Mentoring for African American men begins at Chicago State

Chicago (March 19, 2009) — The newly established African American Male Resource Center at Chicago State University will inaugurate its year-long mentoring program with a one-day conference for more than 200 high school students from area schools, 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.

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 is contributing 200 ties to the young men, symbolic of “ties that bind.” 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.

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.