



PRESS RELEASE

For Media Confirmations Contact:

Sabrina Land

O:(773) 821-4976

C: (773) 306-6891

SLand20@csu.edu

Rainbow Push 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast Chicago State University President Receiving High Honors

CHICAGO—(January 14th, 2013) Chicago State University President, Dr. Wayne D. Watson, receives top recognition for his contribution to education. Dr. Wayne D. Watson is known for his support within the African American community and for leading an Institution which is dedicated to improving the overall life and impact of each attending student. "We lead, we engage, we impact our college community, as well as the communities from which our students come. Our colleges are their lifeline...a lifeline of cultural and economic sustainability," Watson said.

The Push Excel 23rd Annual MLK Scholarship Celebration will take place on January 15, 2013, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) forum at 8:00am. The theme: Dr. Kings Unfinished Agenda. "The function of education...is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." So wrote Martin Luther King, Jr. on the purpose of education in an essay he wrote while attending Morehouse College, more than 63 years ago.

The breakfast will also feature a panel discussion with three members of Dr. King's inner-circle who were with him on his last birthday. Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss and Rev. Dr. Andrew Young will share remembrances of that day and their work together in the Civil Rights Movement. The breakfast is intended to raise funds for the PUSH Excel Scholarship Fund. Through the fund, PUSH Excel has helped hundreds of students to have the means to attend college.

"Education is the stem and root of us all, as educators, we should be trying to create an atmosphere that helps our young people understand that, whatever they can imagine, they can achieve," expressed Rev. Dr. Janette C. Wilson, Esq., Interim National Education Director of PUSH Excel.

This is the first PUSH Excel Excellence Award for Education and the first time the yearly event will be held at a University. Watson is one of eight awardees. Over the past years, PUSH Excel has been able to award more than 1,000 scholarships to deserving students across the country in excess of 3 million dollars. McDonalds Corporation is the host sponsor of the breakfast.

About Chicago State University

Chicago State University was founded in 1867 with just 62 students enrolled in its first year. Today it is a nationally-accredited university with five colleges- Health Sciences, Arts and Science, Business, Education, and Pharmacy – offering 36 undergraduate and 25 graduate degree-granting programs. In addition, CSU has a Division of Continuing Education and Non-Traditional Programs that reach out to the community with extension courses, distance learning and not-for-credit programs. Consistently evolving to reflect state-of-the-art trends in higher education, Chicago State University prepares students for success in the twenty-first century. For more information, please visit www.csu.edu

-###-