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CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

2024

ANNUAL REPORT





FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PATH TO PROGRESS: OUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EQUITY IN MOTION

At Chicago State University, we are not just an institution of higher learning; we are an institution of higher purpose. As the only U.S. Department of Education-designated four-year Predominantly Black Institution in Illinois, we proudly embrace our role as a catalyst for change. We understand that achieving equity in education requires tangible actions and unwavering dedication to the holistic well-being of our students throughout their higher education journey.

Together, we are a driving force behind “Equity in Motion,” propelling positive change and nurturing a more equitable world.

WHAT IS A PBI?

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), which include 67 institutions across the U.S., serve 9% of all African American college students and are critical in providing access to higher education for underserved communities. To qualify as a PBI, an institution must have at least 40% African American enrollment and 50% low-income or first-generation students.

CSU is proud of the dedication and commitment of our student body, which includes 68% African American students, and 48% first-generation students.

As the University works to reach higher levels in all aspects of teaching and learning, we recognize that our human capital is the key to propelling this exceptional academic institution and its constituents to new levels of success.

VISION

Chicago State University will be recognized for innovations in teaching and research, community development, and civic engagement. We will promote excellence, ethical leadership, entrepreneurship, and social and environmental justice. We will embrace, engage, educate, propel, and elevate our students and community to transform lives locally and globally.

MISSION

Chicago State University transforms students' lives by innovative teaching, research, and community partnerships through excellence in ethical leadership, cultural enhancement, economic development, and justice.

VALUES

- Personal and academic excellence
- Personal, professional, and academic integrity
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Leadership, service, philanthropy, social justice, and entrepreneurship
- Creative and innovative thinking and learning
- Pride in self, community, and the University
- Lifelong learning

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SCOTT

Zaldwaynaka 'Z' Scott, Esq.
President, Chicago State University

Chicago State University continues to forge a path toward a more inclusive and equitable future for our students and for our community. While we celebrate the significant strides we've made, we remain acutely aware that our mission is far from complete, and we are more committed than ever to the work that lies ahead.

I'm elated to share a momentous achievement that embodies our mission: the establishment of the U.S. House Congressional Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) Caucus. This groundbreaking

development not only secures increased funding for CSU, PBIs across the nation, and underserved populations, it also amplifies our visibility at federal, state, and local levels. As a founding member of the National Coalition for Predominantly Black Institutions, CSU stands at the vanguard of this crucial movement, championing equitable access and valuable resource allocation in higher education and propelling our mission forward with renewed vigor.

Our commitment to equity was extended beyond the halls of academia this year and into the heart of our community with the launch of the 95th Street Corridor Plan. This visionary and transformative economic development plan will create a modern, thriving hub for students, faculty, families, and the community at large. As we shepherd this important project, it stands as an investment in our community, ensuring that equity is a tangible, everyday reality.

As an anchor institution, CSU is a catalyst of economic growth and social progress. Our graduates not only achieve personal success, they also significantly contribute to a more diverse workforce and leadership landscape. Through initiatives like summer camps, dual enrollment programs, and the *Rise Academy*, we're fostering a college-going culture that advances equity and access for generations to come.

Together, we can enhance educational access, foster a welcoming and nurturing campus community, and forge robust pathways to successful careers. By joining forces, we can create a future defined by progress, inclusivity, and excellence – a future where every student feels supported, inspired, and empowered to thrive and contribute to our shared prosperity.

As always with unwavering optimism and determination,



LETTER FROM CHAIR ZOPP

Andrea Zopp, Esq.
Managing Partner, Cleveland Avenue
Chicago State University Board of Trustees (2019 - 2025)

Embracing Change. Creating Change-Makers.

Reflecting on this past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the strides we've made at Chicago State University. Our achievements in advancing our mission of "Equity in Motion" are

a testament to the power of community, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to educational excellence, access, and equity.

A highlight of the year was our 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, where over 400 attendees helped raise nearly \$600,000 for the 1stGEN Scholarship Fund. This fund is a crucial part of our Cougar Commitment, driving programs that ensure equitable access and success for our students. The event also featured the 2023 Cougar Servant Leadership Awards, celebrating those who have made remarkable contributions to public service and educational equity.

Our Board of Trustees also approved an exciting sports expansion initiative, which includes launching a women's triathlon program and exploring a Division I FCS football team. This \$4 million fundraising campaign will not only enhance our athletic programs but also bolster the economic vitality of Chicago's South Side. We're thrilled to be joining the Northeast Conference (NEC) in 2024, which will provide our student-athletes greater visibility and the opportunity to compete at higher levels.

Beyond campus, we are leading a transformative effort to redevelop the 95th Street Corridor on Chicago's South Side. In partnership with the City of Chicago, we've unveiled a \$250 million plan to create a vibrant university village. This development will serve as a hub for commercial and community resources, driving investment and opportunity in the region. With over \$4.5 billion in recent and ongoing investments, the future of the 95th Street Corridor is bright, and CSU is at the heart of this transformation.

As we look ahead, I'm inspired by the possibilities before us. The achievements of this past year demonstrate that we can accomplish anything together. I extend my deepest gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters for their dedication to our mission. Together, we are not just shaping the future of Chicago State University; we are shaping the future of our community and beyond.

Thank you for your unwavering support. It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Board as we continue to innovate in education, uplift our communities, and pave the way for a brighter future. I eagerly anticipate all that we will achieve together in the coming year.



UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



DR. LESLIE ROUNDTREE
INTERIM PROVOST & SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



DR. MONIQUE CARROLL
VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR
OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



JASON L. CARTER
GENERAL COUNSEL, CHIEF COMPLIANCE
OFFICER & VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL
AFFAIRS



MICHAEL HOLMES
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT,
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



OSCAR RODRIGUEZ
VICE PRESIDENT,
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT



ERIN STEVA
VICE PRESIDENT,
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



KIM H. TRAN
CHIEF OF STAFF



DWAYNE BETTS
CHIEF OF POLICE,
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY



NICOLE WILLIAMS
CFO & VICE PRESIDENT
OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS



CSU Welcomes Feist-Price as New Provost

Chicago State University is excited to welcome Dr. Sonja Feist-Price as our new Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Feist-Price will oversee CSU's eight academic areas, including the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, and more, offering more than 60 degree and certificate programs.

After a highly competitive national search, Provost Feist-Price was selected by an internal committee and CSU leadership for her extensive background in teaching, research, and administrative leadership. She previously served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan-Flint. She holds advanced degrees in psychology and counseling, showcasing her commitment to student success and academic excellence.



