



CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# FY2025 ANNUAL

## CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY: LEADING WITH PURPOSE

At Chicago State University, vision meets action. As Illinois' only four-year Predominantly Black Institution designated by the U.S. Department of Education, CSU is driven by purpose, anchored in community, and propelled by a relentless commitment to progress. Equity is woven into everything we do—not just as an aspiration, but as a daily practice. Whether opening doors, removing barriers, or elevating student potential, CSU stands as a bold catalyst for transformation in higher education and a champion for lasting, meaningful change.

Together, we keep equity in motion—elevating lives, strengthening our campus and neighborhoods, and inspiring a more connected, inclusive world.

### WHAT IS A PBI?

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) are central to educational access, serving African American college students nationwide across 67 institutions. To earn this distinction, campuses must welcome at least 40% African American enrollment and support 50% low-income or first-generation students.

Here at CSU, our pride is rooted in our people—68% African American students and 38% are first-generation scholars. As we aim ever higher in teaching, research, and service, it is the collective drive and dedication of our students, staff, and faculty that propel our university forward, exemplifying what it truly means to put equity in motion.

### 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, JD**  
**President, Chicago State University**

At Chicago State University, excellence is our foundation, and innovation is our future. The accomplishments reflected in our annual report showcase how CSU is reshaping education, pioneering industry partnerships, and opening new pathways for our students and our city.

This year, our university's transformative impact can be seen across campus and beyond. The announcement of innovation in development of the Illinois Quantum Information and Microelectronics Park on Chicago's southside and our long-standing engagement in quantum science place CSU and its faculty, students, and other southside communities and education institutions at the heart of scientific advancement. Our University's offerings in quantum and microelectronics are providing workforce readiness and technological leadership, ensuring our graduates have the skills and access to lead in tomorrow's industries.

The dedication of our faculty, staff, and partners to our student success strategies outlined in Cougar Commitment and RISE Academy continues to drive student success, from record increases in student retention rates to growing high school student participation in our early college programming. Each of these milestones is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to futures in motion—not a vision for tomorrow, but a reality we are living today.

On the athletic field and in competition, Chicago State's Intercollegiate DI Sports Program found its match when the program joined the NEC conference in fall 2024. Building on that success, CSU expanded its legacy by launching a sports expansion initiative that welcomed a new NCAA women's sport to our roster of programs – triathlon. The program also celebrated its first NEC conference championship in the sport of Women's Volleyball. These accomplishments demonstrate Cougar excellence, inspire campus pride, and provide life-changing opportunities for student-athletes to grow and thrive.

CSU stands strong, established in excellence and leadership. Together, we are building a future that empowers every student to soar and the communities we touch to flourish. Our year of progress and achievement told through our 2025 Annual Report is a rich story of accomplishments, innovation, and the limitless possibilities we create when we work as one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zaldwaynaka 'Z' Scott". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.



## LETTER FROM CHAIR ZOPP

**Andrea Zopp, Esq.**  
**Chicago State University Board of Trustees**  
**(2019 - 2031)**

At Chicago State University, we are boldly shaping the future of education by opening doors of opportunity and advancing equity—for our students, our city, and beyond. With every initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to creating pathways for personal and community transformation, ensuring that CSU is at the forefront of progress for Chicago's Far South Side.

This year, our university stands at the heart of a new era. The 95th Street Corridor project embodies a bold vision for a University Village that will support our students and strengthen our community. By listening closely to campus voices and working alongside dedicated partners such as the Chicago Community Trust and the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development, we move closer to creating a vibrant hub for student life, family housing, retail, and a celebration of Black excellence and culture. Our partnership with CBRE is helping to lay the groundwork, and with the city's adoption of the corridor plan and Metra's multimillion-dollar station renovation, CSU is cementing its place as an anchor for inclusive growth, job creation, and civic pride.

Throughout this journey, the unwavering determination and spirit of our university family have stood out. Every step forward is propelled by the energy, innovation, and unity of our faculty, staff, and students—each one committed to building a brighter future.

As Board Chair, I am filled with pride to witness the transformative strides we are making together—progress that honors the legacy of CSU while embracing the promise of tomorrow. Together, we will continue to shape a South Side that thrives for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Zopp". The signature is fluid and cursive.

# UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



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CFO & VICE PRESIDENT  
OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

## Breaking Barriers, Advancing Knowledge: CSU Joins the Nation's Research Powerhouses

Chicago State University has been officially recognized as a Carnegie-designated Research University in the 2025 Carnegie Classifications, a milestone that elevates CSU into the ranks of distinguished national research institutions. This prestigious designation acknowledges both significant research activity and CSU's steadfast commitment to providing transformative, high-impact opportunities for students from all backgrounds.

Unique among its peers, CSU has achieved this honor while preserving its open-access mission and expanding its research enterprise. The new classification is awarded to universities that demonstrate substantial investment in research and development—spending at least \$2.5 million annually on research and development.

Building on strengths across multiple disciplines, CSU's innovation is rooted in inclusive excellence and deep community engagement. As President Scott affirms, this achievement is not just a milestone but a demonstration of CSU's leadership in discovery and service. The university remains dedicated to expanding research that fosters opportunity and addresses critical challenges both locally and globally.



### CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION



# RISE ACADEMY

## **RISE Academy Delivers Breakthrough Results and Expands Pathways to College Success**

Chicago State University's *RISE* Academy is setting new benchmarks for student achievement, affordability, and inclusive support. Now in its fourth year, *RISE* Academy provides full first-year tuition, fees, textbooks, laptops, and comprehensive wraparound resources to scholars—empowering students to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

The results speak for themselves: *RISE* Academy students have a nearly 20% higher rate of completing their first and second years of college compared to peers. The 2024-25 academic year has seen a 14% increase in *RISE* enrollment, underscoring strong demand and growing impact. Despite considerable FAFSA delays and widespread financial need (90% of *RISE* scholars are Pell Grant eligible), CSU's holistic approach through *RISE* and the Cougar Commitment strategy is driving meaningful progress in college retention and completion.

Scholars benefit from summer bridge programs, personalized academic and well-being support, career preparation, and practical tools—from tutoring to campus technology upgrades—that help ease the transition to university life. CSU's commitment extends far beyond the first year, offering targeted grants, degree planning, and support networks so every student can cross the finish line. This is education without barriers—fully student-centered and data-driven.

### **RISE Graduate Student Spotlights**



**Malachi Spells, B.S. History Education, 2024**

When Malachi Spells and his twin brother started at Chicago State University in 2020, the pandemic and financial challenges weighed heavily on their family. CSU wasn't on their radar

at first, but with both their mother and grandparents as proud alumni, they found their way to the *RISE* Academy program at the perfect time.

That first year brought virtual classes, essential financial support, and uncertainty—but *RISE* replaced worry with belonging. "It really prepared me for college and took away a lot of stress," Malachi recalls.

*RISE* went beyond academic and financial help, connecting the brothers with internships and opportunities to return as mentors. It also gave them the chance to compete on CSU's track and field team—a dream they might have missed otherwise.

Now, Malachi is pursuing a master's in history education and plans to attend law school to shape educational policy, continuing his family's legacy. His brother is now at Publicis, a CSU partner. "*RISE* is more than financial aid and college prep," Malachi says. "It's a community that supports your journey and opens doors in unexpected ways."

He encourages new students to embrace *RISE*: "You'll find people who truly care about your future—and then you can give back too. It's an experience that will change your life."



**Christabel Addo, B.S.N., Graduated with Honors, May 2024**

When Christabel Addo first heard about Chicago State University during a high school presentation, she was drawn

to its mission as a PBI and strong student support. After applying, she joined the *RISE* Academy—a program she now credits with transforming her life.

*RISE* offered more than a summer course and first-year funding. It provided mentorship, academic and wellness support, and a close-knit community. With her mentors' help, Christabel landed an internship after freshman year—an uncommon opportunity for new students.

"We had so much support from the mentors, not just academically, but for our mental health and well-being," she recalls. "That support was instrumental through the uncertainty of the pandemic." Her dedication earned her more scholarships and the chance to focus on her goals.

When new financial barriers emerged before entering CSU's nursing program, the *RISE* director helped her secure additional scholarships—a time she now calls "the summer my life turned around."

Now a registered nurse in Massachusetts, Christabel proudly graduated debt-free and says *RISE* "is life-changing and does everything it promises—and more." Her advice for future *RISE* scholars: don't be afraid to seek help and embrace the support.

