

DeVry University's Commitment to the Public Good

DeVry University is driven by a mission to help bridge the gap between students' academic and professional careers. We prepare learners to thrive, providing an education crafted with exceptional care, innovative programs and technological advancements in mind.

We apply this same level of care to our commitment to the public good. We are dedicated to serving the public, helping provide access to higher education, partnering with other organizations to address emerging talent needs and helping prepare students for the working world.

Following are some of the ways we proudly support our mission to do what's best for the community at large:

- [Helping Provide Access to Higher Education with the Illinois Board of Higher Education](#)
- [DeVry University Advantage Academy](#)
- [Community Educational Service](#)
- [Charitable Services](#)
- [Responsible Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Support for Voting Rights and Registration](#)

Helping Provide Access to Higher Education with the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Proprietary Advisory Committee

The [Illinois Board of Higher Education](#) Proprietary Advisory Committee (IBHE PAC) consists of member institutions in higher education. These institutions are dedicated to serving a diverse student base in an effort to help provide equal access to higher education.

As a member of the IBHE PAC, DeVry University is committed to supporting the state's goal of 60 **by 25**, helping 60% of adults in Illinois earn a college or career credential by 2025. DeVry serves on the PAC to help forge new opportunities in higher education. Paula Ure, DeVry's dean of accreditation and academic quality, volunteers her time to support a variety of student-focused initiatives, including those that help students address readiness in math and English, support dual credit and collect data to assess student needs. This service helps improve access to higher education for students in Illinois.

IBHE PAC members represent six Illinois degree-granting institutions, according to the [June 2024 IBHE PAC Institution Impact Report](#), and are committed to serving a diverse student population and the needs of various communities in Illinois and beyond.

“Serving on the PAC and supporting the work of IBHE is of critical importance to pave the way for more equitable and accessible educational opportunities for our students,” said Dean Ure. “I’m proud of the work we do, serving on a committee for IBHE and being part of a larger mission to help deliver higher education to the stakeholders we serve collectively – students, companies, public bodies and the general public.”

Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to the IBHE serves every institution in Illinois, including public and private schools, and for-profit institutions. The council advocates for 58,000 faculty members throughout the state in an effort to help provide access to high-quality education. The council continues to focus on key issues affecting faculty and students within higher education in Illinois. Specifically, council members participate in six working groups:

- Early College Credit Consideration
- Equity
- Faculty and Student Mental Health
- Higher Education Funding
- Prior Learning Assessment
- Technology in Higher Education

Since 2008, Dr. Shawn Schumacher, senior professor of English and humanities, has represented DeVry and volunteered his time to the FAC with the goal to improve access to education from birth to adulthood. Over the past three years, Dr. Schumacher has shared the FAC Annual Report at IBHE annual meetings. Additionally, he has presented to IBHE, via Public Comment, council members' perspectives and insights regarding equity in higher education and prior learning assessment

(PLA). Dr. Schumacher called upon the Board to convene a PLA Task Force and to further Early College Consideration, regarding Dual Credit and AP credit for incoming college students.

“The faculty council is a brain trust of members from organizations across the state that aims to provide students interested in higher education the means to afford it, then provide the best quality education possible,” said Dr. Schumacher. “Our goal is to create a better teaching and learning environment for all students. We extend our planning outside of the classroom by advocating for changes and education policy beneficial to faculty and students throughout the state.”

Supporting the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Act

Illinois’ [PWR Act](#) applies a competency-based approach to support Illinois students in preparing for postsecondary education and careers. To increase the number of high school graduates placed into college-level reading and communications courses without remediation, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) adopted the [Statewide Transitional English Course Parameters, Competencies, and Policies](#). The document guides partnerships needed between high schools and community colleges to implement transitional English instruction successfully.

To develop statewide competencies, ISBE, ICCB and IBHE convened a Competency Development Group of high school, community college and university administrators and English teachers/faculty, as well as state agency representatives. Contributing to the group was DeVry University Professor Michael Dufresne, from the University’s College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. “Collaboration of experts from high schools, colleges and state agencies across Illinois enabled each of us to contribute to the scaffolded support students need to progress successfully from secondary to postsecondary education and to workforce readiness. We continue meeting semiannually to guide additional school districts’ development of courses accepted across all Illinois community colleges and a growing number of four-year institutions,” said Professor Dufresne.

