Engaging ACES alumni through the ACES Alumni Association benefits the College of ACES community and its stakeholders in many ways. Involved and supportive ACES alumni are important to college communications and marketing, student recruitment, current student engagement, graduate placement, departmental advising and support, development and fundraising activities, and more. Programming support for the ACES Alumni Association allows the opportunity for committed alumni to help cultivate important relationships among alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, and other friends of the college. These activities underline making Illinois “A University of Distinction” with a lasting, sustainable impact on future generations in the College of ACES.

**OPPORTUNITY:**

The College of ACES Alumni Association supports the College of ACES through a strategic plan process to provide alumni engagement, awards and recognition, student engagement, and student recruitment support. Through support of ACES Alumni Association programming efforts, more alumni will be able to reconnect and be engaged with the college. This increase in engagement provides an opportunity to cultivate relationship pipelines from prospective students to current students to alumni and donors, and other friends of the college. ACES alumni have strong ties and unequalled feelings of pride regarding the college and can serve as a resource to cultivate the pipeline of prospective students and donors.

The ACES Alumni Board of Directors can be a trained group of alumni that support ongoing fundraising efforts for alumni programming as an extension of the ACES advancement staff, providing for a deeper leadership and engagement opportunity.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

With the decrease of state funding and annual funding from the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the College of ACES Alumni Association seeks a stable funding source to support programs related to their strategic goals of alumni engagement, student engagement, student recruitment, and awards and recognition. Program support will allow the ACES Alumni Association to both continue and enhance its alumni and student engagement activities including ACES in Places alumni events, ACES Family Academies for alumni and their young family members, ACES alumni awards and recognition program, ACES Tassel Turn for graduating seniors, ACES Student Advancement Committee that builds student leadership skills, valuable student intern opportunities, and more.
The College of ACES Alumni Association seeks to increase the ACES Alumni Association Unrestricted Fund to replace decreasing state funds and provide a stable source of income to continue the College of ACES outreach efforts.

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