

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE DAY

Friday, January 7, 2005

12 – 2pm

Breakey Theatre

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Harvey, colleagues, faculty and staff members, good afternoon and Happy New Year!!! I am pleased to welcome you to what will be the first in a series of initiatives designed to enhance the quantity and quality of the very raison'd'etre of education at-large and of Chicago State University in particular. More specifically, the purposes of the forthcoming workshops, which will be presented by members of the New Millennium Strategic Planning Steering Committee, are to increase the university's awareness that student retention is a campus wide initiative *and* to initiate a series of semester long presentations on issues in higher education and their implications for our University.

Our ability to increase our student enrollment and the quality of the student learning experiences by improving the quality of the services rendered from the cuisine to the

curriculum, from customer service to the campus physical environment requires the involvement of each and every member of our campus community. In short, recruitment and retention are campus wide responsibilities. In addition, as we each work diligently to remain current in our specific disciplines - reading the current literature, conducting our own research and networking with colleagues, we also must remain current with the state of the academy that is both informed by the economic, political and socio-cultural world in which it exists and simultaneously informs that world.

As resources decrease and competition for students increases, all of higher education is addressing these issues. Universities of all types and sizes are engaging in campus wide retention activities. These activities should remind our faculty and groundskeepers, secretaries, staff and administrators that each one of us is an integral part of our University.. Hence, the quality of the environment that we create has implications for our future because it influences the decisions that students make when they select an institution of higher learning.

Some months ago, I sent a memo to the campus community that had a question at the top. It suggested that we each ask ourselves: Would I want a member of my family to interact with someone who treated them in the way that I treated the last person/student with whom I interacted? As cliché as it is, if we treated others the way that we want to be treated, we might well expend *just a little more time, effort and energy*.

The knowledge base of our inaugural institute's speaker, Dr. William Harvey, Vice President of the Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity of the American Council on Education, reflects the interface of all of the issues with which Chicago State University and the academy at large are currently confronted. The American Council of Education is one of the premier organizations on the national higher education scene. Their research on history, trends and future higher education challenges makes their reports always reflect the pulse of the academy. Thus, we are extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Harvey to our campus community.

In conclusion, I encourage you to join us for the keynote address and the workshops as we enhance our individual capabilities toward strengthening our entire university community. Thank you for your attendance and continued support of our University.

From this point on the program for the Institute will proceed as printed.