35 Chicagans Will Live On Campus
NU Gives Boost To Underprivileged Students

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Thirty-five graduating seniors from 17 Chicago high schools in disadvantaged, inner-city neighborhoods will participate in a special education and training program this summer at Northwestern University before joining the incoming freshman class in the fall.

The program — called the Northwestern University Chicago Action Project — was announced today by University President J. Roscoe Miller. Dr. Miller said the year-long program will be financed by a $20,000 grant from the Waboldt Foundation.

The students, who are academically talented but culturally disadvantaged, will live on the Evanston campus of the University beginning July 5 while pursuing a 6-week pre-college enrichment program consisting of:

1. A formal academic schedule of classes stressing verbal, reading, and quantitative skills.
2. An informal program of cultural, counseling, athletic, and social activities on campus and in the Chicago area.
3. A work-study assignment on the Evanston campus of 12 hours a week to provide each student with money to meet incidental expenses during the summer.

In the fall, instead of the usual four freshman courses, the students will take three freshman courses and a special seminar which will serve as a continuation of the summer enrichment program.

After progress in their ability to handle college work, the students will be encouraged to substitute a fourth course for the seminar.

The 21 boys and 14 girls in the Chicago Action Project are graduates of the following Chicago high schools: Carver, Central YMCA, Jane, Englewood, Farragut, Ferguson, Hales, Harpur, Hirsch, Marshall, Lake Technical, Lindblom, Lyons, Ogden, Phillips, South Shore, and Walter.

"We believe," said President Miller, "that following this summer enrichment program and one academic year at the University, these students will be able to perform as well, if not better than, the average Northwestern student during his sophomore year.

"Without special preparation, however, admitting students from disadvantaged backgrounds would likely result in failure for both the students and the University." President Miller said the results of the University's Chicago Action Project will provide valuable information about the motivation and achievement of the disadvantaged student and guidelines for recruiting such students for admission to the University in the future.

The Northwestern University Chicago Action Project was developed by William I. Hinsfeldt, director of financial aid in the University's Admission Office.

"The present socio-economic composition of Northwestern's student body tends to be quite homogenous," said Hinsfeldt. "Recent federal legislation makes it financially possible for the University to seek a more heterogeneous student body than we have been able to recruit in the past. The Chicago Action Project is in this direction."

Admission Director Roland Hinzel emphasized that "these are not run-of-the-mill students. They are carefully selected who have academic ability well above the average high schooler. Most are in the top quarter of their graduating class and some are among the top ten students in their school. They also have a very high level of motivation."

"But," said Hinzel, "because of personal circumstances and difficult conditions in their environment, they are culturally disadvantaged compared to our other students. And without the special enrichment program we have planned for them in the Chicago Action Project, they would probably not be able to meet the academic demands of the University nor weather the psychological pressures of college life."

The staff of the Admission Office of the University has been working since last summer to locate and select the students for the program, Hinzel said. From the hundreds of students originally screened, 190 were encouraged to apply for the Chicago Action Project. Of these, 130 are being admitted to the freshman class of the University as members of the Project.

Dean Extends Welcome To Ambitious Students

Summer Session Dean William C. Bradford threw out the welcome mat for students ambitious enough to register for the summer session. Dean Bradford said he understood the students who were deferring their time to further study despite the balmy weather and the lure of summer:

"It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to the Northwestern Campus."

"To those of you who have been with us before, I want you to know we are happy to have you with us again.

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"You who are with us for the first time have my warmest greetings and welcome," he said.

Dean Bradford said the Office of the Summer Session was ready to assist students "in any way we possibly can."

He encouraged students to make the best possible use of the facilities available on the campus. In addition to the academic and body than we have been able to recruit in the past. The Chicago Action Project is in this direction."

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