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CSU is where excellence abounds. Together our community welcomes and cultivates a diverse population filled with ardent ambition and bold dreams.

We believe in determination and we understand the value of hope filled by unwavering commitment.

CSU is where challenges become the catalysts for change, and where adversity transforms into achievement.

We are proud to support the dedicated scholars of today on their journey to becoming the change-makers and leaders of tomorrow.
VISION
Chicago State University will be recognized for innovations in teaching and research, community development, and civic engagement. We will promote excellence, ethical leadership, entrepreneurship, and social and environmental justice. We will embrace, engage, educate, propel, and elevate our students and community to transform lives locally and globally.

MISSION
Chicago State University transforms students’ lives by innovative teaching, research, and community partnerships through excellence in ethical leadership, cultural enhancement, economic development, and justice.

VALUES
- Personal and academic excellence
- Personal, professional, and academic integrity
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Leadership, service, philanthropy, social justice, and entrepreneurship
- Creative and innovative thinking and learning
- Pride in self, community, and the university
- Lifelong learning
CSU students set a new standard for extraordinary. Many are reaching new heights within their families and communities as the first to attend college. Their life experiences, connections, and growth moments create a thriving student population that is ready to excel at every stage.

Since 1867, CSU has built a reputation for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Today, as a nationally accredited university with five colleges in Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Pharmacy, we proudly support students from 28 countries and 36 states on their life journey.
A MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT SCOTT

Zaldwaynaka ‘Z’ Scott, Esq.
President, Chicago State University

There’s a continuing resurgence of passion and determination that’s palpable at CSU. In 2021, that energy translated into meaningful impact on our community. Not only did we safely and successfully continue supporting online and in-person learning, we also collaborated with city and state officials to host COVID education events along with a mass vaccination site launched in April that delivered vaccines to more than 13,000 community members.

Beyond health and wellness impact, CSU launched its inaugural Economic Impact study that illustrates the return on investment of a CSU education for scholars and community stakeholders. The report documents the substantial positive financial impact our graduates contribute to the state’s economy. I’m excited to share that these results, among others, helped our institution secure vital funding resources from the state’s Rebuild Illinois capital plan, which will help fuel campus infrastructure improvements and facility growth in the years to come.

On the long-term impact front, I’m privileged to co-chair the Equity Working Group for Black Student Access and Success in Illinois Higher Education Action Plan. This state-wide group of corporate, public, and community leaders, convened by Chicago State University in collaboration with the IBHE, identified high-impact strategies to address systemic issues resulting in enrollment and completion gaps for Illinois’ Black students.

At CSU our impact goes so much deeper, beyond these initiatives and woven throughout the pages of this report, and the pages of our students, staff, and community members’ lives. I invite you to dive into and learn more about our remarkable institution and community, and learn how our incredible Cougar ‘can-do’ philosophy reveals itself in every aspect of student and campus life. Together, we are driving meaningful change and truly embodying excellence in motion.

LETTER FROM
DR. LESLIE ROUNDTREE

Interim Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

The past year has been filled with momentous accomplishments amidst ongoing challenges, and our Cougar pride came shining through on many fronts. We continued to focus on preparing students for tomorrow’s in-demand careers by advancing our student success and engagement initiatives with increased services and virtual support for counseling, academic advisement, and career counseling. CSU is also proud to report the progress of our Rise Academy program which completed its first full year and successfully supported 100 new scholars through their first year, including honor students, athletes, and band members.

Beyond these key milestones and in alignment with our mission to prepare students for tomorrow’s careers, CSU forged inspiring new public and private sector partnerships with some of the state’s leading organizations including Abbott Labs, Cresco Labs, Hyatt Corporation, Relativity Partners, and Spark Foundry. These partnerships offer students direct access to experiential learning opportunities that complement the classroom and often translate into paid internships and career paths. We also joined forces with Leo Burnett as part of their innovative Pencil Project, giving students access to their ten-week bootcamp designed to expose students to the exciting world of advertising, along with the potential for scholarships and mentorship.

Such substantive support and career path programs are already resulting in meaningful progress in expanding access and equity on the pathway from higher education to the workforce, is just the beginning for CSU. I am inspired by these advancements and proud to champion such impactful initiatives that are transforming our students into tomorrow’s future leaders.
Embracing Change. Creating Change-Makers.

If there's one lasting lesson the pandemic has taught us, it's to learn how to embrace change more than ever before. The last two years exacerbated already disproportionate health and economic inequality on Chicago's south side, adding burden and obstacles to our most vulnerable communities. In a determined and intentional response, Chicago State University swung into action.

The first measure was to successfully transition to an online educational model, followed later by a hybrid online and in-person model, while instituting all of the necessary safety precautions such as social distancing and masking requirements. We are proud to confirm our staff and students met this challenge with both eagerness and success.

The second measure was to keep as many student services available once instruction became remote. In some cases this meant delivering counseling, academic advising, and career development remotely. This took creativity, dedicated resources, and CSU staff willing to think innovatively and outside the box.