TRIBUTE TO DR. LESLIE ROUNDTREE: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND IMPACT

After 32 years of dedicated service, Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Chicago State University, is retiring. Her journey at CSU is a testament to the power of commitment, innovation, and unwavering support for student success.

Dr. Roundtree's career at CSU began as a lecturer in the Occupational Therapy department, inspired by a former teacher who recognized her potential. Her path led her from tenured faculty member to department chair, dean, and ultimately to the role of Interim Provost. Throughout her tenure, she faced challenges head-on, always focusing on student success, program improvement, and measured forward progress.

One of Dr. Roundtree's most significant achievements was transforming the Occupational Therapy program. Under her leadership, the department successfully transitioned from a bachelor's to a master's program in 2004 and catapulted pass rates on national exams to new levels. Her efforts to increase diversity in the field of Occupational Therapy have also been nationally recognized, earning her a place on the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows in 2024. In addition, Dr. Roundtree received the 2021 Illinois Occupational Therapy Association's Award of Merit and was named an Outstanding Faculty Member by the Chicago Teachers College/Chicago State University Alumni Association in 2012.

"I'm most proud of helping CSU become a lighthouse to the nation," Dr. Roundtree reflects. "People now know about the CSU OT program, and it serves as a beacon of achievement. We've helped it become a visible and well-respected program, connecting CSU's name to countless remarkable stories."

As Provost, Dr. Roundtree played a crucial role in developing the Cougar Commitment, a comprehensive strategy to support student success. This initiative has led to significant improvements in retention and graduation rates, showcasing her dedication to creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Dr. Roundtree's impact extends beyond CSU. She has been instrumental in securing nearly \$30 million in grants to support minority students and has advocated for equitable access to higher education at both state and national levels.

When asked about her motivation, Dr. Roundtree shares, "I always thought there was something I could still contribute. I would look at new issues and think, 'Okay, can I make a difference and help?' While it was often quite demanding, my determination to help wherever I could kept me focused and motivated. Looking back, I can see how these efforts shaped my career and impact in meaningful ways."

Colleagues and students alike praise Dr. Roundtree for her mentorship, innovative thinking, and ability to inspire others. Her legacy at CSU is not just in the programs she developed or the metrics she improved, but in the countless lives she touched and the culture of excellence and compassion she fostered.

President Scott, reflecting on Dr. Roundtree's contributions, remarks, "Dr. Roundtree's dedication to CSU's progress and mission, as well as our students, has been nothing short of extraordinary. She has left an indelible mark on CSU, and her legacy will continue to inspire and guide us long after her retirement. We are deeply grateful for her service to our university community."

In her retirement, Dr. Roundtree looks forward to staying involved in higher education through consulting on grants, maintaining her garden, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends. Her journey from lecturer to Provost serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one dedicated educator can have on an institution and its community.

Chicago State University celebrates Dr. Leslie Roundtree's remarkable career and thanks her for her tireless dedication to the institution, its students, and the broader community. Her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of educators and leaders at CSU and beyond.





RISE ACADEMY STRONG!

CSU Celebrates Inaugural Graduating Class

CSU proudly congratulates its first graduating class of *RISE* Academy scholars! The *RISE* Academy program, offering full tuition and fee scholarships, a personal laptop for 4 years, free textbooks, and comprehensive support for the students' first year, has guided our inaugural class from the pandemic's challenges in 2020 to graduation. Their resilience and determination exemplify the program's success in fostering academic excellence and personal growth.



RISE Academy Leadership

Under the recent leadership of Dr. Nayshon T. Mosley-Milford, Dean of Student Success, and Dr. Kenneth M. Nole, Director of *RISE* Academy, CSU's flagship student success program has flourished, starting off the 2023-24 academic year with an enrollment of nearly 170 students. Dr. Mosley-Milford's extensive experience in educational equity and student advocacy, combined with Dr. Nole's on-the-ground experience as a program manager and director for Hope Chicago and the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper program, have been instrumental in shaping the program's success and empowering students to reach their full potential.



By The Numbers



650+ *RISE* Scholars since 2020



RISE Scholars have a **higher than average GPA** by the end of their first year

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RISE Scholars have a **20% higher second-year retention rate**

CSU SNAPSHOT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

STRONG STUDENT PIPELINE

Fall 2024 Enrollment

- 2,915** Undergrad and grad student total
- 5%** increase in undergraduate enrollment
- 21%** increase in first-time freshman
- 22%** increase in transfer students
- 23%** increase in dual enrollment students
- 48%** First-generation college students*

*Of known first-gen status

38

states

35

countries

84%

Illinois residents

Research & Financial Support

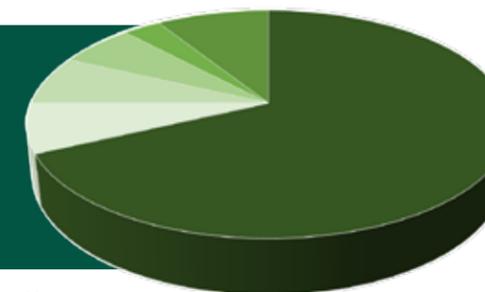
71 Federal, state, municipal, and other grants received **\$13 million+** in grants for research, scholar activities, student support, and student training

Student Life

- 40+** Student organizations
- 8** Fraternities and sororities
- 15** Division 1 NCAA sports teams

- 68%** African American
- 7%** White
- 7%** Asian/Pacific Islander
- 6%** Latinx
- 3%** Two or more
- 9%** Unknown

2,915 Total Student Enrollment



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PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS: CSU AND PUBLICIS RESHAPE THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE

At Chicago State University, corporate partnerships play a vital role in enhancing educational experiences and creating pathways for student success. Our collaboration with Publicis Groupe, along with its subsidiaries Leo Burnett, Arc Worldwide and Spark Foundry, exemplifies the transformative impact that such partnerships can have on both students and the media industry. This six-year relationship has not only elevated CSU's brand, it has also provided invaluable opportunities for our students to thrive in, and prepare for, the competitive media landscape while advancing diversity and equity in the field.

The partnership began in 2018 when CSU, Spark Foundry, Arc Worldwide and Leo Burnett joined forces to establish a new strategic foundation and brand identity for the university. This initiative culminated in the launch of CSU's refreshed brand in June 2020, a testament to the creative vision and commitment of our partners. Esther Franklin, Global Strategy & Cultural Fluency at Spark Foundry, remarked, "Our co-creation brought forth a dynamic new look capturing the University's essence—one that recognizes its unapologetic pursuit of excellence."

