FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Dan Schumacher brings his ‘A’ game to CSU as next Athletic Director*

*Seasoned fundraising and organizational veteran aims to take Chicago State sports to next level*

**May 29, 2012** — Dan Schumacher has been named Chicago State University’s next Intercollegiate Athletics director at the NCAA Division I campus on the city’s south side. He will replace Interim Director Sonja Clayton-Pedersen, Esq., who will stay on as the university's associate general counsel.

Schumacher will be formally introduced at a 12:30 p.m. Tuesday press conference in CSU's Emil & Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center.

“Chicago State is thrilled that Dan Schumacher has accepted our offer to become our next Intercollegiate Athletics director,” says CSU President Wayne D. Watson, Ph.D. “Our campus community queried many candidates, but we were ultimately impressed with Dan’s experience, energy and ideas.”

Schumacher comes to CSU from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, where he spent six years cultivating championships and spearheading capital campaigns to upgrade sports facilities. During his term, the Lewis Flyers won nine regular-season Great Lakes Valley Conference championships and 13 tournament championships. The Flyers made appearances at 22 NCAA tournaments, including Final Four runs for men’s soccer (2009) and Division I men’s volleyball (2012).

While the Flyers made improvements on the field, the fields were also improved during Schumacher’s tenure with more than $5 million in facility upgrades on the Romeoville campus. The most recent addition is the $4 million Lewis Stadium, unveiled in September 2011.

Schumacher helped fast-track the facility upgrade timeline by forming the Varsity Club, an organized, nonprofit, fundraising arm of the Lewis University Athletic Department that supports small-scale capital improvements. The men’s and women’s swimming teams directly benefitted from Schumacher’s efforts, as the Lewis swimming pool now has a state-of-the-art scoring system that has allowed the program to expand its home schedule.

Schumacher was selected from a comprehensive and collaborative search — a process that included a broad-based university search committee and town hall forums for candidates — to find the right candidate to continue to build CSU’s athletic program and strengthen the institution’s presence among NCAA Division I schools and those in the Great West Conference.

Former student-athlete Jonathan Guzzo, 26, offers this about Schumacher’s style: “Dan was always emphasizing that we were student-athletes, not athletes then students,” says, Guzzo, a former pitcher for the Flyers’ baseball team.

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Schumacher, continued:

“As an athlete, he pushed supporting everyone,” Guzzo says, “not just your individual sport. He was about getting as many fans out to each event as possible, and he challenged us to form a support system across all sports.”

Guzzo adds that Chicago State can expect an A.D. who is about solutions: “I don't know if it was because Lewis is a small school, but if you had a problem, you could always speak directly to him. He would fix the problem, or take steps to avoid or alleviate a problem in the future.”

Schumacher earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations (business administration minor) in 1990 and a master’s degree in educational/school administration in 2005, both at Winona State (Minnesota). As a member of the WSU football team, he garnered All-America honors and served two seasons as a team captain.

Schumacher and wife Kristin are the parents of daughter Kasey, and sons, Jack and Declan.

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