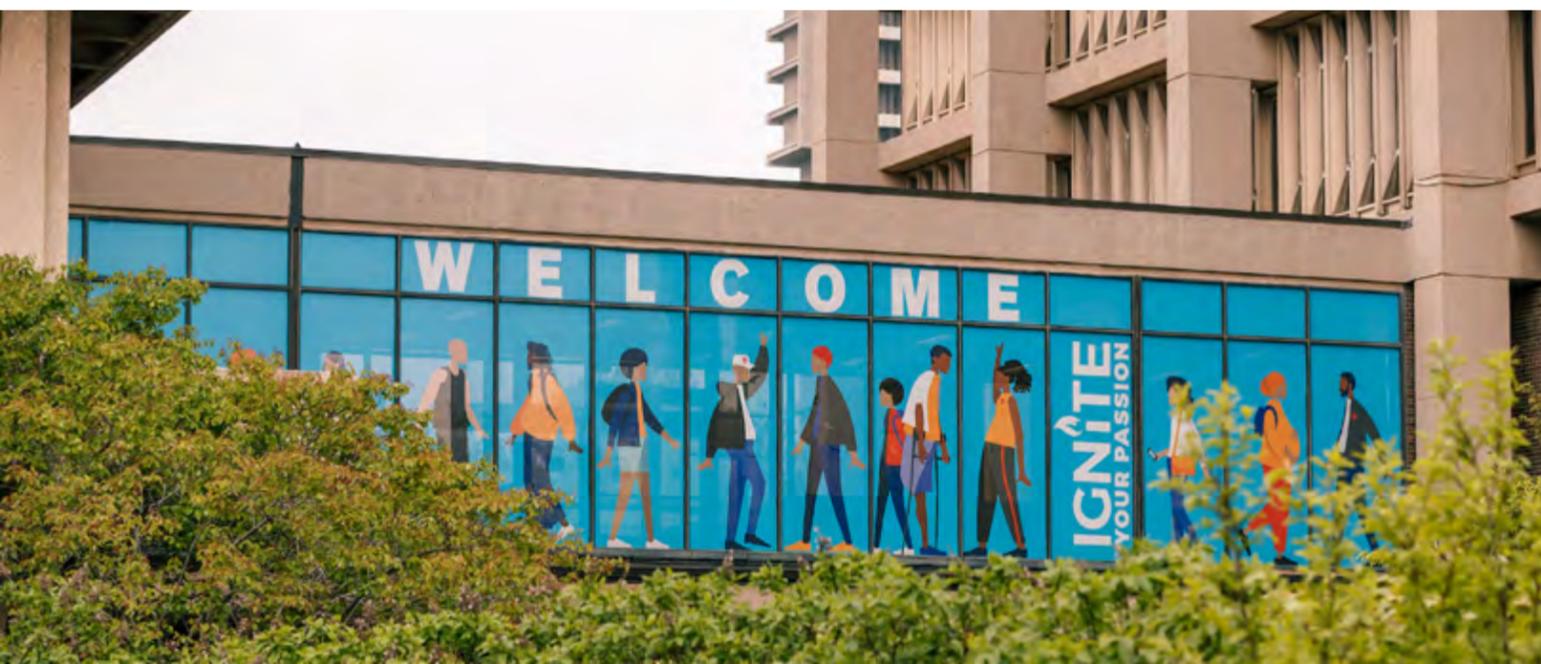


First-Year Flames Abroad
Project Lead: Marc Mobley

The First-Year Flames Abroad Program is a new initiative looking to engage incoming first-year students with educational experiences abroad, prior to the beginning of their first academic term at UIC. The program aims to integrate the benefits of a study abroad program with the transitional needs of incoming new students, specifically those who are first-generation college students. This unique twist on a study abroad experience provides participants with an opportunity to gain a global perspective, while also impacting their transition to UIC. Following the implementation of this pilot program, the goal is to increase the number of abroad trips yearly to target additional underrepresented student populations.

M&M: Mental Wellness & Mental Health First Aid
Project Lead: La Tonja Ellis

The Mental Health First Aid Project equips staff and students to assist individuals who are grappling with mental illness confirming that “it is okay to NOT be okay.” Mental Health First Aid, much like CPR, trains participants on how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This pilot project assists Student Affairs Human Resources in an endeavor to equip staff and students with the tools to properly support someone who may be living with mental illness or experiencing the onset of mental illness. Mental Health First Aid helps people understand that mental illnesses and addictions are real, common and treatable and that it’s okay to seek help. Research demonstrates this program’s effectiveness in improving knowledge of mental illnesses and substance use, removing fear and misunderstanding and enabling those trained to offer concrete assistance. Students and staff are trained on the 6-hour virtual course platform. During 2020-21, 85 students and staff were trained and certified. Mental Health First Aid is a three (3) year certification.