# POWERING THE QUANTUM REVOLUTION:

## CSU at the Forefront of Tomorrow's Careers

Chicago State University stands at the forefront of innovation in quantum science and microelectronics, delivering on its mission to build inclusive economic opportunity through advanced education. With new programs, targeted partnerships, and a strategic focus on workforce diversity, CSU is establishing itself as a launchpad for the future leaders of quantum technology and semiconductor manufacturing.



### Accelerating Pathways into Quantum Careers



CSU is the only Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) in Illinois participating in the National Science Foundation's Quantum Leap Challenge Institute for Quantum Sensing for Biophysics and Bioengineering (QuBBE). The Quantum Sensing Summer Program, now in its third year, immerses high school students—most from underrepresented backgrounds—into real university labs. The program's impact is clear: enrollment has doubled, alumni are matriculating to top research universities, and students cite CSU's early exposure as the reason for pursuing STEM majors.

Beyond summer camps, CSU has implemented the Quantum Academy for high school teachers, developed a quantum technology certificate for college students, and helped shape the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park being built near campus. The university's faculty are also national leaders: Dr. Valerie Goss, CSU's associate professor of chemistry, leads workforce development for QuBBE and has represented CSU's quantum programs at national NSF showcases.

### Equity and Workforce Development in Microelectronics

CSU's commitment to emerging technologies is equally dynamic in microelectronics. As a core member of the Illinois Semiconductor Workforce Network, CSU partners with UIUC, UIC, IIT, Argonne National Labs, and community colleges statewide to address the critical national demand for semiconductor technicians. Supported by \$1.2 million in federal and private grants, CSU's microelectronics experiential program, led by Dr. Moussa Ayyash, provides industry-standard training and hands-on experience in microelectronics fabrication and semiconductor manufacturing.



With a history of producing graduates ready for global STEM innovation, CSU anchors equity in workforce development. More than 90% of students receive need-based aid; the student body is majority Black and Latinx, and many are first in their families to attend college. As projections estimate up to 191,000 jobs created in the Midwest quantum sector by 2035—with most open to workers with a bachelor's degree or technical training—CSU is uniquely positioned to move underrepresented students into these high-demand roles.

This work only grows with donor investment. Philanthropic support is essential to expanding scholarships, growing experiential learning, and opening more doors for CSU students to transform the region's innovation economy.

# CSU SNAPSHOT

FISCAL YEAR 2025

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025 STUDENT STATISTICS

**2,926** Undergraduate and graduate student total  
**26** Average undergraduate age  
**57%** PELL eligible undergraduates\*  
**38%** First-generation college students\*\*

\*of known PELL status  
\*\*of known first-gen status

**35**  
states

**30**  
countries

**90%**  
Illinois residents

### Top 5 Undergraduate Majors

Psychology  
Pre-Nursing  
Criminal Justice  
Bus & Admin, Management Opt  
Early Childhood Education

### Top 5 Graduate Majors

Library & Information Science  
Computer Science  
Clinical Mental Health  
Social Work  
Business Administration



**68%** African American  
**10%** Latinx  
**7%** White  
**5%** Asian/Pacific Islander  
**1%** American Indian/Alaska Native  
**9%** Unknown

**2,926** Total Student Enrollment

## CIMST Department Partner Highlight:

# COMED SCHOLARS

Chicago State University proudly celebrated its flourishing partnership with ComEd at the 2025 ComEd Scholars Recognition Event, honoring outstanding students in Computer Science, Physics, and Business. As the second cohort of ComEd Scholars at CSU was recognized, four exceptional Computer Science majors—Boris Mojsa, Yonathan Getachew, Kamia Johnson, and Osbaldo Gonzalez—were awarded scholarships, signaling the program's ongoing growth and commitment.

The ComEd Scholars Program is designed to increase access to STEM careers for local university students by providing crucial financial support, mentorship from ComEd professionals, and internship opportunities with both ComEd and its parent company, Exelon. Attendance from ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones, Provost Sonja Feist-Price, CSU leadership, and alumni currently working at ComEd underscored the importance of this collaboration.

This expanding partnership highlights a shared dedication to student empowerment and equitable pathways into high-demand fields. By investing in scholarships and real-world professional experiences, ComEd and CSU are opening doors for underrepresented students, helping them build promising careers in STEM while strengthening the talent pipeline in the region.



