

An aerial photograph of a university campus at dusk. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun, which casts long shadows across the green lawns and winding paths. In the foreground, a large, dark, abstract sculpture with several curved, petal-like shapes stands on a circular base. Numerous students are seen walking and cycling along the paths, adding a sense of activity and life to the scene. In the background, several large, multi-story buildings with classic architectural features, including a prominent tower with a pointed roof, are visible against the darkening sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a vibrant, active academic environment.

**Learn how your** Engineering  
Visionary Scholarship  
**support is making a  
difference**





When the pandemic hit in the spring semester of 2020, we quickly realized the coming academic year would be unlike any other. Our instructors and students pivoted from exclusively in-person teaching and learning to hybrid and virtual lessons and advising. Most students came back to campus, but others learned from their homes domestically and abroad. During a time like no other in our recent history, your Engineering Visionary Scholarship (EVS) support has been vital to the success of our students.

Your generosity will continue to be imperative to our ability to provide for our students into the future. Because of you, hundreds of students become Grainger Engineers every year.

## How does my EVS support impact engineering students?

You are a part of a community of donors whose cumulative support has been invested in an endowment that provides the most flexible scholarship funding for our students. Over 2,500 Engineering Visionary Scholarships (EVS) have been awarded to Grainger Engineers since the inception of the EVS Initiative in July 2012.

Thanks to you, larger scholarships can be distributed more consistently to students every year. For example, our top scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year is \$15,000 per year for four years. This size of scholarship support was offered to more of our students than the previous academic year and currently covers about 40% of an in-state student's cost of attendance. With continued support from our alumni and friends, we will be able to provide more substantial scholarship packages to our most promising students.

### EVS DONOR COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

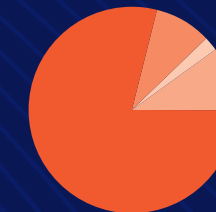


EVS support has come from donors across 14 countries



EVS donors range in age from 21 to 98 years old

### WHO GIVES?



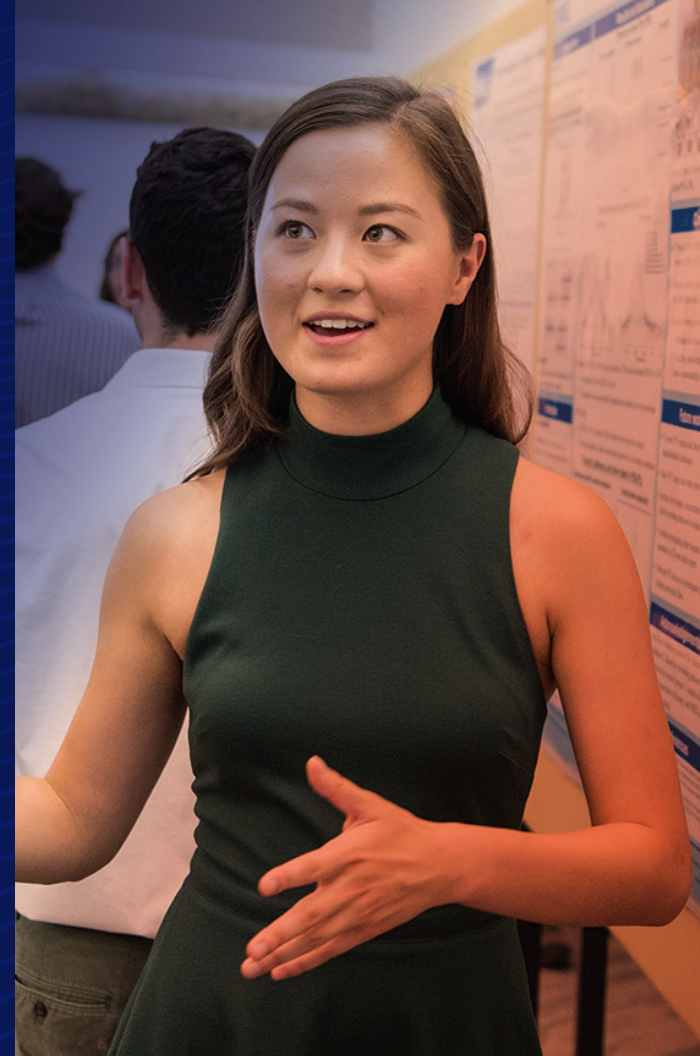
- Alumni - **79%**
- Friends of the college - **10%**
- Businesses - **9%**
- Faculty/staff/current students - **2%**