The third key measure was to enable a seamless learning transition between models by providing the technology resources required to successfully facilitate the e-Learning and hybrid class environment. Once again, the CSU team and support network lept into action and delivered.

Chicago State University was proudly built upon a foundation of forging change through adverse circumstances. Successfully navigating the last two years has been a testament to that foundation as we have continued to provide uninterrupted service to our students and community population despite the social and economic climate. That boundless determination not only guided our way, it also fueled our success in supporting a generation of scholars who are becoming lifelong learners.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank our faculty, staff, students, community, and partners for their ongoing dedication to embracing change and to creating the change-makers and leaders of tomorrow.

“You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.” — Shirley Chisholm

Andrea Zopp, Esq.
Managing Partner, Cleveland Avenue
Chicago State University Board of Trustees (2019 - 2025)
Chicago State University plays a pivotal role in creating a strong and diverse economy while providing a robust return on investment for students and taxpayers. In the University’s inaugural Economic Impact Study conducted by economists, the study demonstrates that the Institution is a driving force for Illinois, supporting 17,525 jobs and contributing $1.6 billion to the state’s economy annually.

“CSU’s inaugural economic impact study illustrates the full extent this incredible institution plays in our region’s economy,” said Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. “Chicago benefits tremendously from the CSU alumni who are leading in their professions, and I share President Scott and the University’s passionate commitment to research and engagement that results in equitable development and improved social determinants which strengthen our city and the entire region.”

This kind of positive, measurable impact on the Illinois business community generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, the study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups.

“For every dollar invested in Chicago State University, Illinois residents see a $7 return on investment; a clear signal of the depth of our contribution to the city and state,” said President Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq. “Through academic research, community initiatives, and education, the institution is a driving force for not only educating diverse students but also inclusive economic growth.”

Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2018-19. Through CSU’s operations, research, student activities, and alumni employment and leadership, CSU generated more tax revenue than it received. The taxpayer’s average annual rate of return is 11.9%.

Contributing to Illinois’ Economic Growth

The study also found that education at CSU is a smart investment for students. Our bachelor’s degree graduates each earn an additional $843,000 over the course of their professional careers. This means a return of $5 in increased future earnings for every $1 a student invests in their education at CSU.

“The economic impact report makes clear what we have long known: Chicago State University is critical to building a strong state economy,” said Governor J.B. Pritzker. “That’s why my administration was proud to support CSU with bold investments through the state’s Rebuild Illinois capital plan, which has provided nearly $30 million for campus infrastructure improvements and a state-of-the-art health sciences simulation facility. I applaud CSU leadership for their work to provide quality education to its students and I look forward to our continued partnership to educate our next generation of leaders and innovators.”

Answering the Call

CSU graduate student enrollment increased 5%, despite continuing challenges stemming from the pandemic. Enrollment in 11 graduate programs including Public Health, School Counseling, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education increased by more than 50%, and other programs such as Social Work, Technology Performance, Improvement and Physical Education increased by nearly the same 50%. Our new graduate and professional students have successfully pivoted during the crisis by pursuing advanced degrees required to more effectively meet the needs of a dynamic labor market.

Partnerships Propel Untapped Potential

CSU continues innovating new partnerships designed to help propel access to new career paths for students of color, and to help reduce overall education timelines and costs. In its newest agreement, CSU collaborated with Morgan State University (MSU) to create a pathway from CSU to MSU where participants receive two bachelor’s degrees in just five years. From CSU, the student would earn a B.S. in Physics Engineering, and from MSU, a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. The agreement will advance both universities’ commitment to increasing underrepresented students’ participation in engineering degree programs.

The MSU partnership builds upon two other notable agreements with the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, formerly The John Marshall Law School, and Loyola University. The UIC and Loyola University agreements allow well-qualified CSU students to enter either university’s law school after completing their junior year of undergraduate study, and upon successful completion of their first year of law school, receive a Bachelor’s degree from CSU and a Juris Doctorate Degree from UIC or Loyola University.

First Graduating Class of MBAs

The College of Business launched its Master of Business Administration program in the 2019-20 academic year to help contribute new and diverse leadership talent to the market, and is establishing itself as an attractive option in the competitive Chicagoland business education arena. The two-year graduate business program is designed as a weekend MBA program to support working professionals seeking a graduate business degree with the convenience of a south Chicago location and weekend schedule.

The inaugural program began with a cohort of 20 students and graduated its first class of 16 students in the Spring 2021 Commencement.

