Chicago State conference focuses black males on college

Chicago — More than 200 black male high school students who might not be thinking of college as an option after high school, will take part in Chicago State University’s one-day conference, Continuing the Journey: High School and Beyond, Friday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in CSU’s Breakey Theater and Reed Student Union.

The conference is designed to inspire traditionally underrepresented males to continue their education beyond high school. It is one of the many initiatives related to African American male high school students planned in conjunction with CSU’s newly established African American Male Resource Center.

Conference chairperson Romi Lowe, CSU’s executive director of enrollment services, said what sets this program apart are its holistic approach and the hands-on involvement of partners and volunteers. Macy’s Department Stores will present a dress for success training session. And the Coalition of African-American Leaders (COAL) and the Chicago chapter of 100 Black Men are providing dozens of volunteer mentors over the next year.

Students from Chicago Public Schools, south suburban and parochial schools will network with mentors, meet with Chicago State students, and learn about college preparation, careers, and dressing for success.

Dr. Lance Williams, founder of the Know Thyself Program, Inc., will be the featured speaker, and the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago will perform.

CSU’s Office of Enrollment Services’ campus partner, the African American Male Resource Center, is funded by a $1 million, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to attract and retain African American males in higher education.