# FACULTY



## **Professor Daniels Inspires with Award-Winning Documentary Vision**

Professor Alvin M. Daniels, a leader in CSU's Communication, Media Arts, and Theatre (CMAT) program, has been honored as the "Prince of Documentaries" by Black Entrepreneur Magazine. With over 35 years of experience as a producer, professor, and playwright, Professor Daniels is known for his creative vision and community impact, guided by his motto, "Use What You Got." His achievements include an Emmy nomination for the PBS special Hope, Help, and Healing: Ending Domestic Violence, exemplifying his commitment to telling stories that drive change. Congratulations to Professor Daniels on this national recognition!



## **Professor Delgado-Norris Advances Global Scholarship**

CSU celebrates Professor Evelyne Delgado-Norris, Associate Professor of French and African Languages, on her selection for the January 2025 Overseas Faculty Development Seminar with the Council for American Overseas Research Centers. This prestigious, fully funded experience immersed Professor Delgado-Norris in India's academic and cultural life, enhancing CSU's dedication to international learning and cross-cultural insight. Congratulations to Professor Delgado-Norris for strengthening global connections at Chicago State.



## **Professor Botanga Leads National STEM Diversity Initiative**

Chicago State University has secured a \$3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to establish the LSAMP National Coordination Hub. Led by Dr. Chris Botanga, the executive director for CSER and Professor of Genetics & Genomics, this first-of-its-kind project brings together CSU, Rutgers, ASU, UTEP, Argonne National Laboratory, and Sagefox Consulting to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM education and workforce development. The Hub will drive national collaboration, support faculty and mentoring programs, and elevate CSU's impact as a leader in broadening participation in STEM.



## **CSU Deepens National Impact with the Learning Assistant Model Through Two New NSF Awards**

Chicago State University has received two new NSF grants—partnering with lead institutions Oakton College and Tufts University—to advance and study the Learning Assistant (LA) Model in STEM education. CSU faculty Drs. Jacquelyn Benchik-Osborne, Mel Sabella, and Andrea Van Duzor will help bring evidence-based teaching and professional development to two-year college and university settings, driving collaboration and teaching innovations nationwide. These projects build on CSU's leadership in LA Model implementation, fostering effective classroom engagement and expanding national best practices in teaching and learning.



## **Professor Salam Joins National AI and Astrophysics Institute**

CSU has joined a \$20 million multi-institutional partnership, led by Northwestern University, to establish the NSF-Simons AI Institute for the Sky (SkAI). Funded by the NSF and Simons Foundation, the initiative focuses on advancing AI for astrophysics. Representing CSU, Dr. Mohammad Abdus Salam will collaborate with leading researchers. This prestigious partnership enhances CSU's research profile, offering students and faculty opportunities to engage in cutting-edge projects at the intersection of AI, astrophysics, and deep space exploration.



## **Dr. Ziglari Earns Honors for Special Education Research**

Assistant Professor Dr. Leily Ziglari presented at SERA-2024 in San Antonio and at the Society of Scientific Studies of Reading (SSSR-2024) in Copenhagen, where she received an award for her conference presentation. Dr. Ziglari was also awarded a \$1,000 CTRE Faculty Development Grant in Spring 2024. Her recent scholarship includes publications in peer-reviewed academic journals, strengthening CSU's impact in special education research.



## **Dr. Fazal Showcases Immunology Innovation on Global Stage**

Professor Nadeem Fazal presented 13 abstracts at the AAI Immunology 2025 Annual Conference in Hawaii and gave an oral talk at the Digital Medicine 4.0 conference in Azerbaijan, highlighting CSU's strengths in immune health, teaching innovation, and global research. A Fulbright Scholar and award-winning faculty, Dr. Fazal has over 116 scientific publications and continues to mentor and lead in the fields of immunology and biomedical sciences.



## **Dr. Yamani Joins FINRA HBCU Professorship Program**

Associate Professor of Finance, Dr. Ehab Yamani, was selected to attend the prestigious FINRA 2025 HBCU Professorship Program this May, where he gained a comprehensive view of financial regulation, including FINRA's operations and its relationship with the SEC, and learned about the regulatory roles in U.S. finance. While attending FINRA's annual conference, Dr. Yamani engaged directly with FINRA's senior leadership, Board of Governors, and the Industry Diversity Advisory Committee. The program also supports CSU students by facilitating school visits, offering internship opportunities, and providing resources like study materials and exam vouchers for the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) Exam, creating a direct pipeline from the classroom to promising careers in the financial services industry.

