



# PERSPECTIVES *on* EXCELLENCE

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John Milton Gregory, the first Regent of the University of Illinois, defined education as “the power to see, to reason, and to understand and the power to perceive, to judge and to act.” One hundred and sixty years later the College of Business continues to implement Gregory’s dream by educating talented young men and women for exciting and challenging lives in business, academe, law, and public service.

Our curriculum and our faculty give graduates the expertise they need to develop a marketing plan, prepare a financial statement, conduct an audit, manage complex projects, create new products, or write a business plan. These skills are developed in classes that are part of a curriculum that is robust and cutting-edge with many opportunities to work on experiential, real-world projects. Our graduates leave the College as life-long learners with an understanding of the need to keep up with changes in technology and society.

As important, however, are the communication and leadership skills that undergraduates can develop while at the College of Business. Meeting with a visiting executive, managing a team tackling a class project, taking a significant role in a student organization, participating in entrepreneurial projects or a global experience—all are opportunities we provide outside the classroom to help students develop skills that are essential to their success in their future careers. Employers recognize that Illinois Business students have the full complement of skills to make a difference from the first day on the job, and statistics bear that out. The 575 new freshmen who entered the College this year will be well on their way in their chosen careers even before they graduate.

With such success come responsibility, and our new Honors Program, initiated this fall with 31 freshmen, is founded on that principle. I am excited by this new initiative and the inclusive nature of the events being implemented. Students enrolled in our Honors Program are charged with encouraging fellow undergraduates in the College of Business to participate in honors activities while at Illinois. With this guiding principle, all undergraduates can benefit from the new program, not just the students in the honors cohort.

Students and parents alike recognize that attending Illinois is a smart investment that pays dividends throughout a graduate’s career. A degree from the College of Business translates into a significant advantage in future earnings potential. We’re committed to delivering an undergraduate experience that prepares our students for the promise of a bright future.

## ***Conversations with Leaders***

Real life, real challenges, real solutions. Conversations with Leaders, a series of discussions with successful local, regional, and national alumni across a range of industries and companies, gives undergraduates the opportunity to hear about current business challenges and their solutions. A recent gift from Jeane Erley established the Richard A. Erley Leadership Development Program that will fund expansion of the Conversation with Leaders series and add an on-site study program giving students the opportunity to visit national and international firms for on-the-job experiences in a variety of business fields.

## ***Honors Program***

Launched this fall, the College of Business Honors Program is designed to develop high-potential students into strong business leaders who excel intellectually and who recognize their responsibility to serve. Students enrolled in the Honors Program will network with undergraduates not in the program to encourage participation in honors, leadership, international, and technology programs available in the College and at the University. The mentorship program will teach students to rely on each other for support and advice, building leadership skills and a lifelong network of friends and colleagues.

For more information about the Honors Program, visit [www.business.uiuc.edu/undrgrad/Prospective/Honors.htm](http://www.business.uiuc.edu/undrgrad/Prospective/Honors.htm).



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