

**The Illinois Community College Faculty Association**  
*A Not for Profit Professional Organization Chartered by the State of Illinois*



**2015 Scholarship Recipient Profiles**

**Tsengel Enkhamgalan**  
*Harper College*  
**Dr. Stephen W. Charry Memorial Scholarship**

I came from Mongolia and am enjoying the wonderful opportunities that Harper College has been offering me so far. Since I was a child, I have been a socially motivated kid who really wanted to get in touch with her environment and community by getting involved in extracurricular activities, school projects and student organizations.

After I had graduated from high school in Mongolia in 2013, I came to America to get a globally valued education and experience the diversity of the world around me. Fortunately, Harper College is a big family, whose children are from every corner of the world, so I had another amazing opportunity to meet people from Thailand, India, Korea, Japan, China, and many other countries that I had never heard of. At the moment, I am learning Spanish and next I will be learning Russian, and maybe someday Chinese. Learning different languages allows me to connect with different cultures and people, so I eagerly love to learn them as much as I can. Therefore, once I become an internationally known lawyer, I will try me best to contribute my work to the well being of the community around me and make sure that the relationships between the many countries of the world are healthy and peaceful.

**Oscar Rodrigo Araiza Bravo**  
*College of Lake County*

“Passengers of flight Y-1981, please present your boarding passes at gate 23.” Those were the metallic words said that day in which I realized that it was real: I was moving to the U.S. My life, up to that point, had been lived in Mexico City, and although I dreamed of someday going to study overseas, I had never thought it was going to be so abrupt. In that moment, I was leaving my house, my relatives, my culture, and everything I knew, to go to a country in which I didn’t even have a house to live in. I moved to Mundelein, Illinois on October 11, 2011, after my stepfather had been transferred from his company where he works as an engineer. At that moment, I did not realize the size of the challenge that had been presented to me, nor did I believe that I had the chance to seize it.

In my senior year at Mundelein High School, I applied to many universities, but many refused to give me any scholarships because I was missing a Social Security Number. This made it impossible for my family to afford my education. When I had almost given up all hope of completing my education in this country, the opportunity of joining the Engineering Pathways program at the College of Lake County was presented to me. The program guarantees its members acceptance to the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, if certain academic requirements are met after two years of education at CLC. I saw this as my big opportunity to seize the challenge I had been given three years ago: to overcome my fears and to not give up on my education. I plan to continue attending CLC until the end of the spring of 2016, obtaining my Associate of Science degree. When I transfer, I would like to study Industrial Engineering and Applied Mathematics at UIUC, entering graduate school afterwards.

**Carolina Escobedo**  
*Olney Central College*

I was fourteen years old at the U.S. Federal Court in St. Louis when my father was last sentenced to imprisonment. While my father was in prison, I watched my mother struggle to raise four children with a low paying job. I learned to understand how important a good education is to have a good career. Honestly, neither of my parents finished high school, but I am determined to change that pattern. As I reached my senior of high school, I decided to apply to the nearest radiology school – Olney Central College. After completing Olney’s program, I will continue at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale to receive my bachelor’s degree in radiation therapy. Although I know very well that a college degree in such a field is something my family cannot afford, I refuse to allow finance to become an obstacle. I will do and sacrifice whatever is necessary to become successful.

## 2015 ICCFA Scholarship Recipient Profiles (cont'd)

### **David A. Flores** *College of DuPage*

My college experience has been a mixture of hard work and dedication that has allowed me to maintain a 4.0 GPA. I plan on continuing this academic rigor while attending the College of DuPage and beyond. In 2013, I traveled to Peru and was given the opportunity to visit an orphanage. Bringing donations and interacting with the orphans truly changed the way I perceived the world. Their gratefulness for daily necessities that we take for granted, such as toilet paper, was such a humbling moment in my life. This experience triggered my passion to help others. As a result, I want to pursue a career in the medical field and become a doctor or pharmacist so that I may give back. It would be so remarkable to have a career that dedicates all of its resources to helping others. After College of DuPage, I plan on transferring to the University of Chicago. In addition, working at a hospital and interacting with patients has already given me tremendous exposure to the medical field. The best part of my job is bringing comfort and a smile to the patients as well as their families. Earning this scholarship will allow me to continue my passion for education without being a burden to my parents.

### **Akvile Kiskis** *College of DuPage*

I have learned that the older you get, the more you do things for other people and yourself. College is not just for me; it is to support a family that I plan to raise in the future. My parents came to America with little to nothing and worked their way up to support my little sister and me. With a college level education, I can support my future family and set an example for anyone else that has had to start with nothing and work their way to make an impact on their community. Although Information Technology is a challenging major, it is a marketable degree and I am passionate about it. Specifically, I love coding and programming and I am planning to learn C++ and Java in college. In the future, I aspire to work for a successful company as programmer or as an IT. This scholarship lets me set an example for my community to work for their dreams. Most importantly, I want to pave the way for females who are interested in careers involving computers.

### **Rachael True** *Heartland Community College*

As a student, I have strived to achieve a 4.0 GPA throughout my career at Heartland Community College. My goal is to absorb as much information as possible by exerting diligence and effort into each class that I take. I hope that one day these prerequisites that I excel in at Heartland Community College will be beneficial to me on the road to achieve my bachelor's degree in psychology at Eureka College. Then I plan on transferring to graduate school to be an occupational therapist. I participate in caretaking for animals and walking dogs at our local humane society. I play in our local community band. In addition, I am part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and have been accepted into the Heartland Community College Honors Program. I was recently selected by my psychology professor, an affiliate for the American Psychological Association, as an outstanding psychology student with excellent academic success in the field.

