

TO: Illinois High School Guidance Counselors and Mathematics Teachers

FROM: Dr. Krzysztof M. Ostaszewski, FSA, CERA, FSAS, CFA, MAAA
Actuarial Program Director, Illinois State University

DATE: January 2018

SUBJECT: Midwest High School Scholars Analytics Academy for Underrepresented Groups

Illinois State University will be conducting the 23rd annual Midwest High School Scholars Analytics Academy for Underrepresented Groups **Sunday, July 8, 2018 through Friday, July 13, 2018**. This program is designed for 20 to 25 African-American, Hispanic-American, and Native-American students who excel in mathematics, enjoy learning, and like to solve problems. As someone who is in daily contact with promising, above average high school students who have a passion for mathematics and an appetite for knowledge, we invite you to help us identify these students.

The program will be conducted on the campus of Illinois State University, a Center of Actuarial Excellence. It is intended to help students decide if an actuarial career is a way that they can use their mathematical abilities. Students will learn what actuaries do, where they work, what they have in common, and how they can become an actuary. Guest speakers and field trips are planned so that the students can meet actuaries and observe how actuaries use math in their daily work.

The students who are selected attend the program free of charge. We only ask that they pay a \$25 registration fee, which is refunded to them after the program. The program covers all costs, including meals, lodging on campus, field trips, and also provides a stipend of \$175 (plus a refund of their \$25 registration fee for a total of \$200) to each student to help defray transportation and any out-of-pocket expenses.

The enclosed flyer describes the purpose of the program and the benefits each student will receive as a result of their participation. We ask you to display the flyer in your office where your students will see it. Interested students should complete an application and submit it along with a letter of recommendation from a mathematics teacher or principal and a grade transcript. The application is available online at www.KatieSchool.org/mhssaa.

The selection process will begin on April 1, 2018, and will continue until 20 to 25 qualified applicants are accepted. All applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 1, 2018.

Please encourage your students who enjoy mathematics, are self-motivated achievers who get results, and who know how to lead others, to apply for the scholarship. Please note that we also offer a program for the general population of students, Redbird Risk Management Challenge, described here:

<http://katieforms.cob.ilstu.edu/HSRiskManagement.asp>

We would love to see your students in both of our programs.

23rd Annual Midwest High School Scholars Analytics Academy for Underrepresented Groups

at Illinois State University
July 8th – July 13th, 2018!

A program designed especially for academically talented African-American, Latino, and Native American high school students who excel in mathematics, enjoy learning, and like to solve business problems using data.

Students who have a passion for mathematics, business, and computer science who have an interest in problem solving may have what it takes to have a career in analytics. The week long program helps explain what business careers are available for students with quantitative, problem-solving skills. The students will meet and talk with people who work in analytics areas and learn how they may be able to apply their skills to these professions.

BENEFITS

During the program, the students will:

- Gain an understanding of what kinds of analytics is performed in the insurance and financial services industries
- Acquire knowledge of how they can use their mathematical ability in a various careers in the insurance and financial services industry
- Do hands-on work in business analysis and data visualization while on campus
- Develop personal contacts with industry professionals and organizations that provide scholarships, internships, summer jobs, and mentors to help guide their careers
- Find out about careers such as actuary, business analyst, market analyst, data scientist, and other related professions.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Midwest High School Scholars Analytics Academy for Underrepresented Groups provides, at no cost, on-campus room and board, field trips, and career information materials for students selected to attend the program.

Each student also receives a \$200 stipend to cover transportation and incidental expenses. Special scholarship opportunities available in Illinois State University's

Actuarial Program and Risk Management and Insurance Program. Alumni of this program are eligible for a one-time \$500 scholarship upon enrollment in actuarial science or insurance at Illinois State University, or a one-time \$300 scholarship to study another quantitative analytics field (e.g. statistics) at Illinois State. A one-time \$100 scholarship is available for alumni of the program who enroll in a recognized program of study of actuarial science or risk management and insurance in another college of their choice. We also offer a one-time \$100 scholarship to a student who finishes the program, when this student passes, for the first time, a professional actuarial examination offered by the Society of Actuaries and/or the Casualty Actuarial Society.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Tour the Illinois State University campus
- Hear professionals explain what they do
- Take field trips to companies
- Learn software and do data analysis using business data
- Learn about Illinois State University's actuarial science and insurance programs and scholarships for minority students

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Enrollment is limited to 20-21 students. The applications will be available online at: <http://business.illinoisstate.edu/katie/outreach/minority.shtml>. Completed applications, including a letter of recommendation from the student's mathematics, business, or computer science teacher or principal and a grade transcript, must be submitted by April 1, 2018, to be considered for a scholarship to the program. Preference will be given to students who excel in mathematics, enjoy being intellectually challenged, and receive a lot of satisfaction out of applying their analytical skills to solve problems. We expect to be able to notify all applicants of their status by May 1, 2018.

INSURANCE AND ACTUARIAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Illinois State University offers a risk management and insurance major and minor in the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Law in the College of Business. The major requires 24 semester hours and the minor 18 semester hours of coursework in life and health, property and liability, risk management, and financial planning. A major in actuarial science is offered through the Department of Mathematics. The curriculum prepares graduates to work in the insurance industry or as consultants dealing with the risk analysis of potential loss exposures. Insurance and actuarial

science students also have an opportunity to complete an internship during their junior and/or senior years.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1857, Illinois State University is a public, coeducational, residential university serving more than 20,000 students. It is located in Normal, midway between Chicago and St. Louis, at the intersection of Interstate highways I-74, I-39, and I-55. The twin-city Bloomington-Normal area has a population of more than 100,000 and offers a variety of educational activities, programs and services for students. Major employers include State Farm Insurance and Country Insurance and Financial Services, where students will take field trips to observe actuaries at work as part of the Midwest High School Scholars Actuarial Academy for Underrepresented Groups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the program, please contact us at:

Illinois State University
Actuarial Science Program – MHSSAA
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Or visit our website at <http://business.illinoisstate.edu/katie/outreach/minority.shtml>.

Presented by
Casualty Actuarial Society, Society of Actuaries,
State Farm Insurance Companies, COUNTRY Financial, Willis Towers Watson, and
Pinnacle Actuarial Resources,
The Travelers Companies, and AIG.



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