Congratulations MBA Graduating Class of 2021

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<tr>
<th>Master of Business Administration Graduates – Spring 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Darrin Andrews</td>
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<td>Cathy Austin</td>
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<td>Veronica Boyd</td>
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<td>Jimell Byrd-Reno</td>
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<td>Matthew Cleaves</td>
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<td>Reba Dunner</td>
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<td>Markayla Epps</td>
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<td>Cynde Garrett</td>
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<td>Cynthia Green</td>
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<td>Ned James</td>
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<td>Sabrina Jones</td>
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<td>Leza Knox</td>
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<td>Adewale Langston</td>
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<td>Abbie Miles</td>
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CSU Launches Diverse Scholars in Education

The Diverse Scholars in Education program, launched in 2021 as part of President Scott’s mission to address equity in educational attainment, provides students with a full-tuition, four-year scholarship in addition to weekly academic support sessions, an assigned program mentor, cohort-based instruction, and monthly education-focused activities. This unique program is specifically designed for students who have an interest in becoming Pre K-12 teachers and who desire to commit to leading change efforts to improve educational outcomes for students in urban settings.

Designed to introduce the foundations of education and teaching to talented high school graduates with an interest in urban education and social justice, the College of Education program faculty will equip students with the knowledge and skills essential for successfully becoming a certified teacher with a professional educator license. The program also includes an action research component that provides students with opportunities to be a part of a research project in collaboration with faculty.

Preparation Exceptional Scholars to Serve a Diverse Special Needs Population

The CSU Master’s in Special Education Degree Program (M.S.E.D) is designed to inspire educational professionals in our field.

Preparing Exceptional Scholars to Serve a Diverse Special Needs Population

The CSU Master’s in Special Education Degree Program (M.S.E.D) is designed to inspire educational professionals with the theoretical and humanistic pedagogical practices that prepare them for serving the diverse needs of students with widely varying abilities and backgrounds. Graduates are professionally and ethically equipped to assist students in maximizing their potential and assuming dignified, productive roles.

Master’s Degree in Special Education Student Spotlight: Felicia C. Williams

Felicia C. Williams

“I came to Chicago State University as a graduate student seeking my master’s degree in special education, after receiving a full-ride scholarship from the PEERS program. Chicago State University is one of our nation’s best-kept secrets. If more people knew how remarkable the Education Department was, there would be a waitlist every year. My professors were not only highly credentialed, but extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of working with children, young adults, and families that have special and diverse needs.

Though I walked into CSU as a novice in the field of special education, I walked out as a professional with an entirely new set of skills that allowed me to become a better educator and professional. Without exaggeration, the impact of my master’s program has been life-changing. In my final semester, I was tasked with working on a collaborative project that involved creating a tool or method of intervention that would assist a student with meeting their learning and/or developmental objectives. I was able to complete the project successfully despite the restraints of the COVID pandemic. In the following school year, I was able to spend more time testing and redeveloping my graduate project, and now have a provisional patent. Confident that my ideas could be of use on a broader scale, I am currently in the process of launching a business, Seed2Fruit Education LLC, that provides educational products and services.

My experiences during my graduate studies at Chicago State University ignited something in me that I didn’t even know existed. I am so grateful to the faculty for expanding my capacity to do more to help children and families who need alternative learning methods of instruction.”

Bridging a Path to Excellence

The Career Development Center is committed to assisting students in identifying their career goals and preparing them for their future endeavors. Working holistically with students in providing career counseling, resume preparation, and connecting students to employers and internship opportunities, the Center contributes significant value in bridging a student’s journey from CSU to the experience they need to create lifelong, rewarding career paths.

Rise Academy Celebrates First Full Year & Fueling Success

Our innovative Rise Academy program is a strategic initiative designed to specifically address the key challenges faced by first-year, under-represented, and first-generation college students. After its pilot in 2019 and fully-remote programming in 2020, we safely and successfully brought Rise students back to campus in 2021 and are proud to announce that 100 students completed the Academy, including honor students, athletes, and band members. Upon completion, Rise Scholars are connected to a freshman Rise advisor to help guide them on their next CSU steps such as full-time registration and required self-development workshops.

CSU is proud to share that six 2021 Rise Scholar freshmen were recipients of the Hope Scholarship which includes a full-ride tuition and fees to CSU for up to five years. This multi-generational scholarship also offers one parent of each recipient free college tuition. Twelve Rise Scholars were also nominated and accepted into CSU’s Championship Mentoring Program, a leadership program created to connect scholars to self-development workshops and local employer mentors. We’re excited to share these early results and are dedicated to program expansion in support of our mission to improve access, inclusion, and equity amongst our underserved community population.
Student Film “Whole” Wins Best Short Narrative & Premiers at Six Festivals

CMAT Cinema Practicum program students were excited to learn that their narrative film short “Whole” would make headlines with premieres and prizes at two national and four other international film festivals. Whole is the story about a group of young women who are sent to a “Completion Camp” where they learn the horrifying reality of what happens when women are oppressed in the name of honor culture. In 2021, the film was featured at the Chicagoland Shorts Film Festival, London’s Rapport Festival, the Out of Africa Film Festival in Nairobi, Kenya, the Kwanzaa Film Festival in Harlem, New York, and the Collected Voices Film Festival in Chicago where the film short won the prize for Best Student Narrative Film.