# STUDENTS



## Students Shine as Leaders at International Learning Assistant Conference

Vivian Cox and Trinity Thomas, both Biology majors and experienced Learning Assistants, proudly represented Chicago State University at the International Learning Assistant Conference in Boulder, Colorado. Serving on the LA-Faculty Panel, they used their voices and experience to help shape national teaching discussions, while CSU's Assistant Professor Jacquelyn Benchik-Osborne co-led two conference sessions with faculty. The CSU team also presented their poster, "Leveraging Learning Assistants as Instructional Leaders and Change Agents," showcasing how CSU students are driving innovation and building community in the classroom—earning glowing recognition from peers across the country.



## Championing Student Voice: Allison Bolden Leads with Purpose

Senior Communications and Media Arts major Allison Bolden serves as student representative to the CSU Board of Trustees, amplifying student voices in university decisions. An Honors College and Strada Scholar, she hones leadership through mentorship and advocacy while producing media for Chicago Access Network TV with the N'DIGO Foundation. Allison won the Leo Burnett Pencil Project for Advertising, Marketing, and Strategy. She recently represented CSU in Washington, D.C. at the State of the Union and Thurgood Marshall College Fund Leadership Institute, championing change on campus and beyond.

## CSU Celebrates President's Cup Winners: Valeria Vizcaino and Danina Hughes

Two outstanding students, Valeria Vizcaino and Danina Hughes, have earned the 2025 President's Cup, the university's highest honor. Danina Hughes, a standout student-athlete, also received the prestigious title of CSU Student Laureate.



### Valeria Vizcaino

Valeria Vizcaino's journey toward medicine began with family role models in Venezuela, inspiring a lifelong commitment to helping others. As a proud first-generation immigrant, she excelled academically, earning top student status and numerous honors, including Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate and UNCF Achievement nominations. Valeria is recognized for her leadership, perseverance, and her goal to transform lives as a future physician.

*"My commitment to education never wavered... The challenges I faced have shaped me into the resilient, determined person I am today."*



### Danina Hughes

Danina Hughes, named both CSU Student Laureate and President's Cup winner, stands out as a Division I tennis player and graphic design major. She forged her own path from psychology to design and drawing inspiration from perseverance and discipline in athletics. Danina's achievements, leadership, and resilience continue to inspire classmates in both athletics and the arts.

*"I have often been seen as the underdog—someone who is underestimated by others... Not always being given opportunities... has only fueled my desire to prove that I can rise above these barriers."*

Both Valeria and Danina embody the spirit and excellence of CSU's President's Cup—honoring not just academic achievement, but perseverance, leadership, and the pursuit of positive impact.



## Taylor Norris Inspires as Student Speaker at CSU's 372nd Commencement

Taylor Norris represented the graduating class as student speaker during Chicago State University's 372nd Commencement Ceremony held on May 15, 2025. A dedicated campus leader, Taylor is Miss Chicago State University, Vice President of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, a standout student-athlete, and an active Delta Sigma Theta Sorority member. As she earns her Business Marketing degree, Taylor is recognized for uniting athletes and students and credits CSU for shaping her journey as a leader in service and campus life.



## CSU Welcomes Mandela Fellow to Advance Disability Advocacy

Chicago State University is proud to welcome its first Mandela Washington Fellow, Hafsatou Diallo from Guinea, West Africa. Through YALI's Mandela Washington Fellowship, Hafsatou is partnering with CSU's College of Education and Global Engagement Office to craft a model for inclusive special education to bring back to her home country. As a leading advocate for children with disabilities and women in Guinea, her CSU experience includes engaging with local schools, educators, and officials, all designed to advance access and equity for students with disabilities in West Africa.



## CSU Unites with Lawmakers for Equitable University Funding

Chicago State University students, faculty, alumni, and staff participated in Higher Education Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, joining hundreds from across Illinois to support public universities. Two students, Milan Taylor and Chana Staples, spoke during a rally and CSU representatives, including alumni lawmakers Rep. Nicholas Smith and Rep. Marcus Evans, met with state legislators and voiced the urgent need for equitable funding through the Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act (SB13/HB1581), highlighting the impact of a 46% decline in state investment since 2002.



