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CHICAGO STATE  
FOUNDATION

## CHICAGO STATE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO SUPPORT GROUNDBREAKING EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AT CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO (July 2022) — **Chicago State Foundation**, the chief fundraising partner of Chicago State University (CSU), is proud to announce three newly-appointed members to its Board of Directors to support the exciting and trailblazing work to improve educational and economic outcomes for students and the community.

- Yemi Akisanya, Global Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Groupon
- Kimberly Evans, Head of Corporate Sustainability, Social Impact, and Inclusion, Northern Trust
- Katrina D. Jackson, Global Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, UL

Each new board member brings a wealth of knowledge to help support the initiatives aimed at changing the lives of CSU students and the surrounding community. The recently constituted Foundation Board and leadership team will support the University through a positive, transformative stage to execute President Zaldwaynaka Scott's comprehensive plan for growing student enrollment and increasing retention and graduation. The University continues its [Cougar Commitment](#) program designed to support students holistically through their college experience, including its Rise Academy which offers full tuition, fees, textbooks, laptop and internet access to all incoming freshmen for the 2022-2023 academic year. This program has been supported in part by the work done by the Chicago State Foundation (CSF), a recently transformed 501c3 that works to identify strategic private support priorities and create suitable fundraising strategies to advance the interests and welfare of the University.



**Yemi Akisanya** currently serves as the Global Head for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Groupon. In this role, he is responsible for building Groupon's DEI global strategy focused on creating short and long-term plans to help build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive culture for Groupon's Merchants, Customers and Teammates. Yemi is a graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management MBA program and is a guest lecturer in Communication and Leadership Development. He also holds a Master of Science in Communication from Northwestern University and a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Akisanya also serves on the Board of i.c.stars and

Digitalundivided.

**Kimberly Evans** currently serves as the Head of Corporate Sustainability, Inclusion & Social Impact at Northern Trust. In this role, she is responsible for developing the enterprise strategies for ESG, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Community Development & Investing. With over 25 years of experience, Kim has become a business transformation expert. Kim has developed, led, and executed business and change strategies for five financial services companies, managed teams in six countries, and has implemented institutional programs impacting over 39,000 financial services professionals throughout her career. Kim graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and has earned numerous business, leadership, and technical certifications throughout her career. Kim was named one of the Iconic 22 from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Chicago Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter and serves on the Board for the Chicago Public Education Fund.



**Katrina D. Jackson** currently serves as the Global Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Underwriter's Laboratories (UL). Katrina Jackson has over 10 years of experience working with global markets across various industries including Coca-Cola, Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Bank, Newedge Financial, and TTX Rail. Katrina hails from the illustrious legacy of Spelman College where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Economics with a minor in Management & Organization. She also holds a Master of Arts degree from The Chicago School in Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

Katrina has worked as an expat and served on a number of boards, including Roseland Community Hospital, The Glass Slipper Project, Rush University Medical Center, and is the Founder/CEO of iShero, a non-profit organization focusing on a holistic perspective of building and sustaining a strong pipeline of women leaders.

**ABOUT CHICAGO STATE FOUNDATION** Serving as the university's chief fund development partner, the mission of Chicago State Foundation (CSF) is to advance the interests and welfare of Chicago State University by building relationships, securing philanthropic support, stewarding assets and otherwise procuring private support on behalf of the University. Working in concert with the President of Chicago State University, CSF helps to identify strategic private support priorities, create suitable fundraising strategies and tactics, and implement and evaluate appropriate development programs designed to advance the interests and welfare of the University. In its role, CSF procures private support on behalf of the University.

**ABOUT CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY** Founded in 1867, Chicago State University (CSU) is a public, comprehensive post-secondary institution that stands distinctively as one of Illinois's oldest public universities, providing access to higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and educational needs. CSU is a nationally accredited university with five colleges—Health Sciences, Arts and Science, Business, Education, and Pharmacy—offering 31 undergraduate and 25 graduate degree-granting programs. Consistently evolving to reflect state-of-the-art trends in higher education, CSU prepares students for success in the twenty-first century.

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