Myth: Chicago State cannot keep up with equipment.

Fact: The 1,840 pieces of equipment in question were misplaced over a 39-year period, covering many administrations and many more state auditing periods.

Fact: In re-evaluating the university’s inventory control system, it was Chicago State officials who actually found that the equipment had been improperly inventoried over nearly four decades. CSU then notified the auditors.

Fact: All but one item purchased since October 2009 has been found.

Fact: In locating equipment purchased during this administration, CSU took measures to reclaim missing equipment.

What's next: CSU has enhanced controls. This includes strengthening procedures around the initial assignment of assets to employees, conducting spot audits, expanding resources to validate where assets are before an employee leaves the university and holding employees liable for assigned property.

Myth: CSU inappropriately spent money to take students on a New Orleans vacation.

Fact: The trip to New Orleans for a conference at the Department of Environmental Quality (addressing Hurricane Katrina aftermath) was allowable under the grant in question.

What's next: Grant administrators have worked closely with CSU attorneys to improve the way CSU reviews and approves contracts and amendments. CSU has hired a post-grants and compliance administrator to provide oversight on active federal and state contracts. Oversight now involves staff training on relevant grant processes.

Myth: The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) launched an investigation of CSU.

Fact: CSU, on its own, was engaged in a comprehensive investigation of financial aid and reported its findings to the DOE.

Myth: “… school administrators initially recorded $740,000 in improper aid because of poor academic achievement, forgetting that they had ended sanctions against subpar performance in 2008.”

Fact: An estimate of the number of students who may have been overawarded over four academic years was reported on financial statements. An investigation initiated by the university led to the discovery of a suspended academic standing policy and another review of student records was completed. A revised analysis was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in January 2012 showing that 20 students had been overawarded over four academic years by a total of $122,852; and 13 students had been overawarded state MAP grants by a total of $20,151.

What's next: CSU has updated its academic standing policy to reflect dismissal language.

Myth: By indicating that it takes time to address audit findings, Chicago State is dragging its feet on correcting systemic problems.

Fact: CSU cut in half the number of repeat findings from the 2010 audit.

Fact: Addressing findings takes most institutions two years because of the timeline that leaves institutions exposed from the time a finding is identified until the final report is published.

What's next: CSU’s leadership team accepts responsibility for correcting all audit findings. As we transform the culture at CSU, we are encouraging all faculty and staff to embrace the highest standards of accountability and professionalism.