## Student Leaders Elevate Voices with Alumni Lawmaker

Chicago State University's Student Government Association, including SGA President Valencia Davis and SGA Vice President Kimberly Okyere, organized a Town Hall with Illinois State Representative and CSU alumnus Marcus Evans, providing a platform for students to engage directly with a state legislator. The event empowered students to discuss pressing issues—ranging from education to community investment—while Representative Evans shared legislative insights and encouraged open dialogue. This gathering underscored the impact of civic engagement and affirmed students' important role in influencing public policy within and beyond the university.



## CSU Students Build Careers with Industry Advertising Partners

Thirteen Chicago State University students from Design, Business, Communications, Media Arts, and Theatre programs participated in an immersive, semester-long collaboration with Leo Burnett, Spark Foundry, and Arc Worldwide at their downtown offices. This partnership, centered on the Leo Burnett Pencil Project, provided hands-on experience in advertising strategy and campaign execution, with instruction shared between CSU faculty and leading industry professionals. Leo Burnett has committed further support through scholarship funding for Art & Design and CMAT students in the 2025-2026 Pencil Project, reflecting an ongoing effort to develop top creative talent and connect students with real-world opportunities.

# COMMUNITY



## University Village 95 Project Driving South Side Revitalization

Chicago State University is advancing the University Village 95 project, transforming campus land along 95th Street into a vibrant hub for student housing, retail, green spaces, and cultural celebration. CSU's mixed-use development aims to generate new jobs, stimulate local spending, and strengthen the South Side's economic future—all while prioritizing input and participation from the surrounding community.



## Metra Breaks Ground on Major 95th Street Transit Upgrades to Expand Access

Metra has begun a \$56 million rehabilitation and expansion of the 95th St./Chicago State University Station, building a safer, more accessible gateway connecting the South Side, CSU, and the future University Village 95 development. This transformative project includes ADA upgrades, a new entrance, platform enhancements, and direct pathways to campus, with completion anticipated in 2027. The investment not only improves campus access but also strengthens CSU's role as a vital community anchor for education and economic growth.



## CSU Hosts Second Annual Education Equity Conference

The Illinois Center for Education Equity at Chicago State University convened its second annual conference to address critical issues facing Illinois higher education, including a 37% drop in Black student enrollment in higher education over the past decade. The event featured an address by Illinois Board of Higher Education Chair Pranav Kothari on state education data, policy discussions with leaders from the General Assembly, TICAS, and Women Employed, a student panel highlighting early-start programs, and conversations on dual enrollment access. Additional panels explored corporate partnerships for student success and advocated for a new, equitable public university funding formula—reinforcing CSU's commitment to advancing opportunity through collaboration and policy change.



## CSU Hosts Lecture Series on Wealth Creation and Business Success

During Black History Month, Chicago State University held two Presidential Lecture Series events spotlighting economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for the CSU community. The first event, "Unlocking Access to Wealth Creation," showcased Dean Derrick Collins' findings from the Illinois Black Business Survey and featured entrepreneur Pete Kadens, who discussed generating \$5B+ in value and over 7,000 jobs through ventures like SoCore Energy and Green Thumb Industries. The follow-up panel, "Unlocking Success as a Business Owner in Illinois," brought CSU alumni business owners Audrey Blinstrup, Spring Capers, and Cornelius Griggs together to share real-world strategies and inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs.



### Summer Camps and STEM Highlights at CSU

Chicago State University welcomed 141 youth ages 5–20 to six campus-based summer camps, focusing on high-impact activities and science learning. Standout offerings included the Health Professions Summer Camp, the NSF Quantum Sensing Summer Program, and a pre-freshman engineering and science course—experiences that led to new university enrollments and student awards at the NAACP national convention.

### Bridging the Digital Divide for Chicago’s South Side



The ABE-LINC program at CSU and NEIU empowers local residents with digital skills and internet connectivity through full-time navigators and hands-on training. Since March 2024, ABE-LINC trained 729 participants, distributed 724 devices, and partnered with Compudot to connect 176 families to the internet. Supported by an NTIA grant, the initiative targets improved digital access for underserved populations near CSU and across anchor communities of minority-serving institutions.

