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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Marian Powers honored for distinguished service

*Six alums, community member highlighted for professional success
and contributions to at 10th Annual Alumni Awards*

CHICAGO, Dec. 15, 2011 — Dr. Marian Powers topped off a list of distinguished alums and community members honored Dec. 2 for their accomplishments and service at Chicago State's 10th Annual Alumni Awards celebration at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

"It was at Chicago State that I found out I could be an A student," said Lifetime Achievement winner Powers, whose academic resume includes teaching at the top-rated Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and Lake Forest University's business school.

Powers came to CSU thinking she wanted to study fashion, but her father suggested she look into accounting. With the help of nurturing professors, Powers thrived. Today, she is president of accounting firm Needles & Powers and, with her husband, funds a scholarship through the Illinois CPA Society to help other students pursue their passion and vocation.

Alums who give back, like Powers, or CSU ladies auxiliary volunteer Jeri Richard, who was also among awardees, are vital to Chicago State, which serves a diverse community of nontraditional students whose average age in the late 20s, said CSU President Wayne D. Watson.

"Seventy plus percent of our students are female; over 70 percent of them have a child," said Watson, painting a picture of the challenges many students face in pursuing an education. "Over 50 percent of our students transfer to our university. Now we've added the Latino community to our diverse mix."

"People often say, 'I went to the University of Chicago. I went to Illinois State. Many more say, 'I *graduated* from Chicago State.' " Watson said. "We do add to the career path of many."

Following is a list of winners from the 10th Annual Alumni Awards celebration:

— more —



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Awards, continued:

Dr. Marian Powers – 1975 B.S.

Lifetime Achievement

President, Needles & Powers, Incorporated

Adjunct Professor of Accounting, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Alice M. Griggs – 1970 B.A.

Excellence in Education

Principal, ECHO Family Enrichment Program

Barbara Townsend – 1977 B.S.

Outstanding Achievement in Health Sciences

Vice President of Business Development, Mercy Hospital

Dr. Debra J. Nelson – 1988 M.S.

Outstanding Achievement in the Arts

Dance Director, Assistant Professor, Physical Education Undergraduate Advisor

Chicago State University

Rep. Marlow Colvin – 2001 B.A.

Outstanding Achievement in Public Service

State of Illinois Representative, 33rd District

Karen A. Freeman, Ph.D

Outstanding CSU Faculty Member

Assistant Professor, Advisor

Elementary and Middle School Elementary Program

Jeri Richard

Special Recognition

Volunteer, TAGers

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