President’s Cup Spotlight: Orelle Bulgin

The Chicago State University President’s Cup was commissioned in 1999 to recognize a graduating senior for his/her exceptional leadership, scholarship, and service. In our 2020-2021 academic year, this prestigious honor was awarded to College of Physics graduate, Orelle Bulgin, for his outstanding service to the University, his unparalleled leadership in student activities and organizations, his stellar athletic achievements on our Track & Field team, and his superior scholastic accomplishments throughout his undergraduate studies. Beyond his remarkable academic and service achievements, Bulgin took part in several physics internships, was a department research assistant, and a student tutor. He first developed his passion for medical and therapeutic radiological physics at a National Society of Black Physicist conference, and is subsequently pursuing his Ph.D. in Medical Physics at Georgetown University where he intends to focus his career on innovations that reduce radiological toxicity in cancer treatment therapies.

Lincoln Laureate Award Winner: Jason Jones

Jason Jones was named CSU’s 2020 Lincoln Student Laureate. Jones was honored alongside other top students across Illinois’ colleges and universities at the 46th Annual Lincoln Academy Student Laureate virtual ceremony recognizing excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. After completing his AA degree at Kennedy King College with a 4.0 GPA, Jones transferred to CSU where he earned membership into the Tau Sigma National Honor Society and the dean’s list every semester. Committed to his volunteer passions, Jones spends time mentoring at-risk youth in the Youth Advocates Program and the Green Lots Project, a community gardens program. While at CSU, Jones also served as a senator with Student Government, chair of the Community Service Committee for the Honors College, and participated in the African American Male Resource Center.

Where Are They Now: CSU Grads Pursue PhDs

Two former students, Orelle Bulgin and Joann Roberts, completed their Bachelor of Physics degrees at CSU and have made the successful transition to pursue graduate degrees in Physics. At CSU, Orelle was an NCAA D1 track athlete, maintained a high GPA, and generously gave his time and talents as a teaching and research assistant. He is enrolled in the physics graduate program at Georgetown University and plans to pursue a career in medical physics and radiological sciences. Joann Roberts has presented at national physics conferences, is a remarkable poet, and is an airplane pilot. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis.

Unique Experiential Initiative Adds Depth & Opportunity

Internships offer students invaluable benefits before finishing their MBA degrees including gaining referenceable work experience, developing and refining job skills, networking with professionals, discovering new career paths, and much more. Five students from the inaugural MBA class were selected for an eight-week internship initiative with Hyatt World to gain first-hand experience in finance, human resources,
diversity equity and inclusion, IT, and commercial sales. Two of the five students were subsequently hired upon graduation and invited to continue working with Hyatt. The Career Development Center helped students prepare during a two-week Internship Prep Bootcamp that consisted of interviews and professional development workshops, concluding with capstone presentations presented by the students in a boardroom-style setting.

Publicis Media Group, founded in 1926 and now the third-largest communications agency in the world, also hosted four MBA student interns at its Spark Foundry Agency. Spark Foundry offered students exposure to a range of brand and media functions including data, analytics, performance marketing, commerce, investment, and strategy. Two students were offered full-time positions following the successful completion of the program.

Gordon Food Service, a 124-year old food distribution company, invested $45,000 in the creation of a professional development bootcamp ‘Master Class,’ that includes scholarship and stipends for students, expert presenter instruction, access to mentors and internships, opportunities to job shadow, and future employment. The Department of Communications, Media Arts & Theatre is collaborating with Leo Burnett, a world-class Chicago-based advertising company, and the Marcus Graham Project (MGP). Students learn skills such as building agency websites, investigating customer insight, learning how to reach target audiences, analyzing audiences’ demographics, marketing on social media, and software knowledge. The ten-week bootcamp is capped by the opportunity for paid internships within the Leo Burnett family of companies. CMAT seniors Malcolm Clynors, Ryonn Gilder, Jameelah Hargrove, and Archie Shaw participated in Chi inColor, a project for which they design advertisements for CSU.

Emerging Leaders Spotlight: Dr. Edward Ofori

CSU is proud to recognize Dr. Edward Ofori for being selected into the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) 2021 Emerging Leaders Program cohort. Dr. Ofori is one of only 25 selected from a competitive pool of applicants. The program is designed to prepare the next generation of higher education administrators to be effective leaders by viewing every decision through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens, and by advancing their institutions’ path to equitable student success. Over the nine months, participants cultivated critical skills for leading institutional change, built a strong supportive network of peers, and learned from seasoned AASCU presidents, senior leaders, and national experts in leadership and student success.

Emerging Leaders Spotlight: Dean Lalita Prasad-Reddy, PharmD’06

CSU congratulates Lalita Prasad-Reddy, PharmD’06, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs in the College of Pharmacy, who was honored with the 2020 Educator of the Year award at the 2021 Missouri Pharmacists Association and Illinois Pharmacists Joint Virtual Annual Conference. Recipients of the award are recognized for promoting the growth of future pharmacy leaders in the classroom and through extracurricular activities.

