FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago State University receives $3.5 million U.S. Department of Education grant

CHICAGO – The Department of Education recently awarded the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Chicago State University (CSU) a $3.5 million grant to create the 21st Century Graduate and Professional Students Academic Studies Initiative (CGPSASI) master’s degree program. CSU is one of five schools across the country selected to receive this grant. The grant will be distributed over six years in $500,000 yearly increments.

The grant will provide support services to enhance and expand graduate and professional education to deserving students in four qualified master’s degree programs. The programs are Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Occupational Therapy, and Geography/Geographic Information Systems.

“For over 134 years, Chicago State University has been an academic leader in higher education and today the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) continues this proud tradition with the launch of the new CGPSASI master’s degree program,” said Dr. Justin Akujieze, dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. “This program will allow us to continue to provide relevant, practiced-based education for working professionals. CSU is a teaching University which means that the focus is on the student and the student's professional development. This new grant allows us to seek ways that introduce new pedagogical teaching methods in education befitting of the 21st century,” said Akujieze.

Along with introducing a cross disciplinary approach to problem solving, another beneficial component of the program will ensure that students are sufficiently prepared within their disciplines to assume positions of leadership within the global community.

“Our programs have a reputation for quality of instruction, personalized student support and strong connections to the community,” said Akujieze. “Further, this grant will also allow us to provide specialized workshops to the CGPSASI students in need of heightened financial literacy that will lead them to financial independence,” added Akujieze.

CGPSASI students will receive ongoing resources such as equipment, books, facilities, professional conference opportunities and a research-based learning environment that provides experiences and knowledge for developing critical data analytical skills.

The CGPSASI environment will resemble a cohort structure of ongoing fellowship, leading students to become role models and change agents within the community.
“It is our hope that the significance of the CSU/SGPS, CGPSASI initiative will be found firstly in the student-product that is developed,” said Akujieze. “Such a person will be a professionally competent individual that maintains a worldview of universality of mankind even as he finds home an integrative component of the community,” he added.

For more information, please call 773-995-2404.