Spark Foundry has enriched CSU's Marketing and Communications program by developing and teaching "Introduction to Digital Media Buying." This course covers digital media buying, one of the advertising industry's fastest-growing sectors, equipping students with skills in programmatic, paid search, and social media campaigns. Beyond classroom learning, students gain access to internship and career opportunities, creating a win-win situation for both CSU students and Spark Foundry.

The Chicago State Foundation has also been honored to receive the Leo Burnett \$25,000 scholarship grant for Media Arts as well as Art and Design students. This partnership supports students' eagerness to explore advertising careers, with scholarships awarded to participants of the Advertising Bootcamp known as the Pencil Project. Six CSU students presented their final projects at Leo Burnett's downtown Chicago headquarters, attended by President Scott, Interim Provost Leslie Roundtree, and Provost Sonja Feist-Price.

This multifaceted partnership with Publicis Groupe exemplifies the transformative power of corporate collaborations in higher education. By providing hands-on experience, financial support, and career pathways, Publicis is not only investing in CSU students, they are actively shaping a more diverse and equitable future for the media industry. We invite other corporations to join us in this mission, creating innovative programs that empower students and foster a workforce ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.





CSU Hosts Climate Change Research Hub for South Side

CSU is serving as a super-site for the Community Research on Climate and Urban Science (CROCUS) project, a 5-year, \$25 million initiative led by Argonne National Laboratory and CSU lead Dr. Tekleab Gala, Professor of Geomatics. As part of this effort, CSU is hosting scientific instruments to measure air quality, weather, and soil conditions, with a focus on understanding climate impacts in vulnerable South Side neighborhoods. The project aims to provide data that will empower communities to develop targeted climate solutions and prepare for future environmental challenges.



Honoring Professor Stevenson for Excellence in Jazz Education

Professor Roxanne Stevenson, Interim Department of Music Chair, received the 2024 Excellence in Jazz Education Award from the Jazz Institute of Chicago. This esteemed award recognizes her outstanding support, leadership within the cultural arts community, and unwavering dedication to jazz education.



Dr. Goss Named to Crain's Chicago Notable Women in STEM

Dr. Valerie Goss, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has been recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as one of the Notable Women in STEM for 2024. At CSU, Dr. Goss leads the Quantum Institute and co-leads a \$25 million NSF grant to advance quantum sciences. Her initiatives focus on increasing STEM accessibility for underrepresented students, demonstrating her commitment to diversity and mentorship in the STEM fields.



CSU Professors Secure Major Grant for Heart Disease Research

CSU's Dr. Obayed Raihan and Dr. Chris Botanga secured a grant from the American Heart Association to study inflammation in heart disease, in collaboration with Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Raihan will lead a bioinformatics consortium, while Dr. Botanga will direct student training and mentorship. This initiative aims to provide critical insights into cardiovascular disease and enhance research opportunities for CSU students.



CSU Receives \$1 Million NSF Grant for Semiconductor Workforce Development

CSU has been awarded nearly \$1 million by the National Science Foundation to lead the Chicagoland Partnership for Semiconductors and Microelectronics Experiential Learning (Mic2ExL). Dr. Moussa Ayyash, Professor of Computing Sciences and Technology, is the principal investigator of the project, and Dr. Kimberly Black-Parker, Associate Professor from the Department of Computing, Information, Mathematical Sciences & Technology, will serve as the co-principal investigator. This initiative aims to recruit and develop a diverse workforce in the semiconductor and microelectronics industries by providing experiential learning opportunities, mentorship, and culturally responsive support to underrepresented communities. The project addresses systemic and financial barriers, reinforcing CSU's commitment to educational equity and national workforce needs.



Advancing Special Education through Strategic Funding

Chicago State University's Special Education Master's Degree Program has been bolstered by two grants totaling \$2.4 million from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Spearheaded by Dr. Florah Luseno and Dr. Rasha Elhage, these grants aim to address the shortage of special education teachers by enhancing resources and support to cultivate a skilled and diverse workforce in this vital field.



CSU Leads \$30M NSF Grant for Particle Systems Research

CSU, in collaboration with university and industry partners, has secured a \$30 million NSF grant to establish the Center for Complex Particle Systems (COMPASS). This initiative unites researchers to advance particle-based systems, aiming to transform 3D printing and additive manufacturing using graph theory and machine learning. COMPASS also focuses on providing opportunities for underrepresented groups. Dr. Archie Peters and Dr. Valerie Goss lead CSU's efforts in this transformative project.



CSU Faculty, Alumni Publish in Physics Teacher Magazine

Dr. Mel Sabella, Professor of Physics, and CSU alumni Greg Curry (CSU - CSER), Ember Smith, and Jamia Whitehorn co-authored a paper, "Designing for Proudness", featured in the March 2024 issue of *Physics Teacher Magazine*. The paper leverages a framework developed by Michigan State University lead author and collaborator, Angela Little. The paper explores how Learning Assistants can foster innovative instruction and help students feel proud of their work. It also highlights the integration of "proud moments" in physics education, offering design principles and a practical example of enhancing student engagement in introductory physics courses. The journal editors felt the paper was "one of the journal's best, and have chosen to promote it as a Featured Article."



Professor Smith Appointed Dean of College of Arts and Sciences

After a nationwide search, Professor Mark Smith was appointed as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. With 24 years of leadership experience as Chair of the Music Department and various interim roles within the college, Dean Smith's appointment reflects the CSU community's confidence in his ability to lead and innovate in academic excellence.





Clark Awarded Obama Foundation Voyager Scholarship

Aliya Clark, a Criminal Justice major at CSU, has been awarded the prestigious Obama Foundation Voyager Scholarship. This scholarship supports students who are passionate about public service and aims to develop young leaders who can address global challenges. Aliya plans to focus on criminal justice reform, particularly supporting previously incarcerated youth, aligning with the scholarship's mission to inspire and empower the next generation of change-makers.



CSU Students Selected for Paramount and Showtime's Inaugural Storytellers Lab

CSU students Robert "Pierce" Blount IV and Robyn Foster have been chosen for the inaugural cohort of the Paramount Pictures and Showtime Networks/MTV Entertainment Studios' Storytellers Lab. This program partners with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to cultivate diverse talent pipelines in the entertainment industry. Through a nine-month immersive experience, participants will gain mentorship, masterclasses, and insights into content creation, culminating in a social media project showcased on MTV Entertainment Studios' platforms.



