

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education AWARDS CSU COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY FULL ACCREDITATION**

July 5, 2012 – Chicago State University's College of Pharmacy (COP) recently announced that full accreditation status has been awarded to its Doctor of Pharmacy program by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), which is the national agency responsible for accrediting degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education.

ACPE full accreditation demonstrates an institution's commitment to academic excellence, a core value of Chicago State University. The move from Candidate status to full accreditation occurs when a program has met all ACPE Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Program in Pharmacy leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree and has graduated its first class. This past May, CSU graduated its first class of 77 student pharmacists.

"We are proud of this achievement. Our success is a testament to the hard work of the faculty, students, staff, and administration of CSU's College of Pharmacy," said Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith, dean of Chicago State University's College of Pharmacy.

The College serves an integral role within the University by providing a culturally diverse and intellectually stimulated community of scholars engaged in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Its curriculum incorporates an innovative student-centered teaching philosophy. Faculty mentors coach students, encouraging them to be active participants through small group-learning networks. Early integration of experiential education allows students to apply their classroom knowledge in community, hospital, ambulatory care and public health practice settings – as they help patients apply safe and effective medication use.

"Being part of the inaugural class gave us an opportunity to shape the program and provide feedback to the college on its structure and what works and doesn't work. They encouraged us to offer our input, and it was obvious that all the instructors poured their heart into making the program successful," said 2012 Valedictorian Sherry Williams, Pharm.D., Chicago.

In the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA), many of the pharmacy-friendly provisions of the health care reform law were left intact, including all important opportunities for pharmacists to continue providing direct patient care services for medications and pharmacist inclusion as members of the health care team in both medical homes and accountable care organizations.

"This is an exciting time for the profession of pharmacy. Pharmacists have evolved from dispensers of medications to providers of health care services. With this national emergence of new roles for pharmacists to provide direct patient care within the Patient-Centered Medical Home and Accountable Care Organizations, there is a foremost demand for highly prepared pharmacists to fulfill these roles."

"Our students are well prepared to provide quality care for patients and are positioned to improve the health of individuals as well as the community at large," said Dean Mobley Smith.

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Chicago State University was founded as a teacher training school in Blue Island, Illinois on September 2, 1867. Today, the University is a fully accredited public, urban institution located on 161-picturesque acres in a residential community on Chicago's South side. CSU is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor of Illinois. The University's five colleges—Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Pharmacy—offer 36 undergraduate and 27 graduate and professional degree-granting programs. CSU also offers an interdisciplinary Honors College for students in all areas of study and has a Division of Continuing Education and Nontraditional Degree Programs that offers extension courses, distance learning and not-for-credit programs to the entire Chicago community.