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Author, actor and rapper “Ice-T,” Tracy Marrow, keynotes national education conference on black males at CSU

Chicago (April 13, 2009) — Actor, rapper and author Tracy Marrow, otherwise known as “Ice-T,” will present a keynote address at a two-day national conference this month at Chicago State University focusing on black males and higher education. “Continuing the Journey: Raising Expectations with Black Male Initiatives,” April 27-28, will highlight the nation’s best practices and initiatives designed to improve the educational outcomes of African-American males.

Mr. Morrow, perhaps best known for his portrayal of NYPD Detective Odafin “Fin” Tutuola on NBC’s “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit,” will be the luncheon speaker on Monday, April 27. Tuesday’s guest speaker will be award-winning author and journalist Dr. Herb Boyd. His book “Brotherman – the Odyssey of Black Men in America – An Anthology,” won the American Book Award for nonfiction.

Conference Chair Dr. Anitra J. Ward said the 2nd Annual Leadership Conference will bring together some of the best thinkers on the topic and provide participants with ideas to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation of black male students at their institutions.

Other speakers will include Dr. Danny K. Davis, U.S. Representative, 7th Congressional District; Dr. Andrew Grant-Thomas, deputy director, The Kirwan Institute, The Ohio State University; Dr. Wayne D. Watson, chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago; Dr. Frank G. Pogue, interim president, Chicago State University; Dr. Terence Mitchell, chairman, Illinois Task Force on the Condition of African-American Males; the Rev. Dr. Leon Finney, Jr., chairman, CSU Board of Trustees; Mr. Edmund Gueringer, outreach specialist, CSU’s African American Male Resource Center; Mr. Terry Nunn, deputy director, diversity and outreach, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Clyde El Amin, president, Kennedy-King College; Dr. Joshua McMurfee, chairman, National Mentoring Program, 100 Black Men; and Dr. Al Bowman, president, Illinois State University.

The conference is the culmination of a month-long series of events sponsored by a coalition of Illinois institutions and organizations that are studying the condition of black males in higher education in Illinois. Participants include CSU, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Chicago Urban League, the City Colleges of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, the Brother 2 Brother program of the South Metropolitan Regional Higher Education Consortium, the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education, and the Illinois Legislative Task Force on the Condition of African-American Males.

The conference is sponsored by the Office of Resource Development at Chicago State University and CSU’s newly created African American Male Resource Center, which was established with a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Predominantly Black Institutions program.

The conference will be held in the Emil & Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center; breakout sessions will be in the fourth floor of the Academic Library and the Cordell Reed Student Union. The registration fee is $35 for both days of the conference; college and high schools students who register by April 17: $15. For more information, call the Office of Resource Development at (773) 821-2160, or visit the website at www.csu.edu/pbi.