Celebrating Acevedo's Inspiring Journey

Juan Martinez Acevedo, Ed.D., embodies the spirit of CSU through his journey from an undocumented immigrant to the first in his family to achieve a doctorate. Honored as the student speaker at CSU's 371st commencement, Juan inspired his peers with his story of perseverance and dedication. As a college advisor for the City Colleges of Chicago and an educator in African American History, Juan's journey reflects CSU's mission to empower students to overcome challenges and make significant contributions to their communities.



Olikagu Triumphs From President's Cup to Penn Med

Adaeze Olikagu, a 2023 graduate of Chicago State University and recipient of the prestigious President's Cup, has achieved a significant milestone by securing a full academic scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Graduating summa cum laude with a degree in a STEM field, Adaeze's dedication to her studies and exemplary service to the university community have been commendable. Her recent research at CSU under Dr. Molly McDonough's mentorship further highlights her commitment to academic excellence.



Film Students Honored at Orlando Urban Film Festival

CSU's Communications, Media Arts, and Theatre (CMAT) Department and its students have been awarded the 2023 Grand Jury Prize for Excellence in Cinema Studies and Production. Their films, *Contentment* and *Whole*, were showcased at the 10th Annual Orlando Urban Film Festival, highlighting CSU's role in advancing diverse urban filmmakers. Retired Commander Philip Willis, Executive Director of the festival and CSU alumnus, praised the students' captivating storytelling and acknowledged the University's significant contributions to the film industry.



CSU Partners with World Business Chicago for Black Leaders in Tech Panel

CSU partnered with World Business Chicago's ThinkChicago program to host a panel discussion featuring Black leaders in technology. Led by CSU ThinkChicago student ambassadors Abiodun Soneye, Eddie Jones, and Pavithria Ramesh, the event included speakers from Google, Swype, and the Blacks in Technology Foundation. The panel provided insights for over 50 attendees interested in entering the tech industry, regardless of their major. CSU extends gratitude to the student ambassadors, Honors College Dean Steven Rowe, and partners for spearheading this important event.



Psychology Major Weathers Honored with Lincoln Academy Award

Tereshia Weathers, a senior Psychology major with a minor in Health Science at Chicago State University, has been named a Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Recognized for her leadership, service, and academic excellence, Tereshia exemplifies the CSU spirit through her dedication to improving humanity. As Vice President of the National Council of Negro Women and an active member of CSU's Budget Committee, she has played a pivotal role in campus initiatives, including suicide and sexual assault awareness campaigns. Tereshia plans to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy, continuing her commitment to advocacy and support for marginalized communities.



Strada Scholars Attend HBCU Leadership Summit

CSU Strada Scholars Allison Bolden, Nathanael Concepcion, Sahdiel Davis, Valencia Davis, and Carlos Leon Pulacho traveled to Atlanta to participate in the HBCU Leadership Summit, part of Strada's initiative to invest in future leaders. This program offers leadership development, academic support, and social engagement to create meaningful career pathways. The summit featured insights from industry leaders, including representatives from Google and the Blacks in Technology Foundation, providing invaluable experiences for those aiming to enter the technology sector.



Physics Majors Expand Horizons at CERN

NMari Ward and Lazslo Toth, both third year Physics majors at CSU, embarked on a transformative journey to CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. There, they contributed to simulations and data analyses for the FoCal detector upgrade in the ALICE experiment. Participating in CERN's student summer lectures, they honed their skills as Quality Control Shifters for the ALICE experiment and underwent training shifts. Their two-month stay in France and Switzerland expanded both their academic and cultural horizons, marking a remarkable experience in the students' educational journey.



COMMUNITY ANCHOR



Metra Partnership Geared to Enhance Community Connectivity

CSU is collaborating with Metra on a \$33.4 million project to rehabilitate and expand the 95th St./Chicago State University Station on the Metra Electric Line. This initiative aims to improve station accessibility and strengthen transit equity in the broader community. The project, supported by local government leaders, includes essential new infrastructure, which is expected to enhance economic development on Chicago's South Side.



\$250 Million Development Plan Unveiled for 95th Street Transformation

In an exciting announcement, CSU unveiled plans for a transformative \$250 million project to revitalize the 95th Street corridor in Roseland. The initiative aims to convert four acres of vacant land into mixed-use developments, including up to 240 housing units and 45,000 square feet of academic and retail space. This project, modeled after successful developments like UChicago's Arts Incubator, seeks to enhance community housing and retail options while improving pedestrian experiences. CSU President Scott emphasized the University's commitment to serving as a community anchor and fostering economic growth on Chicago's South Side.



Chicago Mayor's Office Partners with CSU on Equity in Higher Education

CSU partnered with Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson for a student-focused discussion on equity in higher education for Black students, involving participants from over a dozen Chicago colleges. The event, led by Mayor Johnson, Deputy Mayor Jen Johnson, and President Scott highlighted shared efforts to remove educational barriers, supported by initiatives like Cougar Commitment, dual credit programs, and the RISE Academy. The collaboration underscores CSU's commitment to enhancing college access and success, with appreciation extended to partners like America's Urban Campus for their impactful support.



National Urban League and CSU Host Fireside Chat on Equity

In collaboration with the National Urban League, CSU hosted the "Pathway from Crisis to Inclusion: Equity in Education and the Workforce" fireside chat. Over 100 attendees, including students and community stakeholders, engaged in discussions on educational equity and the challenges faced by Black professionals in business. The event featured insights from leaders such as President Scott and Chicago Urban League President Karen Freeman-Wilson, supported by sponsors like the National Urban League Black Executives Exchange Program (BEEP) and JP Morgan Chase.



My Life as a Lawyer Pre-Law Tour Visit Inspires Legal Careers

In partnership with Corporate Counsel Women of Color and the Chicago State Foundation, CSU hosted the "My Life as a Lawyer" Pre-Law Tour. The event featured a panel of distinguished Black women lawyers, including Laurie Robinson-Haden, Alfreda Bradley-Coar, and Kimberly Foxx, who shared their career journeys and insights. The discussion aimed to inspire students to explore legal careers, highlighting the accessibility of the legal profession regardless of one's background. The event reinforced CSU's commitment to fostering diverse pathways to law school and beyond.