DeVry University Advantage Academy

Founded in partnership with Chicago Public Schools in 2004, DeVry University Advantage Academy (DUAA) is a dual enrollment program for qualified 11th and 12th grade students. Advantage Academy students can concurrently pursue their high school diploma and an Associate Degree in Information Technology & Networking from DeVry. The Chicago Advantage Academy is DeVry's largest and longest-standing DUAA program.

In addition to serving students in Chicago, DeVry's Advantage Academy also enables students attending Towers High School in Georgia to take college courses and pursue an Undergraduate Certificate in Programming Essentials while earning their high school diploma.

DUAA serves a diverse student body, including low-income students, English-language learners and those with individualized education programs. DeVry's Advantage Academy, designed to help students learn skills to bridge the gaps between high school and college and their future in the workforce, is offered at no cost to students. DeVry University, in partnership with the public school district, covers University tuition, and book and technology fees.

DeVry University is proud that:

- The 2023-2024 [U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Ranking](#) report indicates that in Illinois, DUAA has 86.7% minority enrollment. The report also indicates DUAA ranked 825th among 17,656 nationally ranked schools, 33rd among 724 Illinois high schools ranked, and 11th among Chicago Public High Schools.
- Based on the [Illinois School Report Card](#), DUAA has 100% four-year graduation rates for 2021 and 2022, and 97.5% for 2023. More than 80% of students graduating in 2021 pursued postsecondary education within 16 months of graduating, demonstrating efficacy in achieving the DUAA mission, which includes creating a community of empowered and independent learners in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.
- In 2023, DUAA earned the College Board's [AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award](#), which recognizes schools expanding young women's access to AP computer science classes and important steps they are taking to improve gender representation.
- In 2023, DUAA received the College Board's highest honor roll – [the AP Platinum Honor Roll](#). Only 4% of eligible Illinois schools earned the Platinum award. DUAA was also recognized with the AP Access Award, granted to institutions whose percentage of AP Exam takers who are underrepresented minority and/or low-income students mirrors the school's overall student demographics.
- In 2023, [Chicago Parent Magazine](#) included DUAA among the 25 Best Public High Schools in Chicago based on data from Niche. In Niche's 2025 rankings, DUAA also received top rankings, ranking [#10 Niche Standout High Schools in Illinois](#) and [#66 Niche Best Public High Schools in Illinois](#).
- In 2022, DUAA received the [Clayton County Board of Education Outstanding Services Award](#), highlighting DeVry's partnership with Riverdale High School in Georgia and its unwavering commitment to helping provide access and opportunity to high school students.

- DUAA received a [2021 Thrive Award](#) from GreatSchools.org. According to GreatSchools.org, schools that win Thrive Awards have better outcomes for student learning, college readiness and test scores.

Community Educational Service

DeVry is proud to share the experience and expertise of our faculty and administrators beyond the DeVry learning environment. To help other education institutions and local organizations, DeVry is:

- **Engaging Innovation:** The DeVry University Advantage Academy (DUAA) sponsors an ambitious Robotics Club that competes against nearly 50 other Chicago high schools. DUAA collaborates with other schools to create an atmosphere of continuous development and innovation as a fundamental part of this program.
- **Building STEM Outreach and Enthusiasm for Young Learners:** The Robotics Club shared its new robot as part of a demonstration program with high school students from the Schaumburg School District in Illinois. DUAA is presently in discussions with a grade school in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood for similar demonstration events, designed to build enthusiasm and interest among young students for the Robotics Club and, more importantly, for their own pursuits in science and technology.
- **Contributing to Local Organizations:** DUAA Professors Richard Dixon and Toshko Tzvetkov built upon their experience with younger students and used DUAA equipment to 3D-print a "marble raceway" that was presented to the Boys & Girls Club of South Elgin, Illinois. This outreach also connected with the grand opening celebration of the South Elgin Boys & Girls Club.
- **Illuminating Curiosity:** DeVry University SoCal IEEE student branch participated for the 7th consecutive year in the free and open-to-the-public Los Angeles Maker Faire, a Southern California celebration of science, making, creativity, invention and fun. Through an engaging, hands-on activity, the DeVry students taught young attendees principles of photocell technology by helping them create a night light using a photocell to control the on-off function.
- **Building Career Awareness:** DeVry University and Westlake High School in Atlanta, Georgia, collaborated on the high school's largest hackathon to bring awareness of skills needed to launch tech careers to underrepresented learners. DeVry professors and students guided the high schoolers to develop and use software to access operating systems, web platforms and video game algorithms. The event also helped the young students gain knowledge of careers they can pursue with education in IT, networking and cybersecurity.
- **Collaborating on a Sustainable STEM Curriculum:** In West Bengal, DeVry University Professor Mostafa Mortezaie has collaborated with instructors at Piyali Learning Center and Serampore College to establish a sustainable STEM curriculum using the IEEE TryEngineering.org website as a starting platform. The platform includes lesson plans for engineering projects appropriate for elementary school (grades K-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12), which match age groups at the center. Several hands-on projects will be conducted with the students and instructors as a pilot before a warm handoff.

