FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE 15TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF CSU AWARD GALA

(CHICAGO) – The Chicago State University (CSU) Foundation will celebrate 15 years of the Friends of CSU Award Gala on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago at 5 p.m. for a reception and 7 p.m. for dinner. Founded by Donald S. Perkins and his wife Jane, the Gala is an opportunity to celebrate prominent Chicago business/community leaders for their contributions to CSU and the community.

This year, the Gala will honor Lester McKeever, Managing Partner of Washington, Pittman & Mc Keever, accounting and consulting firm. McKeever will be honored with the CSU distinguished Circle of Friends Award for his passion and commitment to education. McKeever is an attorney, certified public accountant, and is the head of the Chicago CPA and consulting firm of Washington, Pittman & McKeever, LLC, one of the country’s oldest African-American-owned accounting firms. The firm provides audit, accounting and business consulting services to corporate, non-profit, state and local government clients. In 1997, McKeever made history when he was appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The Gala will also celebrate the achievements of the University’s Office of Continuing Education and Nontraditional Programs. In response to the changing need to make learning more accessible to adults and children of all ages, the Office provides a variety of credit and non-credit courses and programs. The Office offers advanced training for new technologies in the workplace as well as opportunities for personal enrichment and new skill developments for a changing society. The Office has a long and distinguished track record of meeting the growing demands for high quality, innovative, flexible, educational opportunities through its five delivery units.

“We are very delighted to honor the achievements and contributions of Lester McKeever and to recognize the Office of Continuing Education and Nontraditional Programs,” said Cordell Reed, Chairman of the CSU Foundation Board. “Lester has been a consistent supporter of our scholarship fundraising efforts throughout the years and like all our previous honorees, he has dedicated himself to serving the needs of others.” The dinner will be co-chaired by Randall C. Hampton, retired executive vice president of LaSalle Bank and Jacoby D. Dickens, chairman of Seaway Bank and Trust.

The Friends of CSU Award Gala raises funds to support student scholarships, technology enhancements, and general infrastructure support at CSU through ticket sales and sponsorships. The CSU Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support various activities at CSU.

Individual tickets to the gala are $250 and can be purchased by calling the CSU Foundation at 773-995-3839. Table Sponsorships are also available. For more information on the Friends of CSU Award Gala, please visit www.csu.edu/foundation.