Prasad-Reddy graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2006, and completed her PGY1 residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center in 2010, and her PGY2 residency at Indiana University Health in 2011 when she also received her Master’s in Health Communication from Boston University. Throughout her career, Prasad-Reddy has held impressive leadership positions that ultimately led her to Chicago State University’s College of Pharmacy.
CSU Speaks: Provost Testifies to Support Health Profession Opportunity Grants

In March 2021, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Leslie Roundtree testified at the House Ways & Means Subcommittee hearing on the impact of Health Profession Opportunity Grants. The grants were developed to give individuals who may otherwise be unlikely to secure a post-secondary education a first opportunity at securing a university degree and to develop job skills and career readiness.

CSU provides one of 32 HPOG programs sponsored through the Administration for Children and Families and is a five-year program started in 2015. The ‘STEP UP’ program assists individuals with low incomes at 200% of poverty and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients in securing careers in health sciences through education and financial support.

Emerging Leaders Spotlight: Kim H. Tran, CSU Chief of Staff

CSU is proud to celebrate Kim H. Tran, Chief of Staff, for being selected to join the Chicago Council on Global Affairs’ Class of 2021 Emerging Leaders Program. The class, selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants, includes 38 of Chicago’s best and brightest from some of its most prominent organizations including CSU, AbbVie, BMO Financial Group, Chicago’s Office of the City Clerk, KPMG, Sidley Austin, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, UNICEF USA, the University of Chicago, and many others. The program was designed to further their knowledge of U.S. foreign policy while strengthening their leadership skills, and over the year-long endeavor the cohort explored timely topics such as global security, global cities, economic inequality, and food insecurity.

Emerging Leaders Spotlight: Dr. Tiffany Davis

Dr. Tiffany Davis, Interim Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor of Sociology, joins an elite cohort of 38 leaders selected for the Chicago Urban League’s IMPACT Leadership Development Program. As an intensive nine-month program founded in 2014, IMPACT is designed to help African American professionals advance their careers while building a more diverse pipeline of leaders across Chicago. The cohort includes talented individuals from the corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors. Fellows are nominated by their employers and are selected through a competitive application process.

Dr. Edmundmo Garcia-Solis Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

CSU is excited to celebrate Dr. Edmundmo Garcia-Solis, Professor of Physics and Department Chair of Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies, for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chicago Council on Science and Technology. Garcia-Solis was honored for his research and dedication to the field of high-energy physics and archaeometry. In May 2021, Garcia-Solis was covered in Symmetry, a publication dedicated to the dimensions of particle physics, for the CSU collaboration with Dominican University to uncover the mystery of what lies inside the ancient El Castillo pyramid.

Department of Occupational Therapy Receives $3M Scholarship Grant

CSU congratulates our Department of Occupational Therapy for being awarded a five-year, $3 million grant that offers Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS), funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the U.S. Department of Human Services. The grant, known as the Diversifying the Occupational Therapy Workforce (DOTW) initiative, will provide financial assistance for tuition, fees, books, and living expenses to economically disadvantaged students completing their master’s degree in occupational therapy at Chicago State University. This initiative aims to increase the diversity and inclusivity of the profession of occupational therapy as well as train a diverse workforce to work in medically underserved communities. The grant will fund up to 30 students per year.

CSU Speaks: Taking a United Stand on the 1776 Report with Dr. Lionel Kimble

Dr. Lionel Kimble, Associate Professor of History at CSU, was interviewed on WBEZ Chicago (an NPR affiliate) and spoke out against the 1776 Report, released in early 2021 by a commission created by former President Trump. The 1776 Report serves as a rebuttal to The New York Times Magazine’s 1619 Project, which reframes American history by focusing on the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans. Kimble stated that the report has no basis or standing in historical fact and criticized the committee for not having any actual historians or anyone with constitutional historical expertise. He also stated that “The 1776 Project seeks to ignore this fuller story and focuses on this narrative of American exceptionalism.” Thank you Dr. Kimble for taking a stand and supporting our true history.
“Diamond’s Dream” Comes to Life in Pint-Sized Puppets

When the pandemic devastated Chicago theaters of all kinds, the Chicago Children’s Theatre (CCT) launched the Springboard Project, an initiative to invite artists to offer alternative content ideas. That’s when CSU’s Jerrell L. Henderson, Professor of Performance Studies, and Caitlin McLeod pitched “Diamond’s Dream,” a relatable and timely toy theater/puppet production that could be streamed virtually. The play tells the story of a young African American boy who falls asleep on a Red Line train while on the way to visit his grandmother who is dying of COVID-19. He awakens to find himself confronted by the spirit of a young African American girl who died of the Spanish Flu in 1918. Henderson and McLeod were praised by CCT for developing an engaging production that was more representative of what children are experiencing today and was able to reach their audiences virtually.

