

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

HONORS COLLEGE INDUCTION CEREMONY

6:30PM

Friday, September 23, 2005

CRSU Rotunda

President's Welcome Remarks

Dr. Anderson, Dr. Milo, honorees, returning honor students, parents and significant others, the Chicago State University community of scholars, ladies and gentlemen, good Evening and Welcome to the 2005-2006 Honors College Induction.

We gather each year to welcome and celebrate our honor student's commitment to both personal and intellectual development as well as commitment to knowledge advancement. We, here at the University are extremely proud of each one of you particularly as we add new links to our circle of scholars.

Before I continue, I would like to personally acknowledge those without whom this evening would not have been realized. These two individuals are none other than Dr. Richard Milo and Professor Victor Sorrell. I am

pleased to give credit to both of these individuals for envisioning the Honors' College as their personal brainchild.

The opportunity to acquire a University education is an exceptional one. The skills and exposure that this opportunity provides is the key to an elite club. However, I use elite to denote available to only a few, not a hierarchy that leaves those less fortunate behind.

Ladies and gentlemen, students and colleagues, please join me in congratulating each of our Honors students and reminding them that to whom much is given, much is required. This is the phrase that continued to resonate through my mind as I prepared to welcome each of you this evening. Those students that we have gathered here to celebrate this evening are here because they have committed themselves to a level of excellence that has allowed them to consistently achieve in the educational arena. The future that lies ahead of you is bright and open to all of your dreams with two small caveats:

First, you must remain focused and diligent; and second, you must share your talents with those less fortunate than yourselves.

Chicago State University welcomes you with open arms. We know that you are our future and the Honors' College is our vehicle for providing both nurturance and support. Therefore, rest assured that if you are self-reflective, not following the crowd, but making your own choices and decisions based on the realistic long term goals that you establish for yourselves, you will succeed.

Again, I say, if you are quiet and listen to your inner voice, you will learn far more than what transpires in the classroom environment. You will learn self-discipline.. You will learn what constitutes true friendship. You will learn that the knowledge development process is endless and that this is merely the first step in that journey.

We, here at Chicago State University are very proud of our history and achievements to date.

- Founded in 1867 as an experimental teacher training school in Blue Island, Illinois.

- Today, we sit in the midst of the historically rich South Side community with its exceptional legacy of extraordinary contributions to the American landscape.
- We are the second oldest public university in the state and the oldest public university in the city of Chicago.
- The University can boast about an academic program that encompasses four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Health Sciences.
- We offer 39 undergraduate and 23 graduate degree-granting programs. Division of Continuing Education and Nontraditional programs, offers extension courses, distance learning and not-for-credit programs.
- Currently, the University enrolls 7,200 students, has 450 faculty members of which 90% have doctoral degrees, employs more than 1,200 people, and has a budget that exceeds 120 million dollars per annum.

- Further, our faculty members are continuing to engage in scholarly pursuits with the publication of various articles, books, and funded research. In addition, the University just admitted 15 students to our first doctoral degree program in Educational leadership. We are also pleased about the construction of five new buildings on the University campus: namely, a new library, convocation center, childcare center, conference center and Financial Outreach Center.
- The University ranks first in the nation among non-HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in awarding baccalaureate degrees to African Americans. In addition, in 2004, the University ranked 13th in the nation among Traditionally White Institutions [TWI] for awarding bachelors degrees in all disciplines; fourth for awarding masters degrees in mathematics; eighth for English; eleventh for psychology; and tenth in the

nation for awarding masters degrees in Education to African American students.

- Over the last three years, CSU has intensified its efforts at internationalization by formalizing exchange programs with several universities in Europe, Asia and Africa.
- Finally, in response to Katrina's destruction of colleges and universities located in several southern states, Chicago State University proudly invited affected students to continue their academic careers with us until they are able to return to their home institutions. Approximately, 76 of these students have enrolled.

In closing, I extend warm congratulations again to our Honorees and I encourage you to have a wonderful year in the pursuit of new knowledge. We are delighted that you decided to some soar with us here at Chicago State University where we are in the business of developing minds and changing the world.

Thank you.