



*From Wall Street Journal, April 6, 2010 – Opinion Page  
The Case for Common Educational Standards  
by Craig Barrett, former CEO of Intel Corp.*

“The world has changed considerably in the past century,  
and our education system must keep pace.

**In 1959**, 60% of all jobs were classified as “unskilled”  
and available to those with high-school diplomas or less,  
according to research published by the Education Testing Services.

**Now** more than 80% of jobs are “skilled,”  
requiring education and training beyond high school,  
according to research, published by the Brookings Institution. For example, to work on the  
manufacturing floor at Intel today, an employee must have an Associate’s Degree or higher.”

# State of Illinois Current Graduation Standards

2010

(i.e., students entering as ninth-graders in school year 2006-07)

- Math of **3 years**: 1 year must be Algebra I and 1 year must be a course that includes geometry content.
- Writing of **2 years**: 1 year must be an English course and 1 year may be provided as a part of any course offered.
- Language Arts of **3 years**: no content specified.
- Science **of 1 year**: no content specified.
- Social Studies of **2 years**: must include 1 year of U.S. history or combination of U.S. history and American government.
- Arts or Foreign Language of **1 year**: includes art, music, foreign language, or vocational education

# Statistics on our Champaign-Urbana Students...

We know that our 2009 Graduates from our local public high schools have done well:

- **Approx. 60% of our 797 High School Grads meet or exceed the CUScholars Course of Study in both school districts**

We believe we can support this good effort and encourage more students to complete a more rigorous program than what is required by our state standards for graduation giving them more options upon graduation.

We believe that all of our students have the potential to be CUScholars!



## OUR MISSION

The CUScholars Program

RECRUITS, RETAINS, and CELEBRATES

our Unit 4 and District 116 public school students who choose to participate in the program by completing established benchmarks of excellence that prepare them for success in a global society.

*To Better Prepare our Students on  
College and Workplace Entry, we offer the following  
CUScholars Core Requirements\*:*

- 4 years of English, including writing;
- 4 years of math
- 3 years of laboratory science;
- social sciences currently required by school;
- 2 years of the same foreign language other than English.

\*based on the *State Scholars Initiative* model



# CUScholars BASICS

Academic Rigor	Summer Programs	Attendance	Civic Engagement/ Volunteer Service	Healthy Lifestyle/ Physical Fitness
<p>BEYOND minimum State of Illinois Graduation Requirements</p> <p><b>English</b> 4 Years</p> <p><b>Math</b> 4 years</p> <p><b>Science</b> 3 years</p> <p><b>Social Studies</b> Required by school</p> <p><b>Foreign Language</b> 2 Years</p>	<p>Participation in CUScholars recognized programs</p>	<p>School attendance rate of 95% or better.</p>	<p>Participation in school extracurricular club or community activity. (Part-time employment or volunteer work in the community may be counted particularly if employer can document civic or leadership within the workplace.)</p>	<p>Participation beyond state physical education requirement will be encouraged to reinforce healthy lifestyle choices.</p>

**CUScholars candidates are required to participate in a CUScholars recognized summer program after every high school year.**

<p><b>Summer Following 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>	<p>Summer Conference: Action Plan Development and Post-secondary program discovery.</p>
<p><b>Summer Following 10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>	<p>Summer Enrichment Programs including existing programs such as college camps, Parkland College for Kids, drama/music/art camps, athletic camps, college testing prep classes, College of Education enrichment, park district programs, foreign travel programs and employment/community options.</p>
<p><b>Summer Following 11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>	<p>Summer Enrichment Programs including <b><u>internships</u></b>, <b><u>college application support</u></b>, <b><u>apprenticeships</u></b>, <b><u>employment options</u></b> and <b><u>Parkland Dual Credit Program</u></b> (can carry into academic year).</p>
<p><b>Summer Following 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p>	<p>Recognition banquet and public recognition for CUScholars Graduates.</p>

# CU Scholars



## FOR ALL STUDENTS...

- Opportunities for the **struggling learner**;
- Opportunities for **kids who want to be more involved**;
- Opportunities for the **gifted and talented**;
- **School to employment**;
- **College bound**

# How Does Our Community Benefit?

- **Students will have:** Better opportunities, positive recognition, possible scholarship, employment, and college preparation;
- **Business will have:** Proven, prepared, responsible work-force;
- **Parents will have:** Clarification of opportunities available to and support for their children;
- **Counselors will have:** Support for student success from the community through the CUScholars program, by helping to fit student to post-secondary choices;
- **Community-at-Large will have:** Assurance that our students are being prepared for post-high school choices – college, apprenticeships, employment with proof of effectiveness.

**Spring 2010**

Business-Education Summit on May 5, 2010

**January 2011**

Sign-up first class – recruit 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to begin Fall 2011

**NO Summer 2011 Program**

**January 2012**

Sign-up second class - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to begin Fall 2012

**Summer 2012**

Summer Enrichment for first class

**January 2013**

Sign-up third class - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to begin Fall 2013

**Summer 2013**

Summer Enrichment for first and second classes

**January 2014**

Sign-up fourth class - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to begin Fall 2014

**Summer 2014**

Summer Enrichment for first three classes

**Summer 2015**

Celebration for FIRST CUScholars Graduates  
Summer Enrichment for second, third and fourth classes.