CSU Associate Professor of Biology Discovers the Effects of Deforestation on Mammals

Dr. Noé de la Sancha, Associate Professor of Biology and Field Museum research associate, found that deforestation is placing stress on rodents and marsupials, which can result in greater disease outbreaks among wildlife and humans. The research team analyzed hormones that accumulate in fur and found that rodents and marsupials living in smaller patches of South America’s Atlantic Forest are under more stress than ones living in more intact forests. The study was published in Scientific Report, along with findings from co-authors and research lead Sarah Boyle, an Associate Professor of Biology and Chair of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Program at Rhodes College, and Pastor Pérez, a biologist at Universidad Nacional de Asunción.

New Donda West Book Edited by CSU’s Dr. Garrad McClendon

The same week Kanye West’s album, “DONDA” was released, his mom’s new book, “Donda’s Rules: the Scholarly Documents of Dr. Donda West (Mother of Kanye West)” also hit stores, and CSU Associate Professor Dr. Garrad McClendon took part in bringing the book to market. McClendon edited the book, which highlights 70 tips on how to write creatively, along with Dr. West’s philosophy as a professor, writer, world traveler, and mother of Kanye West. McClendon skillfully highlights her systems theory on composition and her tips on how to become a fearless writer with flavor. Her resolution on Ebonics and her studies on Alexander Pushkin are also included.

Forging Partnerships with the Future: Rise Academy Partners with Relativity

Relativity, a global legal and compliance technology company, forged a new partnership with Rise Academy, Chicago State University’s first-year student success program, created in response to recent events such as COVID-19 that have made it more challenging for some students and families to continue their studies. Through the partnership, four Relativity employees became mentors for eight Rise Scholars. These mentors have experience in engineering, cybersecurity, and business, and draw on their own experiences to help guide and advise the students on their personal college and career journeys. In addition, Relativity Chief Technology Officer Keith Carlson joined CSU’s Computer Science Program’s External Advisory Committee to advise on curricula to ensure CSU is offering industry-aligned, cutting-edge education. Relativity has also donated $50,000 in scholarships to seven of Rise Academy’s first-year students at CSU and this will help not only cover their tuition but include a personal laptop, textbooks, and the campus healthcare plan.
Federal Government Emergency Grants

In response to the extended pandemic hardships on American workers, families, small businesses, and industries, the Federal Government passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (2020) and the Coronavirus Response and Consolidated Appropriations Act (2021). Together, the acts provided fast and direct economic assistance for those hit hardest. Within the CARES act, several Department of Education COVID-19 resources are available, and CSU successfully secured the following support:

COVID-19 - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
- Student Aid portion - $6,020,886
- Institutional portion - $8,090,154

COVID-19 – HEERF for Minority Serving Institutions $829,865

State of Illinois Education Stabilization Fund

Chicago State University received an award from the State of Illinois IBHE via the Department of Education, from the Education Stabilization Fund Program under the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) for $1,344,622. The funds are used to support efforts to enroll and retain low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation students that might otherwise not register or return due to the pandemic.

CSU Hosts Mass Vaccination Site to Aid COVID Relief Efforts

In April 2021, President Scott welcomed Chicago Mayor Lightfoot, city officials, and other community leaders to a hosted media event announcing CSU’s commitment to open a mass vaccination site, in conjunction with another location opening at the American Airlines Conference Center. The vaccination site was another move toward the city’s goal of helping vaccinate all Chicagoans. The site was overseen by the Chicago Department of Public Health, with CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) operating the site, and vaccine administration by Howard Brown Health. At full capacity, the CSU site served 1,200 walk-up and 1,000 drive-thru vaccination appointments per day. President Scott underscored that as the only public university on the South Side of Chicago, CSU is a community anchor institution for the city and the state, and committed to collaborating with city officials to bring the resources needed to support Black and Latinx communities.

CSU Partners Host Virtual Town Halls on Vaccine Education

In the spring, CSU joined forces with Congressman Bobby L. Rush to host a virtual Community Town Hall designed to deliver vital educational and benefit information about the COVID vaccines. The event was moderated by CSU’s faculty professor Dr. George Smith, with presentations by St. Bernard Hospital, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Friend Family Health. CSU also hosted a virtual Community Town Hall event with IDPH Trinity Church and Chicago Urban League focused on “demystifying the vaccine,” moderated by Dr. Chris Botanga. Panelists included representatives from IDPH and Pastor Moss of Trinity Church. Beyond the virtual town halls, CSU launched an educational video campaign designed to educate community members on the vaccine facts and reach a wider audience in the Chicagoland area.

President Scott Joins IBHE Recovery Task Force

President Scott was selected to co-chair the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Recovery Task Force, a committee designed to bring together expertise from education, business, policy, community, and philanthropic organizations to shape the blueprint for Illinois students and the higher education landscape over the coming decade. The committee will collaborate on an initiative to identify the highest impact strategies that will increase affordability, close equity gaps, and meet the evolving workforce needs of tomorrow. Other Recovery Task Force co-chairs include Juan Salgado, Chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago, Illinois Senator Pat McGuire, and Betsy Ziegler, CEO, 1871. The strategic plan is being crafted in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and has garnered widespread public engagement.

