



# Newsletter

Volume #1  
January 2025



## Our Strong Commitment

The objectives of the Civil Service Employees Council (CSEC) are to represent civil service employees to the university administration, study and make recommendations concerning campus employment conditions, and promote unity and the general welfare of civil service employees. CSEC serves as a reciprocal body of direction, information, and communication for all civil service employees.

We are here for you the Civil Servants. Illinois civil servants are public-sector employees who are employed based on merit and fitness as determined by competitive examinations. The State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) governs non-academic employment at Illinois public universities and affiliated agencies.



### *Message from the CSEC President*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Civil Service Employees,

I am delighted to share with you the first Quarterly Newsletter of the new year 2025. A warm welcome back to our dedicated Civil Service Employees.

Let us embrace the new year with open hearts, for it holds exciting promise. The new year brings not only a fresh calendar but also new opportunities for us to strengthen our faith, deepen our relationships with one another, and expand our outreach to our students and the community.

In the face of challenges and trials that may come in this new year, let us remember the promise of Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This assures us of God's unwavering love and support, ready to carry us through whatever lies ahead.

May God bless us all in this new year, granting us health, peace, joy, and love in abundance. May He enable us to reach out to those in need, to touch our student lives, and reflect His love in all our actions.

Let us welcome this new year as an opportunity to grow together, to encourage and care for one another, and to build each other up. Happy New Year and let God's grace shine upon us all. Happy 2025!

Thank you. God bless.

*Bobbie Garner-Stewart*

CSEC President

# NEW LAWS



## Family Bereavement Leave Act

The Family Bereavement Leave Act provides up to two weeks of unpaid leave for certain family emergencies. These include the death of a close family member, stillbirth, miscarriage, unsuccessful reproductive procedure, failed adoption match, failed surrogacy agreement, or a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility. Employees are entitled to a maximum of six weeks of leave if they experience more than one event during a 12-month period.

Employees may use FBLA leave time to grieve; attend the funeral or alternative to a funeral of a covered family member; or make arrangements necessitated by the death of the covered family member.

FBLA leave time must be completed within 60 days after the date the employee receives notice of the event. Employees must give their employer at least 48 hours' notice before taking FBLA leave, unless not reasonable or practicable.

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3724&ChapterID=68>



DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY HAVE UNCLAIMED MONEY IN ILLINOIS? YOU CAN CHECK THE I-CASH DATABASE AT <https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/>

## Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA)

Public Act 103-0314 amends the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA). The amendment to VESSA allows employees to take up to two weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from work to attend a funeral, arrange a funeral, or grieve, if a family or household member is killed in a crime of violence.

Existing VESSA provisions allow unpaid time off for reasons including, but not limited to, medical attention, counseling, victim services, relocating, or participating in legal proceedings. VESSA applies to employers of all sizes.

<https://labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/conmed/vessa.html>



# Committee Members

2025

## President



I am the Director of University Cashiering Operations at Chicago State University.

I have been with CSU for over 37 years, and I am very passionate about Customer Care Service for our entire campus. Ensuring the funds are posted to the correct accounts, from Students to employees to vendors to visitors delivering the best customer care to each. I joined the CSEC to continue the mission of CSU and provide committed care to our Civil Service Employees.

*Bobbie Garner-Stewart*

## CSU Advisory Committee Member

I began my journey at Chicago State University in 2010, and I'm currently the Manager of the Grant Accounting Group. I am a passionate public servant specializing in financial reporting and accounting in higher education. I believe finance is an important part of the University that is expected to operate with high standards, which is valued in my role as an accounting professional. In 2018 I was elected to serve as the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) member, representing CSU on the State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee.



*Jacqueline Pointer*

## Vice President

I am the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police here at CSU. I began employment with the University in November 1999 and worked in various roles while earning my doctorate degree. I joined the Civil Service Employment Council to assist other Civil Service employees. I have always been a service worker and what better way to provide a service than to be the voice of my fellow Civil Service Employees.



*Dr. Aleshia Terry*



# Committee Members

2025

## Treasurer

My name is Danielle Land, and I am proud to say that this is my tenth year as a full-time employee at Chicago State University. I began my journey as an Extra-Help worker, transitioned to a full-time position in the Bursar's Office, and currently serve as an Accounting Officer in the Accounts Payable Department. I have been an active member of the Civil Service Employee Council (CSEC) for 6 years and have had the honor of serving as Treasurer for the past 4 years. My dedication to CSU is driven by a deep passion for the institution, its mission, and its vibrant community.

I'm committed to contributing to our continued growth and success.