Charitable Services

Care is at the core of DeVry University's values. We care for our students throughout their entire academic journey; we put thought and care into how we teach and put time and care into being active members of the community.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

DeVry University's involvement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) started in 2020 to support the BGCA's overall mission of college readiness, as well as its [Workforce Readiness](#) programs.

These programs "provide opportunities to explore careers and prepare youth with employability skills for future success," a goal that aligns with DeVry's mission to help students thrive. BGCA is doing whatever it takes to build great futures by providing innovative programs designed to:

- Empower those ages 6-16 to excel in school.
- Become good citizens and lead productive, healthy lives.
- Help explore their interests and passions.
- Develop their future employability skills.
- Provide opportunities to apply their knowledge to real-world work experiences via internships and apprenticeships.

DeVry continues to support these programs on an annual basis as one of the BGCA's corporate sponsors to help it continue to provide these opportunities for kids and teens as the next generation's future workforce.

In addition, DeVry has provided funding for a DeVry University STEM Lab located at the Boys & Girls Club in South Elgin, Illinois, the 5,000th Boys & Girls Club location. In The DeVry University STEM Lab, Club members have the opportunity to have hands-on experiences using technology and to learn cause and effect via engineering, physics and more in an age-appropriate approach.

DeVry University also fosters engagement among its administrators, faculty and staff to volunteer with the BGCA. In recent years, DeVry colleagues have participated as local and regional judges in the Club's annual Midwest Youth of the Year program, which recognizes young people for their outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to health and well-being. Through DeVry's Volunteer Time-Off program, DeVry colleagues and its various Business Resource Groups have volunteered at local Boys & Girls clubhouses and participated in panels and special events, among other volunteer efforts.

Responsible Artificial Intelligence

DeVry is a member of the [Content Authenticity Initiative](#) (CAI). CAI is a group of creators, technologists, journalists and other professionals working together to fight misinformation and provide meaningful and verifiable trust to digital content ranging from photo and video to provenance and attribution solutions. [CAI collaborators](#) include experts from Adobe, AP, BBC, Microsoft, The New York Times, Nvidia, Qualcomm, Reuters and more.

To promote transparency, CAI helps create, through open-source development, a system to attribute tools used and by whom.

Dr. Amy E. Harth, assistant dean of accreditation and academic quality, is a member of the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) Generative AI Public Working Group (GAI-PWG). GAI-PWG was established in 2023 to spearhead development of a cross-sector AI risk management framework (RMF) profile for managing risks associated with generative AI models or systems. This profile will enable robust use of the AI RMF to address risks of AI technologies. More than 2,300 public volunteers are actively collaborating to build four program areas for the profile:

- Governance
- Content Provenance
- Pre-deployment Testing
- Incident Disclosure

“As a humanities researcher, I’m grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on governance and content provenance requirements for responsible AI to help ensure ethics are a high priority as new technologies are developed and deployed,” said Dr. Harth.

DeVry’s service to the AI community complements its [Center for Cybersecurity](#) and the [AI Resource Center](#).

Support for Voting Rights and Registration

Prior to the 2020 elections, DeVry partnered with [HeadCount](#) to spread the word about voter registration and encourage our students and colleagues to become registered voters. We recognize our right to vote continues, which is why University communications to students and colleagues have encouraged participation in the 2024 election cycle.