Alumni, colleagues, and friends of UIC, as well as various corporations and foundations, made monetary contributions to UIC Student Affairs between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, to help fund UIC scholarships, the Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Fund, the Student Affairs Annual Fund, and specific UIC Student Affairs units and programs. We thank our many donors for their generosity and

\$1,000,000 and above

Isadore and Sadie Dorin Foundation

\$200,000-\$249,000

Crown Family Philanthropies

Riversville Foundation

Mr. Bruno Casolari

\$50,000-\$99,999

Mr. Bruno Casolari

\$25,000-\$49,999

Armin and Esther Hirsch Foundation

Rundgren Foundation

Ms. Donita J. Beckham and Dr. Thomas W. Beckham (Deceased)

Mr. John A. Hegber and Dr. Joyce A. Schild (Deceased)

Dr. Michael B. Mikhail

\$10,000-\$24,999

Julian Grace Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Dr. Barbara Henley

Mr. James H. Moore and Mrs. Michelle L. Moore

\$2,500-\$4,999

Greater Chicago Food Depository

Jim's Original

Mr. James C. Christopoulos

Mr. Kelly McCray and Mr. Donald Mays

\$1,000-\$2,499

Dr. Michael D. Amiridis and Dr. Ero Aggelopoulou

Mrs. Kelly L. Bennett and Mr. Robbie Bennett

Ms. Patricia L. Bielick and Mr. George T. Bielick (Deceased)

Ms. Nancy J. Holsapple and Mr. Michael J. Lewis (Deceased)

Mr. Rik Lantz and Mrs. Ann C. Logue

\$500-\$999

Mr. Alexandre Da Silva

Mr. Michael J. Devocelle and Mrs. Christine C. Devocelle

Mr. Thomas L. Dobner and Mrs. Barbara A. Dobner

Dr. Michael P. Hofkamp and Mrs. Susan Hofkamp

Dr. Evelyn M. Figueroa and Mr. Alexander Wu

Mr. Gerald P. Murray and Mrs. Joanne Murray

Dr. Christina L. Nicholas

Mrs. Jacqueline N. Schweighart and Mr. Matthew J. Schweighart

Mr. Eric F. Svandra and Mrs. Ann M. Ross

\$250-\$499

Mrs. Molly S. Bryan

Dr. Mimis Cohen and Mrs. Andrea Biel-Cohen

Dr. Andrew J. Donnelly and Dr. Janet P. Engle

Ms. Shelley L. Fulla

Dr. Rosilie Hernandez Hernandez-Pecoraro

Dr. Climentene Jones

Ms. Susan E. Kovacs

Ms. Arla J. McMahon and Mr. Robert J. McMahon (Deceased)

Dr. Robert B. Lees and Mrs. Lucretia J. Hall

Ms. Marjorie B. Pelino

Ms. Diana Pollich Joyce

Mr. Mark C. Saba

Mr. George R. Sawicki and Janet Riddle Estate (Deceased)

Mrs. Alma R. Sias and Mr. Celso Sias

Dr. Daniel J. Tancredi and Mrs. Laurel A. Beckett

Dr. Mary E. Turyk

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We are grateful

for the outpouring of gifts for our students with COVID-19 related emergencies through the **U&I Care Fund**. As of October 2021, our UIC community and beyond have given over \$142,000 to our students who are financially impacted by the pandemic, allowing us to distribute much needed funds toward **travel assistance**, **medical care**, **at-home technology support**, and **educational needs** to hundreds of students.

dos.uic.edu/give



Combating COVID: UIC and the Unsheltered Chicago Coalition

GO.UIC.EDU/HOTEL166

As the number of COVID-19 cases grow, so do concerns for the homeless community. In an effort to help those in need, the UIC community has come together to join the Unsheltered Chicago Coalition, a collaboration between the city's top health providers, to brainstorm ways to prevent COVID outbreaks.



U&I Care Week

GO.UIC.EDU/UANDI_CARE

go.uic.edu/UandI_Care

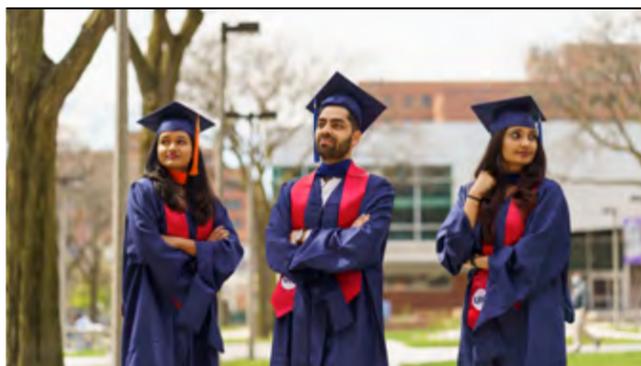
Each year, U&I Care Week provides events and initiatives to UIC students that promote engagement and serve as a resource educational tool.



UIC Day of Service April 2021

GO.UIC.EDU/DAYOFSERVICE2021

The UIC Day of Service is UIC's largest service event and takes place annually during the month of April. With partners from multiple sites and community organizations across Chicagoland, the day brings together the entire UIC community to give back to Chicago.



May Graduates 2021

GO.UIC.EDU/CLASSOF2021

go.uic.edu/classof2021

For this year's graduating class, we have captured portraits of proud seniors and graduate students who have endured a variety of obstacles while achieving their goals in the midst of a global pandemic.



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