Cougar Spirit of Service Extends to COVID Front Lines

CSU Alumni and College of Pharmacy power-couple, Dr. Teresa & Dr. McWade Palmer, continue embodying the Cougar spirit of service by giving back to underserved communities near and far. Now practicing in Houston, Texas, the two are actively working the frontline COVID battle by providing vaccinations to underserved communities throughout the region. Together they are dedicated to helping their community get back to health, their families, and a sense of normalcy. Another CSU graduate, Dr. Shaw, based in Springfield, Illinois, is also heeding the COVID call. Although already employed as a full-time pharmacist at CSU’s College of Pharmacy, Dr. Shaw was approached by recruiters from major chains to join their teams to help with the vaccination efforts and decided to offer his weekend time to help. Shaw said getting involved felt like his duty.
President Scott Co-Chairs Equity Working Group to Address Black Student Enrollment Decline

Between 2013 - 2018, Black student enrollment in Illinois’ higher education system has dropped by 29%, according to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. That shocking statistic challenged leaders from 40 different sectors throughout the state to create an Equity Working Group (EWG) and Action Plan designed to collaboratively address the crisis facing Illinois’ education and employment sectors. President Scott co-chaired the EWG and is ready to face the challenge head-on by implementing a comprehensive roadmap for reform through collaborative cross-sector leadership. The initiative is dedicated to knocking down barriers and addressing policies deeply rooted in racism, and EWG members are working towards data-driven actions for each sector including PreK-12, two-and four-year colleges and universities, community organizations, the private sector, and the State. Together the group’s work will drive systemic and institutional change.

Gwendolyn Brooks Conference Welcomes the Affrilachian Poets to CSU

The Gwendolyn Brooks Conference for Black Literature and Creative Writing welcomed the Affrilachian Poets to CSU, an ensemble of African American writers who challenge simple notions of an all-white Appalachian region and culture while drawing on traditions such as the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and experiences of the African Diaspora. CSU alumni Randall Horton and Parneshia Jones are members of this ensemble now celebrating its 20th anniversary. PBS produced a feature-length documentary about the Affrilachian Poets in 2000, and the group has been featured in numerous magazines and journals. Their work inspired the creation of Pluck! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture, published by the University of Kentucky.

Department of Communications, Media Arts & Theatre Hosts First Black Media & Entertainment Industry Conference

The Department of Communications, Media Arts, and Theatre (CMAT) at CSU held its first Black Media and Entertainment Industry Conference (BMEIC) in April 2021. The virtual event brought together more than 380 attendees from across the city and country. During the four-day event, the conference hosted numerous panels covering substantive issues in the industries of radio, public relations, advertising, theatre, film, and television. President Scott opened the event followed by a keynote conversation with Louis Carr, President of Media Sales for BET Networks. Industry leaders also spoke with CMAT faculty about the trailblazing leadership roles they have undertaken in their respective industries. The conference allowed students to engage and hear the stories of black people who are actively working in the industry, and most importantly, see the networking opportunities that CSU offers current and prospective students to help them achieve success in their professional careers.

Chicago State University Hosts Landmark Justice Reform Bill Signing by Governor JB Pritzker

In early 2021, CSU hosted Governor JB Pritzker for the signing of House Bill 3653, landmark legislation known as the Police and Criminal Justice Reform Bill. This comprehensive reform package, supported by the Legislative Black Caucus after the death of George Floyd and other police misconduct cases emerged, is sweeping police reform designed to improve the system of accountability and professionalism while strengthening victims’ rights, and eliminating injustices based on race, socioeconomic class, and gender. According to Governor Pritzker, the legislation was infused with the power of individuals most directly impacted, survivors of domestic violence, survivors of crime, and those who have been detained pretrial because they are poor. CSU was proud to support the Governor and our community at such an historic moment in our nation’s story.
Student-Athletes Set a New Standard for Academic Excellence
CSU student-athletes achieved an overall departmental GPA of 3.13 (Spring 2021), marking the fourth consecutive semester Cougars have earned a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher. Nearly 75% of all student-athletes earned a 3.0 or higher, and 18 of those earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. Eleven teams also achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA, led by the men’s golf (3.63) and women’s tennis (3.79) teams. The Spring 2021 semester also marked the fourth consecutive semester the women’s tennis team earned the department’s top GPA spot.

Fielding Athletic Department Leadership with New Staff
CSU welcomed Valeria Barragan (Learning Specialist) and Jason Frank (Associate AD for Student Services and Academics) to the athletic department staff. Jessica Poole, Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director/ Senior Woman Administrator, also began serving as the point of contact for this year’s athletic programming in collaboration with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Office of Student Services.

Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine Alex Reamy joined the Cougars staff in August 2021 after serving as the head athletic trainer for the Maine Red Claws, the NBA G League affiliate of the Boston Celtics since 2019. Prior to his time with the Red Claws, Reamy was an assistant athletic trainer for the Chicago Bulls G League affiliate, the Windy City Bulls, during the 2018-19 season.