AT&T, Compudopt Take Action to Bridge Digital Divide

AT&T and Compudopt generously provided refurbished laptops and iPads to nearly 40 Chicago State University Dual Enrollment students from various high schools, including Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy High School, Wendell Phillips High School, Harlan High School, Perspective IIT, Gary Comer College Prep, and Thornton Fractional North and South High Schools. This initiative, funded by AT&T, aims to address the digital divide in the Chicagoland region, equipping students with essential technology to support their academic success.



CAMPUS ADVANCEMENT



Celebrating the Launch of the Congressional PBI Caucus

As a founding member of the National Coalition for Predominantly Black Institutions, CSU celebrates the establishment of the Congressional Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Caucus. Spearheaded by CSU alumnus U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis and other congressional leaders, the Caucus aims to advance policies supporting PBIs, which serve over 480,000 Black students nationwide. This initiative marks a significant milestone in advocating for equitable access to higher education and securing vital funding for PBIs, with CSU playing a pivotal role in these efforts.



CSU Co-Hosts PBI Coalition Meeting in Washington, D.C.

CSU hosted the second annual meeting of the National Coalition of Predominantly Black Institutions of Higher Education in Washington, D.C., to engage federal officials on enhancing the educational experience for Black students. Leaders from 17 PBI colleges met with 25 legislators, including Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, to discuss challenges and advocate for increased federal support. The coalition also engaged with the White House and the U.S. Department of Education to further these discussions, emphasizing the importance of PBIs in providing educational opportunities to underrepresented students.



Inaugural State of Equity in Illinois Higher Education Conference Hosted at CSU

CSU's Illinois Center for Education Equity hosted its first State of Equity in Illinois Higher Education conference, focusing on enhancing access and success for historically excluded communities. The event featured keynote addresses from leaders like Ginger Ostro, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and included panels on student voices, policy advocacy, and data-driven solutions. The conference highlighted the challenges faced by Black and low-income students, emphasizing the need for innovative strategies to address educational disparities and promote equity in higher education.



CSU Joins City Colleges of Chicago in Signing Guaranteed Admissions Agreement

City Colleges of Chicago, in collaboration with CSU, have signed a guaranteed admissions agreement to facilitate the transfer of students from City Colleges to CSU. This partnership aims to enhance access to higher education by ensuring that students of City Colleges who complete an Associate of Arts (AA) or an Associate of Science (AS) degree and have a 2.5 GPA are guaranteed admission to CSU with junior standing. City Colleges graduates with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) receive guaranteed admission specifically to CSU's Early Childhood and Supply Chain Management programs. The agreement includes early advising and orientation programs to support students' academic journey and career aspirations.



Partnership with UChicago to Advance Scientific Collaboration

The University of Chicago and CSU have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaborations in the physical, social, biological, and data sciences. This agreement aims to enhance education, research, and employment pathways, fostering innovation and economic growth on Chicago's South Side. The partnership will provide new academic and professional opportunities for students, as exemplified by CSU graduate Alayjah Harshaw's research experience at UChicago. Both institutions are committed to expanding access and removing barriers for students and faculty, with future plans for ongoing collaboration and development.



Astellas and CSU Launch Professional Development Program for Pharmacy Students

CSU's College of Health Sciences and Pharmacy has partnered with Astellas to create "The Bridge to Industry" Professional Development Program. This initiative offers PharmD students exposure to the pharmaceutical industry through opportunities such as advanced practice experiences, seminars, mentoring, and career development activities. The program aims to enhance students' professional growth and prepare them for careers in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors, supporting equity and inclusion in healthcare.



Celebrating ComEd Scholars

CSU and ComEd hosted a special event to honor the inaugural class of ComEd Scholars Program recipients. Students shared their experiences, received scholarship certificates, and participated in a fireside chat with ComEd President & CEO Gil C. Quiniones and Chicago State Foundation Board Chairman, John Robak. The ComEd Scholarship supports students in Computer Science, Physics, Engineering, and Business Administration, empowering them academically and highlighting the value of partnerships in fostering education and career growth.



CSU Students Thrive with TMCF Scholarship Support

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to three CSU students for the 2023-24 academic year. TMCF aims to alleviate financial burdens for students at member schools and other eligible institutions. These competitive, one-time awards are granted based on merit, supporting CSU's commitment to educational access and student success.





“Rhymefest” Receives Honorary Degree at CSU Commencement

Renowned artist and activist Che “Rhymefest” Smith was honored with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at CSU’s 371st commencement ceremony. Known for his Grammy, Academy Award, and Golden Globe-winning work, Che’s influence extends beyond music through community empowerment initiatives like Art of Culture, Inc. His journey from Chicago’s South Side to global acclaim exemplifies his commitment to fostering creativity and collaboration, making him a true champion of change and empowerment.



Former Trustee Montes Receives Honorary Degree at 371st Commencement

CSU was proud to award Philanthropist, Former Trustee, and Alumna Foundation Board Member Peggy A. Montes the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the 371st commencement ceremony. As the Founder and President of the Bronzeville Children’s Museum, Mrs. Montes has dedicated her life to serving women, girls, and disadvantaged children. Her leadership has been recognized by national and local figures, including appointments by former President Bill Clinton and current Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. Peggy’s numerous accolades underscore her lifelong commitment to community service and education.



Illinois Senator Michael Halpin Visits CSU for College Changes Everything Month

CSU welcomed Illinois Senator Michael Halpin, co-chair of the Higher Education Committee, during Illinois’ “College Changes Everything Month.” The visit focused on CSU’s role in educational equity, making college accessible, and supporting students through initiatives like the Cougar Commitment. Discussions included capital needs, innovative research, and community support. The tour highlighted CSU’s commitment to creating a learning environment where students succeed and feel a sense of belonging.



U.S. Department of Education’s Under Secretary Visits to Discuss CSU’s Impact in STEM and Education

CSU was honored to host U.S. Department of Education’s Under Secretary James Kvaal for discussions with senior administrators, students, and faculty about the impact of Predominantly Black Institutions in STEM and education. Students from various programs, including education scholarships and STEM research, shared their experiences and resources that have helped them succeed at CSU, highlighting the university’s commitment to building a higher education system where all students thrive and reach their career goals. Special thanks were extended to guests from the Department of Education and elected officials who participated in the event.



