Happy to Help!
Supporting PaCE Implementation Through the ISACorps

Abel Montoya
Mission Statement

Providing Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable
ISACorps

• Near-peer model began in 2009
• Approximately 85 college grads of diverse backgrounds
• Live in the communities in which they work
• Majority are first gen and/or MAP recipients
ISACorps Structure

- State is broken up geographically by community college districts
- 1 – 3 Corps members per community college district
- 6 – 8 Community college districts per ISACorps Region
- 7 ISACorps Regions in Illinois
Corps Activities & Responsibilities

• Help students (and families) overcome academic, financial, and social barriers to higher education through presentations, workshops, and one-on-one mentoring
• Represent ISAC at college fairs, financial aid nights, conferences, and related events
• Provide presentations and conduct workshops on the college-going process
• Foster college-going culture in communities throughout Illinois
• Work with students one-on-one
Connecting with Corps Members

https://studentportal.isac.org/ISACorps

- Use zip code search to locate corps member nearest you
- View corps member’s contact information & other language spoken

ISACORPS
The ISACorps – making college a reality for students across Illinois.

ISACORPS | EVENTS | FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARS NETWORK

Connect with your local ISACorps Member

The ISACorps are here to help you through the college planning process. ISACorps members are recent college graduates from across the state that can help you with the ins and outs of selecting and applying to college, scholarship searches, FAFSA completion, and student financial aid. Meet with your local ISACorps member for free one-on-one assistance or at FREE college fairs and financial aid workshops in your community.

Do you have a passion for helping those in your community learn more about the college-going process? If so, the ISACorps are always looking for passionate college graduates that get excited about the idea of giving back to their community. For more details on how to become a part of the ISACorps team, check out our most recent job posting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Daron Maxey
community college district assigned to: JOIET JUNIOR COLLEGE  
(915) 677-8427

Denise Diaz
community college district assigned to: JOIET JUNIOR COLLEGE  
(815) 644-7566
Additional Language: Spanish
Outreach Events

https://studentportal.isac.org/Events

- Link to Outreach Request Form
- Use zip code search to find outreach events
- View event information
Requesting ISACorps Assistance

- You can work directly with a corps member to schedule a workshop, presentation, or outreach activity.
- Can submit an ISAC Outreach Request form to ISAC which is assigned to the nearest corps member.
  - Description of available ISACorps presentations and workshops are found on pages 2-4 of Outreach Request Form.
Workshops and Presentations are Grouped based on the PaCE Framework

Financial Aid & Literacy

The Financial Aid Process Presentation (45 minutes – 1 hour presentation) Available in English and Spanish
This session outlines the general financial aid process and provides insight on how financial aid works, how to apply for it, student eligibility, and how it can be used to help pay for college. It introduces the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, along with summarizing state and federal aid programs among other topics.

Financial Aid Application Completion Workshop – (seniors & college students; 1 – 1 1/2 hours)
During this workshop students will be able to get questions answered to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) for qualifying undocumented. These are the forms used to apply for financial aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant and/or the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP). Many colleges also use these forms to consider students for institutional money. Individuals should create an FSA ID at least three business days prior to the workshop to expedite the submission of the FAFSA. The FSA ID is also used to retrieve their tax and income information via the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Please note that the FSA ID is not used with the Alternative Application. Individuals should have information regarding their income and asset information readily available.

FSA ID Workshop – (juniors & seniors; approximately 45 min)
Attendees will be given information on how to obtain an FSA ID, and ISAC staff will be available to answer individual questions and troubleshoot any issues. An FSA ID is required for an individual to sign the FAFSA electronically and to electronically transfer to the FAFSA the income and tax information submitted to the IRS. Using an FSA ID will expedite the completion and submission of a FAFSA and can be created by all students and parents with a social security number.

FAFSA Follow-Up – (sos; approx. 30 minutes)
Many students and their families have additional questions after completing the FAFSA. This presentation addresses what happens after a FAFSA is completed, including the SAR (Student Aid Report), completing the verification process, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, reviewing financial aid offers from colleges using ISAC’s interactive tool, how financial aid is disbursed, and addressing extenuating circumstances.

College Knowledge Jeopardy – (freshmen through seniors; approx. 60 minutes)
This presentation is meant to motivate students to go to college and teach them more about the process. Presented in an engaging multimedia format, this activity is available in two difficulty tiers: beginner and expert. Topics include paying for college, types of colleges, college admissions, and picking a major.

Postsecondary Education, Exploration, Preparation & Selection

College is Possible (middle school students & parents; 45 minutes to 1 hour) Available in English and Spanish
It is never too early to start planning for college. This presentation outlines the college and financial aid processes in general terms, lays the groundwork for what to expect with the college-going process, and provides tips and tools students and parents can use to learn more about planning, applying, and paying for a postsecondary education.

Welcome to High School - (8th graders, freshmen, and sophomores; approx. 30 minutes)
This presentation introduces 8th graders, freshmen, and sophomores to the importance of high school and how to make the most of it to prepare for college. Students will learn the important basic information about college, as well as how they can prepare for college academically and socially during high school.

College Application Process - (juniors and seniors; approx. 45 minutes)
Applying to colleges can be daunting. Through this presentation, juniors and seniors will learn the ins and outs of the college application process, including typical components of college applications, the timeline and logistics of the college application process, tips on personal statements/essays, and basic financial aid information. Students will also learn about helpful resources they can use to prepare for standardized tests often required for college admissions.

College Application Workshop – (seniors and college students; 1 – 1 1/2 hours)
ISAC has partnered with the American College Application Campaign to promote applying to college in a timely fashion. As part of this campaign, Corps members will assist students with completing college applications to the college(s) of their choice. Schools are encouraged to work with ISAC staff to hold other activities, such as college essay workshops.

Career Exploration & Development

Claim Your Future – (middle school through seniors; 30 – 60 minutes)
This interactive activity encourages exploration of education and training after high school, future careers, and money management. Ideal for groups of 30 or smaller.

Connect the Dots - (8th graders, freshmen, and sophomores; approx. 45 minutes, in-person event)
In a presentation and engaging career activity, students connect post-secondary education with career options. The brief presentation introduces students to ways they can identify their interests and explore related careers, and the basics of post-secondary education, including how to prepare in high school.
Corps Driven Initiatives

- College Changes Everything Campaign (CCE)
  - College Application Completion Workshop
  - Financial Aid Application Workshop
  - ISAC provides promotional materials to CCE Sites
- First Generation Scholars Network (FGSN)
  - Assists first gen students with transitioning to college from senior year in HS through first year in college
  - Connects first gen students with each other
  - Provides support and outreach activities over the summer
  - Assists students with FAFSA or Alternative Application completion in fall of 1st year in college
Supporting FGSN

- High school counselors & staff can host events aimed at first gen students
- High schools and community based organizations can encourage their students to join FGSN
- Colleges can partner with ISAC to ensure students get connect to campus resources
Let Us Know How We Can Help

- Corps members can help support implementation of the PaCE framework
- Corps members are available to conduct events and presentations in the evenings and/or weekends
- Many corps members are bilingual
- Can help increase your FAFSA completion rate
We’re Hiring!

- Looking for recent college grads passionate about helping others
- Two-year commitment
- $35,604 salary
- Health & retirement benefits
- Tuition waiver at public universities
- Openings throughout the state

www.isac.org/jointhecorps
Thank You