Cougars LEAD Program Builds Student-Athletes Into Tomorrow’s Leaders
The department celebrated the second successful year of the Cougars LEAD (Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Diversity) Director’s Leadership Institute, designed to provide student-athletes with inclusive and intentional leadership programming to enhance the student-athlete experience and help them navigate through transitions and pivots. The program consists of seven workshops each semester focusing on Personal Enhancement, Leadership Development, Career Development, Social Responsibility, and Community Engagement. Cougars LEAD was originally developed to create an awareness and understanding of various leadership styles and approaches, while also exploring personal leadership philosophy, an integrated sense of personal identity, a positive sense of self, and a personal code of ethics.

CSU Athletics Launches Cougar Pride Fund
The Chicago State Department of Athletics launched the Cougar Pride Fund in Fall 2020 as the philanthropic arm of the Department of Athletics supporting student-athlete scholarships and the overall student-athlete experience. The Cougar Pride Fund, with three levels of individual giving as well as a corporate giving level, hosted an inaugural Day of Giving in November 2020 and has since hosted several additional initiatives supporting the Cougar Pride Fund. At the beginning of 2021, the Cougar Pride Fund had more than 50 members and counting.
“Transformation” presented by Greeley & Hansen, and John Robak, CEO of Greeley and Hansen and board member of the Chicago State Foundation, was the theme of CSU’s first-generation Scholarship Gala, held virtually and broadcasted live from the Institution’s television studio. The program included celebrity appearances, corporate and individual sponsor spotlight features, and live interviews, celebrating the tenacity and brilliance of CSU’s student scholars. A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Cougar Servant Leadership Awards, presented to Emil Jones, Jr., Retired President, Illinois State Senate (Public Service), Dr. Janice Jackson, CEO, Chicago Public Schools (Education Equity), and Peggy Montes, Founder and CEO, Bronzeville Children’s Museum (Community Service). Proceeds from the gala were used to create the CSU 1stGEN/Rise Scholarship Fund, giving our student scholars the means to attain higher education.

CSU Foundation’s Partnerships

A sincere and special ‘thank you’ to our generous funding partners: Rise investors in the first year of Rise - Anonymous Foundation; AT&T; Relativity; Northern Trust; Crown Family Philanthropy; Anonymous Foundation; Mittie, Moselynne & Dempsey Travis Scholarship Fund.

"Everything I do now is for my family, to protect them and to provide for them...Chicago State University is helping me grow into a responsible adult." - Jshawn Johnson, Class of 2024

In the fiscal year 2021 (FY21), CSU’s expenditures from federal grant awards totaled $17,042,491. This amount includes the CARES Act grants for $5,740,095, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund grants for $818,542 and Pell grants for $4,761,289.

For the state, municipal, and other grants, the expenditures added to $4,563,011 in FY21, including the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) for $3,416,264.

CSU currently holds more than 40 federal, state, municipal, and other types of grants for research, scholar activities, student support, and student training in areas ranging from health, education, and STEM to cybersecurity, athletics, and community service. These awards add to $6,885,842 annually, demonstrating the continued strength of CSU’s award base.

FY2021 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

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<th>Category</th>
<th>FY21 Estimated Total</th>
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<td>Scholarship &amp; Fellowship</td>
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<td>Institutional &amp; Research Support</td>
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<td>FY21 Estimated Total</td>
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CSU Puts Staff & Student Safety First

Chicago State staff and students were excited to return to in-person instruction after a protracted absence from the pandemic. To keep instruction, classes, activities, and events flowing smoothly and everyone safe, the University enacted a comprehensive COVID safety and Cougar Wellness Plan. The operational plan included extensive health and safety measures, mask policies, vaccination resources including free vaccination clinics, and timely COVID staff and student case data online. CSU continues to monitor the health situation in the region and state and will take additional precautions as needed.

The University Code of Conduct

During our March 2021 Compliance Week, CSU launched its University and Student Code of Conduct, designed to uphold a high standard of excellence throughout the institution and student population. The policy is designed to reinforce our values and embody ‘integrity in motion’ in every action big or small, in order to prioritize accountability, collaboration, honesty, and respect. All university employees completed certification training and partook in daily trivia to help infuse a culture of compliance and ethics through every aspect of university and student life.
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For more information
about the CSU
Foundation, scan here.
IN MEMORIAM

Celebrating the life and legacy of Dean Reginald J. Motley.

On behalf of Chicago State University and the Division of Students Affairs (DOSA), it is with great sadness that we saw the passing of a beloved friend and colleague, Dean Reginald (Reg) J. Motley in 2021. Dean Motley was a valued member of DOSA and served as the Dean of the Division of Student Affairs. He was full of life and fulfilled his role as a great advocate for students. He will be greatly missed by staff, faculty, students, and the entire CSU community.