

The facts of Chicago State life ... revealed

Multiyear fact books provide validated statistics tracking demographics, majors and more

May 3, 2012 — Did you know Chicago State University boasts small class sizes, so students get the attention they need and deserve? Or, did you know CSU's professors are seasoned members of the Academy, the majority holding Ph.Ds?

Thanks to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research (IER), now you do.

IER has now posted Chicago State University's fact book for 2011. Stakeholders may find validated information on a variety of CSU-related areas, including enrollment, cost, degrees awarded and much more.

"As Chicago State initiates its 'Strategic Plan 2012-15' in July, we want our yearly fact books to reflect the mission and direction of the institution," says Dr. Resche Hines, the newly appointed director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research. "These are not just generic numbers, they are numbers with context."

For example, the 2011-12 Fact Book describes the demographics of the student body: 6,882 students, including 5,280 undergraduates and 1,602 graduates. The majority are female, 72 percent, and African-American, 84 percent. As of fall, CSU was home to 475 Hispanic students, a burgeoning area of college enrollment nationwide.

Other interesting facts include:

- During the 2011-12 school year, the median class size was 15 students.
According to the U.S. Department of Education, national surveys show educators believe reduced class size to be an effective method for ensuring quality classroom teaching.s
- The largest college is the College of Arts and Sciences, followed by the Colleges of Education and Health Sciences.
- A comprehensive list of high schools from which CSU draws its students is included.
- Ninety-five percent of professors have earned a Ph.D.

Internally, the fact book helps analyze class composition and provide meaningful, empirical data to help guide decisions. Externally, companies may look at the breakdown of various majors to see which areas are ripe for recruiting CSU graduates into the work force.

"Part of the reason we put the word "effectiveness" in our name," Hines says of the department formerly known as the Office of Institutional Research "is because these figures contextualize the Chicago State experience. If you want to know the Chicago State story, start here."

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