FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emil and Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center
To Be Dedicated October 7

CHICAGO (SEPT. 30)—Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, state legislators and other officials will join Chicago State board members, faculty, staff and students for the official dedication of the Emil and Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center, near 98th Street and St. Lawrence Avenue, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

The convocation center is a 7,000-seat multipurpose arena that hosts basketball, concerts, commencements and other campus and public events. The center officially opened in Fall 2007 and was named for Senator Jones, who has been a strong supporter of the South Side campus.

"Emil Jones' legacy of public service to the State of Illinois is unmatched, and I am proud to call him a friend," said Governor Rod R. Blagojevich. "Chicago State University holds a special place in his heart, and this center bearing his name, and that of his late wife Patricia, is a small repayment for the debt of gratitude we owe this great man."

The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony includes remarks by Senator Jones; CSU Trustees the Rev. Leon D. Finney, Jr., Ph.D. and the Rev. Richard Tolliver, Ph.D.; CSU Interim President Frank Pogue; Capital Development Board Chairman Anthony Licata; State Senator Donne E. Trotter (D) 17th District; Constance A. “Connie” Howard, 34th District; and student leaders Jawuan Sutton, Student Trustee, and Rufus Jackson, Student Government Association president.

A reception immediately follows the ceremony in the foyer of the convocation center.