

Summary

The University of Illinois at Springfield's enrollment of minority students as a percentage of all students increased from 10.3% in Fall 1996 to a 10-year high of 11.0% in Fall 1997. The range of the total number of African American enrollments during the 10-year period was 219 in 1988 (5.6% of total enrollments) to 343 (7.4%) in 1996. Hispanic students numbered 58 (1.3%) in Fall 1997, a 10-year high and more than three times the 19 students enrolling in 1987. Almost two-thirds of undergraduate students and more than three-fifths of graduate students at UIS are female.

UIS used hiring opportunities this year to address underrepresentation of women on its faculty. Considering non-returning faculty from 1997-98, the net result of this hiring was the addition of seven women permanently assigned to positions with faculty rank (which includes the director of the new Doctor of Public Administration program) while the number of men on the faculty stayed the same.

The campus has recently approved funding of \$25,000 per year for three years to establish its first formal mentoring program, the Minority Scholars Mentorship Program (MSMP).

The relatively new Disability Services unit worked this year with UIUC to refine and enhance its service delivery. It also worked with Lincoln Land Community College to develop a process to allow students with disabilities to transfer from LLCC to UIS with the assurance that accommodations will be in place before the beginning of the entry semester.

The Minority Leadership in Public Service Program (MLPS) advances the campus' mission by providing access to higher education for minority students who wish to pursue a program of study that leads to a career in public service. A comparison of graduation rates shows that MLPS students graduate at a higher rate than all students at UIS.

The Whitney M. Young Fellowship Program is aimed at increasing opportunities in graduate education for highly self-motivated African American, Hispanic American, and Native American citizens. It has been operating successfully for four years, with a persistence rate for those years of 62.5%.