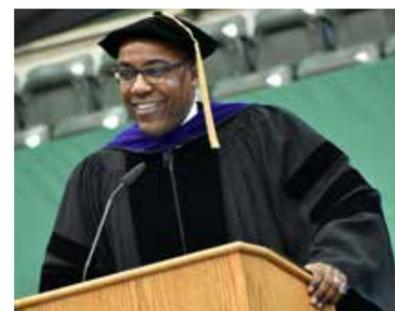
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Leaders Visit to Bolster Public Service

CSU welcomed Cheryl Campbell, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Administration, and other leaders from the department to discuss on public service careers and diversity. Students from public health, pharmacy, and computer science programs engaged with the officials, learning about HHS’s commitment to supporting underrepresented students. The visit also included a leadership conversation with President Scott and Provost Roundtree, highlighting CSU’s ongoing partnership with HHS to provide students with new opportunities for success.



Mayor Brandon Johnson Visits to Discuss Higher Education

CSU had the honor of hosting Mayor Brandon Johnson to explore opportunities for revitalizing the 95th Street corridor and enhancing access to quality education for all Chicago residents. The visit included discussions with President Scott, local elected officials, and senior leaders, as well as interactions with over 30 students at the Food Pantry, Cougar Closet, and African American Male Resource Center. The event underscored the commitment to building a vibrant city that leverages the talents of its residents.



Illinois Attorney General Raoul Inspires CSU Graduates

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul delivered an inspiring commencement address to CSU’s 2024 graduates, urging them to effect positive change in their communities. Attorney General Raoul, who brings extensive legal experience and advocacy to his role, emphasized the importance of public service and shared insights from his career, which includes initiatives to combat crime, protect consumers, and uphold civil rights. His message resonated deeply with graduates, encouraging them to pursue impactful careers and contribute to societal betterment.





ADMINISTRATION



President Scott Appointed to Intersect Illinois Board

President Scott has been appointed to the board of directors for Intersect Illinois. This appointment highlights her expertise in public-private partnerships and workforce development, aligning with Intersect Illinois' mission to attract investment and jobs to the state.



Dean of Student Success Dr. Mosley-Milford Named ACE Fellow

Dr. Nayshon T. Mosley-Milford, our Dean of Student Success, has been selected as an ACE Fellow for the 2024-25 academic year, joining 25 other distinguished leaders. As the inaugural Dean of Student Success, Dr. Mosley-Milford enhances student retention and graduation rates through academic advising and support, as well as the RISE Academy. Her selection for the ACE Fellows Program highlights her commitment to educational leadership and provides her with immersive learning experiences to further benefit students and faculty upon her return.



Dean Smith Receives Jazz Alive Educators Award

Mark Smith, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at CSU, has been honored with the Jazz Alive Educators Award at the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic's THINK BIG! Gala. This award recognizes his dedication to music education and his contributions to the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. Smith's leadership in the arts and music education continues to inspire students and colleagues at CSU and beyond.



Dr. Stout Selected for Prestigious SDP Fellowship

Dr. Jane Stout, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research and Data Analytics at CSU, has been named an SDP Fellow by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University for the 2024-26 cohort. This prestigious fellowship recognizes Dr. Stout's expertise in data analytics and her commitment to enhancing educational outcomes through strategic data use. Her participation will further CSU's mission to leverage data for institutional improvement and student success.



Dean Cameron Selected as Chicago Urban League Impact Fellow

Antwone Cameron, Dean of Student Affairs at CSU, has been named an Impact Fellow by the Chicago Urban League. This prestigious program develops emerging Black leaders by providing them with leadership training and mentorship. The fellowship, in partnership with the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, offers participants the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and engage with senior leaders, supporting their professional growth and civic engagement.



VP of Admin Services, Coach Holmes, Inducted into Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame

CSU congratulates Vice President of Administrative Services Michael Holmes on his induction into the Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame. With over 35 years of service, Holmes has been a pivotal figure in Chicagoland, coaching and leading teams at Leo Catholic High School and Fenger High School. His distinguished career includes multiple accolades, such as the Leo Catholic Hall of Fame induction and the Tony Lawless Coach of the Year award. Holmes is celebrated for his mentorship and dedication to developing successful student-athletes.



Mercado Appointed to Lead AAMRC

Adrian Mercado, a 2017 CSU communications graduate, joined as Assistant Director of the African American Male Resource Center (AAMRC) in December 2023. Born and raised on Chicago's East Side, Mercado transitioned from a mental health technician role to pursue his passion for student success at CSU. His primary goal, "Operation Graduation," aims to graduate more Black men than any other Predominantly Black Institution. Mercado finds fulfillment in mentoring through the TEMBO (Teaching and Educating Men of Black Origin) organization, supporting young men along their educational journeys.



New Director of Latino Resource Center Appointed

Veronica Tinajero, a proud Latina and first-generation college graduate, has joined CSU as the Assistant Director of the Latino Resource Center. Committed to enhancing the student experience, she aims to create opportunities for students to honor their Latino/Hispanic heritage and achieve success. Veronica views CSU as a transformational space to inspire students and stimulate intellectual growth. She began her role in August 2023, bringing a passion for diversity and empowerment to the campus community.



Dean Taylor Joins IMPACT Academy Fellowship

LaVada Taylor, Dean of the College of Education at CSU, has been named to the IMPACT Academy fellowship, a fellowship that convenes outstanding leaders of educator-preparation programs and provides them with the support and resources to foster real and lasting change within their programs. The fellowship provides a platform for educational leaders to collaborate and share strategies for strengthening and diversifying the educator workforce.





ATHLETICS



CSU Expands Athletic Horizons Joining Northeast Conference

CSU has proudly accepted an invitation to join the Northeast Conference (NEC) starting in fall 2024, marking a significant milestone in enhancing its athletics program. This move, approved by CSU's Board of Trustees, opens doors to NCAA funding, boosts recruitment efforts, and elevates CSU's profile. Joining the NEC gives Cougar student-athletes a chance to compete for NCAA championships, a thrilling prospect for the university. With plans to add a Division 1 football team, CSU is poised to make a significant impact in collegiate sports, further energizing its athletic community and fan base. The NEC membership will encompass CSU's 16 men's and women's sports and reflect a shared commitment to academic and athletic excellence for CSU Athletics.



Dukic Shines on Academic All-America® Tennis Team

CSU's Katarina Dukic has been named to the third team of the 2023-24 Academic All-America® women's tennis teams by the College Sports Communicators. Dukic, who boasts a perfect 4.00 undergraduate GPA in mathematics and a 3.85 in her Master's, has earned numerous accolades, including Horizon League honors and CSU's Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Her outstanding academic and athletic achievements underscore her dedication and excellence on and off the court, finishing her CSU career with 59 singles victories.