## Your contribution to EVS helps students like Amanda discover their passions and reach their potential

*"This scholarship allows me to reduce the amount of loans that I have to take out for college, worry less about finances, and helps me focus more on school, despite everything else happening in the world.*

*Although I still work part-time, I was able to reduce hours and participate in additional research opportunities during this school year which has been a very big part of my Grainger Engineering experience. I wanted to become an engineer to help develop solutions to our climate crisis. I chose materials science so that I can be at the forefront of research pertaining to advanced energy technology such as hybrid and organic solar cells."*

**Amanda Loutris**, current Grainger Engineer, EVS recipient



### Did my gift make a difference?

Yes! Gifts to EVS of all sizes are pooled and endowed, maximizing our ability to flexibly distribute ample scholarship awards. **In fact, more than half of EVS gifts are \$100 or less – proving every gift can transform the student experience.** Your generosity directly supports our students and impacts our ability to recruit and retain the most promising engineers, scientists, physicians, business leaders, and problem-solvers.

### How have Engineering Visionary Scholarships supported Grainger Engineers during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Your contribution to Engineering Visionary Scholarships allows the college to put our students first. There have been many unknowns during the pandemic but the consistent support of EVS funds have helped immeasurably. While some of the non-EVS funds that comprise our scholarship budget tightened due to the pandemic, we were able to make up the difference thanks to the flexibility of EVS. Your support was essential to ensuring none of our existing scholarship students lost or saw a decrease in funding and allowed us to remain competitive to potential incoming students.

### How long will Engineering Visionary Scholarships be available to students?

The EVS fund will continue to grow into perpetuity and has already helped us address formerly unanticipated needs. Alumni and friends of the college can continue to give to EVS into the future to help generations of Grainger Engineers.



JULY 2012

### Engineering Visionary Scholarship Initiative (EVS) Begins

EVS was established due to the need for pooled, unrestricted scholarship support – a critical tool necessary to attract and retain highly qualified students, regardless of their background.

JULY 2013

EVS helped double\* the total scholarship endowment to over \$57M

A generous \$30M gift was given by The Grainger Foundation to jump start the Engineering Visionary Scholarship Initiative

JANUARY 2017

### The Grainger Matching Challenge Begins



MAY 2018

**Edgar Mejia, Grainger Engineering student**  
*"I am really thankful for being awarded the Engineering Visionary Scholarship. This scholarship allows me to spend more time on my studies instead of working, so I can continue studying which otherwise would not be possible. Someday I will help students like myself who do not have all the resources but are highly motivated."*

DECEMBER 2019

### The Grainger Matching Challenge Concludes

Thanks to the commitment from The Grainger Foundation and our donors, the total scholarship endowment more than quadrupled\* to nearly \$119M

\* Compared to before EVSI began (FY12)

JULY 2021

Thanks to your support, 50% of scholarship funding available to undergraduate students now comes from EVS support.

### Edgar Mejia, Grainger Engineer



*"After graduating in 2018, I was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to research the upcycling of plastic waste into material for 3D printing in the United Arab Emirates. Once I concluded with the program, I stayed in the country to pursue a master's degree in materials science at Khalifa University. I graduated with high honors this summer, and I will go back to my alma mater to continue my studies. This Fall, I will start my Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor Nancy Sottos. I will be working on the sustainability aspect of Frontal Polymerization, a technique for rapid and energy-efficient manufacturing of materials.*

*Receiving the Engineering Visionary Scholarship allowed me to access opportunities that had*

*a significant and long-lasting impact on my life. Since the age of 18, I have been entirely independent economically. When I started my studies at a community college in Chicago, I used to work two jobs while attending college. However, when I transferred to UIUC, having financial support from scholarships reduced my outside workload. Thanks to this, I looked for paid research opportunities in my field of interest.*

*Thank you to the donors who allowed me to discover my full potential and passion for sustainable materials. I believe that my case is not unique; there is a lot of untapped potential that might never be found. Therefore, it is imperative to continue supporting such programs."*

► Read more about Edgar and hear from other EVS recipients at [go.grainger.illinois.edu/EVSImpactStories](https://go.grainger.illinois.edu/EVSImpactStories)



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of Engineering**

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