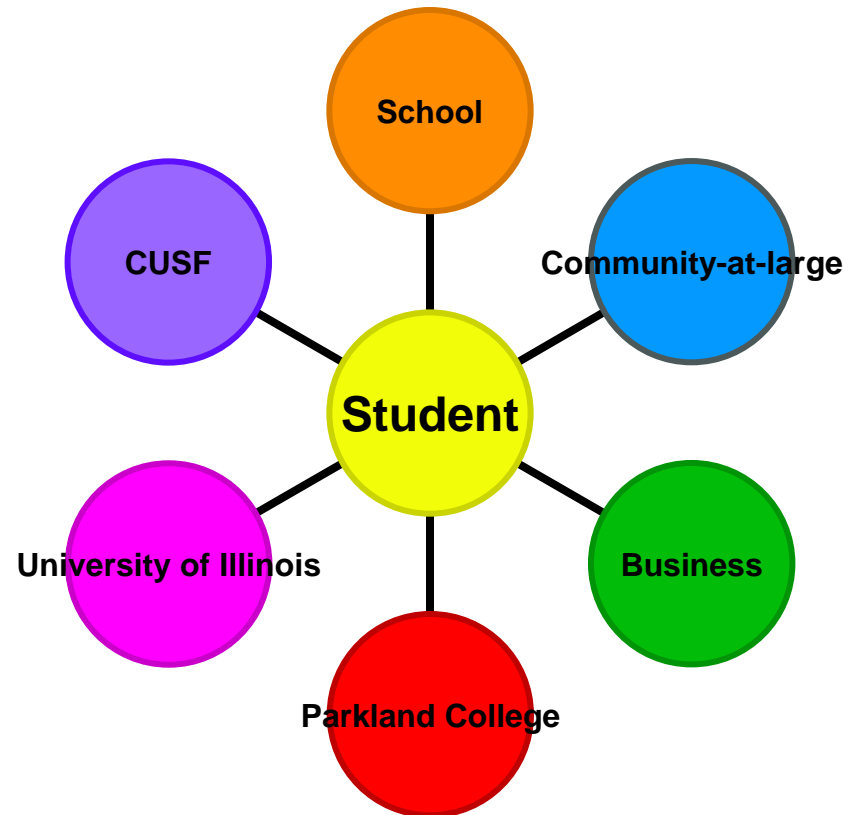
**Ongoing**

Provide support and encouragement to all CUScholars candidates.



# Who will make it happen?

- **Districts** encourage and support students in CUScholars Core and provide classes and opportunities for career exploration;
- **CUSF** facilitates program monitoring, extracurricular programs and student recognition;
- **Business** recruits and inspires CU Scholar candidates; provides internships and career skills (interviewing and resume help);
- **U of I** provides access to quality programs;
- **Parkland College** provides access to quality programs;
- **Community** provides support and resources for scholarships and programs.



We have:

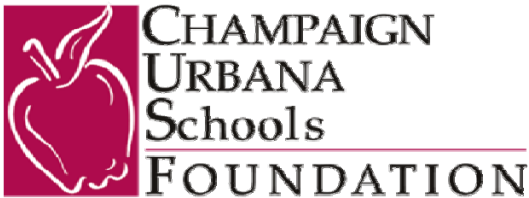
- Endorsements/Commitments from the Boards of Education and District Administrations;
- Implementation Plan for years 1 – 5;
- Staff Time, Permanent CUSF Committee, Advisory Committee

## What Can YOU do to help us move Forward?

- Additional Vocal Endorsements/INPUT from the Community;
- Business Volunteers for Classroom visits;
- Provide Support Resources/Partnerships:
  - Monetary: operating \$, registration fees, internships, prizes
  - Planning Time: sub-committees for event planning, summer programming, classroom visits, student training
  - Volunteer with students

# IMPORTANT Feedback...so far

- This raises the bar for our community
- We need a higher requirement for attendance than this proposal suggests
- We need the 4<sup>th</sup> year of math required for CUScholars
- We need a grade point average for CUScholars
- Money is tight right now
- Private and parochial students will need to fit in
- We must have the business partnerships for success
- Parent support is key
- CUScholars values every student
- It's just "another program"
- Start earlier!
- Need student volunteer infrastructure



#### 2009-2010 CUScholars Founding Committee

- **Avijit Ghosh, Co-Chair, University of Illinois, Vice President of Technology and Economic Development**
- **Victor Mullins, Co-Chair, University of Illinois, Associate Dean, College of Business, CUSF Board**
- Marc Changnon, Unit 4 Schools, Education to Careers Program
- Brian Kelly, Congressman Tim Johnson's Office
- Sean McLaughlin, District Coordinator Education to Careers and Professions Program
- Anne Scott Robertson, University of Illinois, College of Education, Bureau of Research
- Gail Rost, Executive Director, Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation
- Beth Shepperd, Unit 4 Schools, Asst. Superintendent
- Laura Taylor, Unit 116 Schools, Principal, Urbana High School
- Joan Walls, Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation, Board of Directors
- Kristine Young, VP Parkland College, Academic Services

#### 2010 CUSF CUScholars Advisory Committee

- **Chair, Avijit Ghosh, VP Technology & Economic Dev, U of I Administration**
- Susan Abbott, community volunteer
- Donald Agin, General Manager, Herff Jones Cap and Gown Division
- Karen Foster, City of Champaign Council Member
- Brian Holding, CEO Human Kinetics
- Lisa Monda-Amaya, Director, Center for Education for Small Urban Communities, U I
- Victor Mullins, CUScholars Working Committee Co-Chair
- Dorland Norris, Champaign Unit 4
- Janet Ottmers, Vice-President, Horizon Hobby, Inc.
- Don Owen, Urbana District 116
- Chris Shroyer, CEO, First Busey
- Laura Weiss, CEO, Champaign County Chamber
- Kent Williamson, 2010-2011 CUSF Chair
- Kris Young, Vice President, Academic Services

We also have a Working Committee comprised of 15 community members pulling together the details of the program.

There are 6 subcommittees working to refine the work of the Founding Committee to prepare for program launch in January 2011 with the Class of 2015.