Women's Tennis Wins Horizon League Title, Advances to NCAA Tournament

The CSU women's tennis team made history by capturing the Horizon League title with a thrilling 4-2 victory over Cleveland State, earning their first-ever NCAA Tournament berth. The Cougars, who have won seven consecutive matches, showcased resilience and skill, with standout performances from players like Manuella Eloundou and Amina Taibi. Head coach Jack Barton praised the team's determination and composure, highlighting this achievement as a legendary moment for CSU Athletics.



Men's Basketball Makes Historic Strides in Winning Season

The CSU men's basketball team achieved significant milestones this season, marking their first postseason appearance since 2013 and securing the most wins in a season since then. The Cougars made headlines with a thrilling 75-73 upset over No. 25 Northwestern. Led by standout performances from Wesley Cardet and A.J. Neal, the Cougars showcased resilience and talent. Despite a narrow 77-74 loss to Fairfield in the CBI Quarterfinals, the team's achievements have energized the CSU community and set a new standard for future success.



Spotlight on Hill: A Defensive Powerhouse for CSU Women's Basketball

CSU women's basketball standout Josie Hill is making her mark as one of the NCAA Division I leaders in blocks, with 70 this season. The sophomore center's defensive prowess has been pivotal for the Cougars, setting a new single-season blocks record for CSU. Hill's journey from South Dakota to CSU is driven by her desire to inspire her community and showcase her Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate heritage. Her coach, Andrea Williams, praises Hill for her dedication and leadership, seeing her as a catalyst for change both on and off the court.



Women's Triathlon Added as Varsity Sport, CSU Joins NCAA Division I

CSU has announced the addition of women's triathlon as a varsity sport, becoming the 14th NCAA Division I program to offer this opportunity. Supported by a grant from the USA Triathlon Foundation, CSU is making a significant step in expanding athletic opportunities for female student-athletes. This move aligns with USA Triathlon's mission to increase accessibility and diversity in the sport and CSU's commitment to enhancing its athletic program.

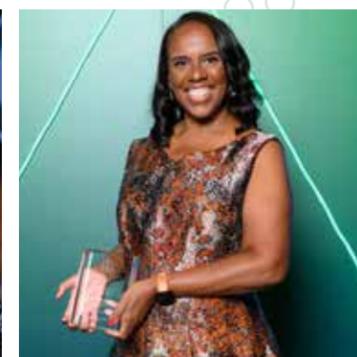




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SCHOLARSHIP GALA



Chicago State Foundation Celebrates Success at 1stGEN Scholarship Gala

The Chicago State Foundation, in partnership with CSU and presenting sponsor BMO, hosted the fourth annual 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, raising nearly \$600,000 to support the 1st GEN Scholarship fund. This fund aids the Cougar Commitment, CSU's strategy for equitable student access and completion. The event, attended by over 400 guests, honored the following community leaders with the 2023 Cougar Servant Leadership Awards, recognizing contributions in public service, education equity, and alumni achievement: Karen Freeman-Wilson, President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League; Liz Thompson, Founder and CEO of The Cafe Group; the Latino Policy Forum; and Dr. Cheryl D. Watkins, CSU Trustee and founder of Monarch Education Consultants. Spark Foundry and Leo Burnett will be presented with the Corporate Champion Award.

Chicago State Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Chicago State Foundation welcomes Andre Baker, Executive Director at JPMorgan Chase; Jason Mercer, Principal at Cleveland Avenue, CAST US Fund; Eric Dushime, a Senior Information Technology Consultant at McKinsey & Company; and Lafayette Kyle Ford, a Senior Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management as new board members. Baker, who oversees 16 branches in diverse Chicago communities, has been pivotal in creating a partnership between JPMorgan and CSU to connect graduates with job opportunities. Mercer brings over a decade of experience in strategy and finance, supporting Black, Brown, and Women entrepreneurs in Chicagoland. Dushime, who holds a degree in IT Administration from the University of Buffalo, also advises tech startups in Rwanda. Ford, an Agri-Finance graduate from the University of Illinois, co-founded Privit, a virtual culture club for minority professionals. Their diverse expertise will enhance the Foundation's mission to support CSU's growth and the community. Their expertise will enhance the Foundation's mission to support CSU's growth and community engagement.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Remembering Yarbrough: A Trailblazer and Advocate

CSU honors the legacy of alumna Karen Yarbrough, a pioneering advocate for social and economic justice. As the first African American and female Cook County Clerk, Yarbrough made significant contributions to Illinois, leaving an indelible mark on her community. Her dedication was celebrated at CSU's Black Legislators Exhibit re-dedication ceremony in 2022. Her passing was marked by tributes from leaders like County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, who praised her integrity and compassion. Yarbrough's remarkable legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire future generations.



Alumna Nance Appointed Dean of University of Arkansas School of Law

CSU proudly congratulates alumna Cynthia Nance on her appointment as Dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law. Nance, who earned her bachelor's degree in economics from CSU, holds a Juris Doctor with distinction and a master's degree in finance from the University of Iowa. Her exemplary service has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2023 W. Harold Flowers Law Society Carrying on the Legacy Award and the 2023 Association of American Law Schools Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award.



Alumna Boyd Excels in Chemistry

CSU proudly congratulates alumna Lucinda Boyd on successfully defending her dissertation in chemistry at Louisiana State University. After earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry from CSU, Boyd worked with Dr. Valerie Goss, a leading quantum science researcher and fellow CSU alumna. Boyd's achievement highlights the university's strength in producing diverse STEM graduates, addressing the underrepresentation of women of color in the sciences. Her success exemplifies CSU's commitment to fostering talent in the STEM fields.



Alumna Gooden Named Anchor at KATV Channel 7, Little Rock

CSU alumna Isley Gooden has been appointed as the new anchor at KATV Channel 7 in Little Rock, Arkansas. An Illinois native, Gooden has built a career covering impactful stories, including civil rights issues and interviewing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter, Bernice King. Inspired by Oprah Winfrey, she is passionate about human interest stories and aims to bring a unique perspective to her new role. With family ties in Little Rock, Gooden is poised to make a significant impact in her new position.



Alumna McCarthy Named Library Journal Mover & Shaker

Alumna Heather McCarthy was named a 2024 Mover & Shaker by Library Journal for her innovative work as a school media specialist. Transitioning from a 19-year career as an English teacher, she now reaches over 1,100 middle school students annually, using global experiences to inspire service-learning projects. Her initiatives, such as fundraising for clean water in Africa and developing STEM lessons from her volunteer work in Thailand, highlight her commitment to empowering students as changemakers.