*Danielle Land*

## Secretary

I am an Administrative Assistant with the Honors College. I have been with the university since 1976. I have worked in many departments on campus from the physical plant to enrollment services. I have a passion for our student's wellbeing and their future.

I joined the CSEC to help our staff to be educated and made aware of legislature in regard to laws, amendments' and House Bills that pertain to the Civil Service Staff here at Chicago State University.

I wanted to make sure the staff is recognized and credited for their service and any outstanding accomplishments made to the university, or outside of the university. I have realized when employees are recognized and celebrated it encourages them to continue to do a great job and the university flourishes.

I believe I am working in my calling and purpose, which makes my years of service enjoyable and fulfilling.



*Toni McCoy-Smith*



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for Feedback or Information



# Committee Members

2025

## Sergeant-At-Arms

My name is Shon James MaGee ... I'm going on 30yrs of experience in the BSW department at various universities. I joined the Civil service council to advocate positive effective change on behalf of civil service employees here at CSU and through out the state university system. Civil service workers have been consistently and unduly attacked. One of the functions of the council to provide information to the work community, while also promoting a professional work environment. We as council members will represent all civil service employees not covered under Collective Bargaining Agreements.



*James McGee*

## Member

I am a Program Director in the Administrative Services Department at Chicago State University. I am always enthusiastic about ensuring the effective operation of your parking, transportation, and fleet services.

I joined CSEC because I believe in the mission of the organization and I am committed to contributing to its success. I look forward to collaborating with you in achieving these goals.



*Winona D. Hannah*



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[for Feedback or Information](#)



# Committee Members

2025

## Member

For 17 years, I have been proud to be part of the CSU family, working across various departments. Currently, I serve as the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students and the Dean of Student Success.

I joined the CSEC to explore how the Council can uplift our Civil Service staff as a unified force.

Staying informed about new legislation, laws, and matters related to Civil Service employees is vital to my mission. I take great pride in being part of our incredible CSU family.



*Tangee Jenkins*

## Member

I am the Executive Assistant for Administrative Services at Chicago State University. In this role, I work for Vice President Michael Holmes. I joined the CSU family in 2022. I joined CSEC to gain a clearer understanding of the issues that are important to the campus community.

I believe that by learning more about these issues, I can better serve the university



*Delmika Crenshaw*



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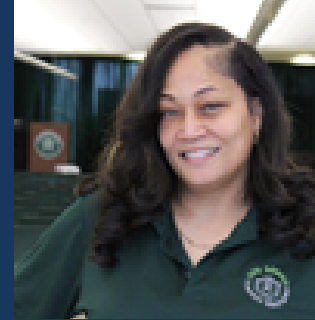
# Committee Members

2025

## Member

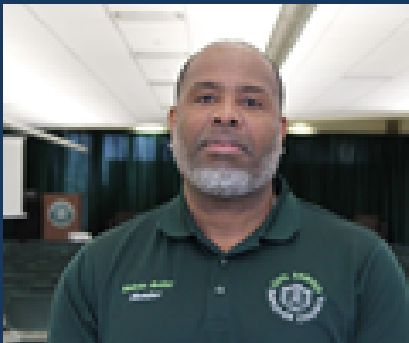
I work in the Wellness Health Center as a Medical Office Specialist/Student Health Insurance Manager. I have over 18 years of service.

I joined the Civil Services Council because I am sincerely devoted to supporting CSU Civil Service Employees and making a significant/positive influence at CSU. Through the Civil Services Employee Council, I may help shape policies and procedures that impact work environments and essential problems like career stability and growth. The ability to work on difficulties and lead programs that better the lives of the CSU community is really motivating to me.



*Sharahn Graves*

## Member



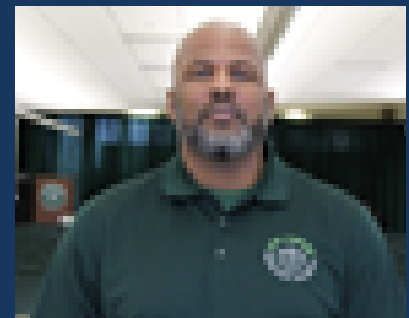
*Kelvin Avilez Sr.*

I am currently the Sub Foreman/Upgraded Foreman in the Grounds Department here at CSU. I am just shy of my 20 years of employment here at CSU.

One of the many reasons for me joining CSEC is to stay informed and educated about all the different Legislative and State University Annuitant changes. With the intention to transfer the information to Chicago State University.

## Member

I started here at CSU in 2011 . I'm a Sanitary Engineer/ Plumber. I joined the Council to be more informed about the inner workings of civil service and it's responsibilities to the employees.



*Turhan Jee*

**2025**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## THE CSU CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE COUNCIL

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