

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

CTC/CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S THIRD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

8:30 PM, Friday, October 29, 2004
Martinique Elegant Banquets 8200 Cicero

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS

Good Evening everyone and Welcome to the 3rd Annual CTC/CSU Alumni Awards Banquet. I want to begin by thanking Dr. Donald Pettis, President of the Alumni Association for his ongoing hard work. I also would like to thank Mr. Mark Durham, Director of the Office of Alumni Affairs, and you, the alumni, family and friends of our University for your support of this annual event.

As we reflect and find ourselves in a world wherein change is the norm and less emphasis is placed on the role and necessity of tradition and consistency, it does us all well to stop and acknowledge those individuals, institutions and traditions that brought us this far.. From family to church and from school, teachers and community leaders, each of us has a list of those who assisted in making us who we are today. This annual event affords us the opportunity to celebrate, to commemorate and honor those individuals and the traditions that they upheld that have served as proud beacons of light for us all. This gathering

this evening provides the opportunity for us to express our appreciation to this evening's honorees. It also allows us to enjoy a brief respite from a chaotic world to say, "in the midst of a storm, we do have proud traditions that endure and our honorees embody the very best in each of us!"

Because the CTC/CSU circle continues to grow and expand with a worldwide body of alumni earning local, national, and international acclaim, the stature and reputation of Chicago State University is profoundly enhanced. Perhaps a description of the role that CSU plays on the state and national higher education landscape will aid in your understanding of our hard work and the achievements of which we are all very proud.

For example, did you know that your alma mater holds a unique position in Illinois' higher education system? Currently, CSU enrolls approximately one-third of all African American students who attend Illinois public colleges and universities. The University ranks first in the nation among non-HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in awarding baccalaureate degrees to African Americans. In addition, the following rankings enhance our contributions to the state and the nation: 13th in the nation among Traditionally White Institutions [TWI] for awarding

bachelors degrees in all disciplines, fourth in the nation for awarding masters degrees in mathematics, 18th in the nation for awarding undergraduate degrees in Education; eighth in the nation for awarding masters degrees in English, eleventh in the nation for awarding masters degrees in psychology and tenth in the nation for awarding masters degrees in Education to African American students.

You would also be proud to know that the University is also quite proud of the fact that the following programs have received professional accreditation: the undergraduate programs in Recreation and music as well as the graduate programs in counseling and social work. We also recently receive continue accreditation for five years from NCAT for the teacher education program, which has been accredited since 1954. Further, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) have completed their reviews of CSU's education programs. The result is that ALL 33 programs, have received full approval at the state and national levels. ***In fact, CSU has the distinction of being one of only two Illinois institutions to have earned full recognition and approval for all programs based on the current and recently revised (2003) state and national standards, and following the new ISBE and NCATE procedures for program review. The only program left at the university that***

need a professional accreditation are Art and Business. The business program is in candidacy status for accreditation and is beginning to write the self study report. The final program left for professional accreditation, the art program has made significant curriculum changes and should, if resources become available, be ready for accreditation next year.

Finally, we recently received ten years of continued accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and schools for the entire university. Further, our faculty members are continuing to engage in scholarly pursuits with the publication of various articles, books and funded research. We were able to garner approximately 26 million dollars in external funds for research and training activities.

These data provide an abbreviated profile of our standing among other institutions. In addition to that state and national status, we on campus are pleased to inform you that the Illinois Board of Higher Education has granted approval to the University to offer our first doctoral degree, which is an Ed..D.. in Educational leadership. It will begin in August of 2005, thanks particularly to Dr. Frances Carroll President Emil Jones and Senator Donne Trotter. We are also pleased about the construction of five new buildings on the University campus:

namely a new library, new convocation center, child care center and Financial Outreach Center. Special appreciation is extended to President Emil Jones, Senator Donne Trotter, Representatives Monique Davis and Charles Morrow. You can speak with pride about the stellar levels of excellence and enhancement that your Alma Mater is achieving! Our commitment to providing access, opportunity and excellence for all citizens of Illinois has led to the creation of opportunities for Chicago State University that have historically not been available..

Finally, let me extend my sincere congratulations to all of our honorees. You make us all proud with the outstanding contributions that you are making to the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois and the nation.

In closing, I solicit not only your sharing in our celebration of this year's honorees, but I also ask that you please continue to work with us to make CSU stronger. Your support of fundraising activities like this evening are critically important to our sustenance and our spirit. However, we also need your assistance in areas such as student recruitment, scholarship support and career development activities. Alumni are our ambassadors to the world-at-large, as well as to the public and

private sectors. Thus, your partnerships with us can serve as doorways for our best and brightest students into the professional world! We thank you for your time and we earnestly appreciate and need your continuous support!