Chicago State University received media coverage for its thought leadership, and positive programs and stories throughout the year.



Renovations Coming To Olympia Fields
Chicago State University Metra Electric line stations
Daily Southtown • June 24, 2024



Inspirational Black Men and Women in Medicine: Charisse Johnson of Chicago State University College of Health Sciences and Pharmacy On 5 Things You Need To Create A Successful Career In Medicine
Interview with Dr. Charisse Johnson, Associate Dean of Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Experiential Education, and Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Chicago State University
Authority Magazine • September 13, 2023



City, Chicago State Reveal \$250 Million Plan To Remake 95th Street
"Chicago State University has shown its hand on a promise to redevelop part of its campus and the surrounding region."
Crain's Chicago • October 17, 2023



'People better take notice': With 4 straight wins, Chicago State is showing its historic upset of Northwestern was no fluke
"Chicago State got the attention of the college basketball world with an upset of then-No. 25 Northwestern"
Chicago Tribune • December 22, 2023



Carroll of Chicago State University On The Power of Authentic Women's Leadership
In just over 14 months in the role, [Dr. Monique Carroll] worked with President Zaldwaynaka Scott and the Chicago State University Board of Trustees for the University to receive and accept an invitation for full conference membership with the Northeast Conference (NEC) beginning in fall 2024.
Authority Magazine • February 19, 2024



Chicago State University's president is on a mission to get more Black Chicagoans college degrees
"Since taking office in 2018, Scott says she has worked to improve recruitment and retention of students of color with initiatives like the RISE program. It provides academic preparation and free tuition for a year to incoming freshmen."
WBEZ Chicago • July 6, 2023



Weather Sensors at Chicago State University are part of effort to monitor climate change in vulnerable communities
"Scientists from Chicago State University and Argonne National Laboratory launched a plan Tuesday to place 21 sensors across the city in the next five years."
Chicago Tribune • July 19, 2023

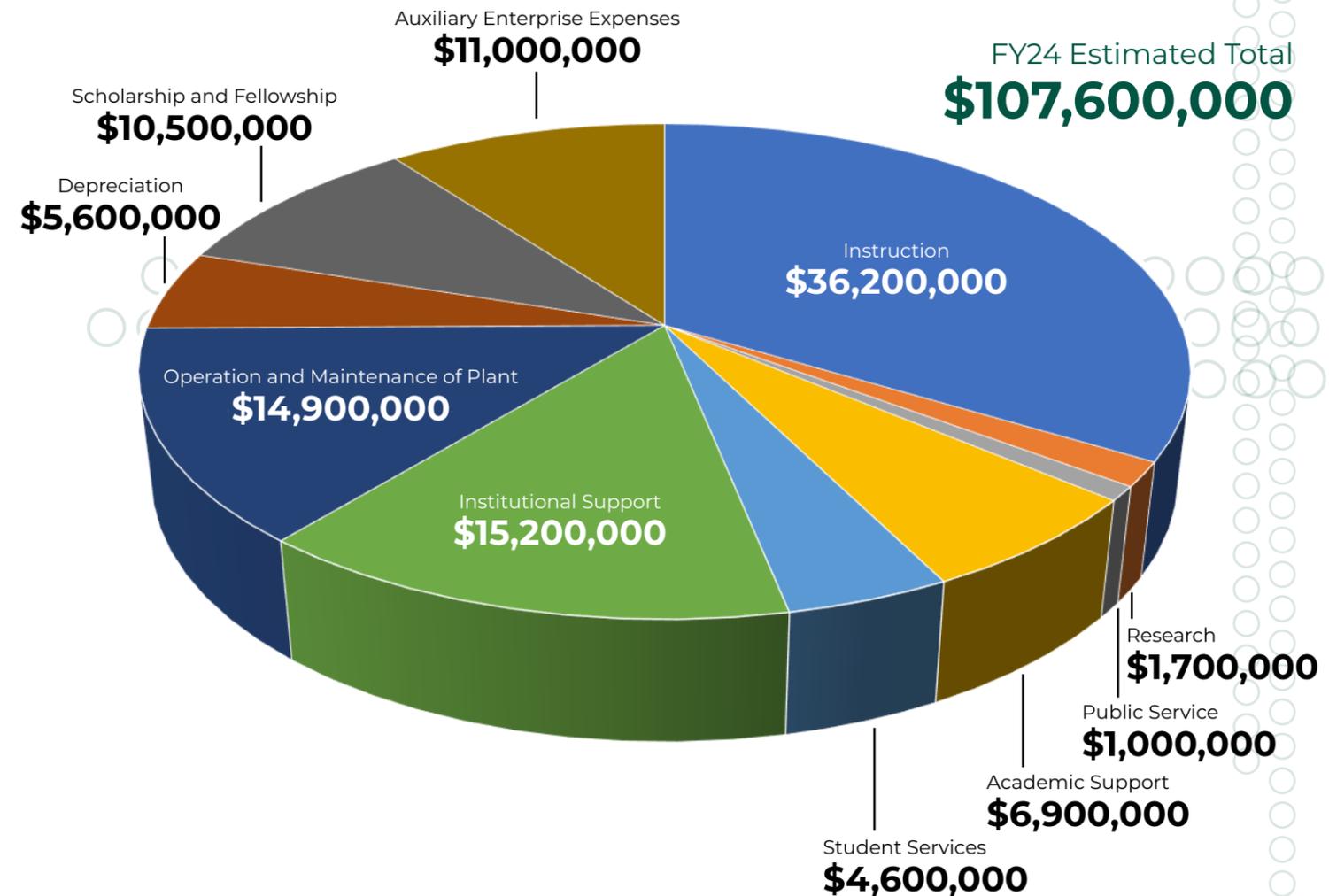
FINANCIALS



In the fiscal year 2024, CSU's expenditures from federal grant awards totaled \$13,545,868. This includes the Pell Grants for \$4,939,554 and other student financial aid grants.

The expenditures for the state, municipal, and other grants added to \$13,054,355 in FY24, including the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) for \$4,882,891, and other non-operating grants.

CSU currently holds 71 federal, state, municipal, and other types of grants for research, scholar activities, student support, and student training in areas ranging from health, education, and STEM to cybersecurity, athletics, and community service. These awards added to \$13,042,457 in FY24, demonstrating the continued strength of CSU's award base.



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