### Faith for 500 Initiative Grows Future Cougars

In Spring 2025, CSU collaborated with Progressive and Salem Baptist churches through the Faith for 500 Initiative to deepen outreach among prospective students and alumni. With the support of Reverend Dr. Charlie Dates, these events connected the university with over 300 potential students and rekindled engagement with alumni—many of whom have since joined the CSU Alumni Association and contribute actively to university activities. CSU’s team followed up with every interested student, resulting in four confirmed enrollments for Fall 2025. The university looks forward to building on these partnerships to welcome new students across all academic levels.

### NextGen Summer Career Learning Academy Empowers Future Leaders

The NextGen Summer Career Learning Academy, jointly hosted by Chicago State University and Olive-Harvey College, guided 20 high school juniors and seniors through two weeks of career exploration in fields like healthcare, education, and technology. Students created LinkedIn profiles, attended professional workshops, and took part in hands-on activities—including STEM demonstrations and networking with college student leaders—which sparked new interests in teaching and dual enrollment at CSU.

### Basketball Events Celebrate Local Partnerships

In February, CSU Athletics and External Affairs co-hosted special engagement events at the women’s and men’s basketball games, highlighting partnerships with valued community and corporate supporters. Honorees and guests enjoyed a VIP reception in the President’s Suite, connecting with university leaders while watching the CSU Cougars in action. The events also welcomed local students, strengthening ties with neighboring communities.



#### Honored Corporate Leaders

- *Spark Foundry*: E.T Franklin (Global Chief Strategy & Cultural Fluency Officer), Robyn Petit (Associate Director of Media Strategy)
- *PWC*: Ted Andrews (Manager, PWC Deals)
- *AT&T*: Sam Balark, Christian Molinaro (Directors of External Affairs)

#### Honored Community/Educational Leaders

- *Black Boy Literacy Project*: Pastor Charles Dates
- *Imani Village*: Patricia Eggleston
- *Hope Center Foundation*: Ezra Johnson (Director of Workforce Programs), Joan Douglas

# CAMPUS ADVANCEMENT

## Powerful Voices Drive National Focus on PBIs and Student Equity



Chicago State University played a leading role as the National Coalition of Predominantly Black Institutions brought together academic, nonprofit, corporate, and congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to champion the 67 PBIs educating over 300,000 students nationwide. Thought leaders highlighted the urgent need to support Black student achievement and workforce development, while a coalition of 21 institutions celebrated a 22% federal funding increase. CSU also joined with the National Urban League to advance the national conversation on racial equity in higher education, reaffirming the university's commitment to creating life-changing opportunities for underrepresented students.

## CSU Opens Satellite Location at Historic Gift of Hope Jackie D. Lynch Building

The Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network, together with local partners, welcomed community members to an inspiring Open House at the historic Jackie D. Lynch Building, now home to several organizations dedicated to health equity and support. The event featured heartfelt reflections from leaders, including President Scott, emphasizing the building's historic roots and renewed purpose as a hub for outreach, healing, and hope. Gift of Hope CEO Dr. Harry Wilkins and community champions shared stories of perseverance and commitment, reinforcing the mission to eliminate transplant waitlists and create lasting impact through collaboration, education, and compassion.

## Reimagining Healing and Justice in Illinois

Chicago State University hosted the Healing-Centered Illinois Task Force as it celebrated the completion and dissemination of its final report. Senate Bill 646 officially called for the creation the Task Force for a Healing-Centered Illinois in 2023. Supported by the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity(JEO) Initiative and led by Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, the task force convened statewide experts to advance alignment among trauma-informed and healing-focused policies. These efforts mark a vital move toward a more resilient and wellness-focused justice system for all Illinois residents. Chicago State University is a partner and began training faculty, staff and students across campus in the Healing Centered framework to promote well-being throughout the campus.



## Honoring Dr. Julian Scheinbuks, Pioneering Advocate for Student Success

Chicago State University honored nine students with the Dr. Julian Scheinbuks Scholarship Award, recognizing the late professor's visionary leadership in launching CSU's distance learning program and his generous \$1 million endowment that continues to advance student scholarships and academic innovation across the campus. The 2024-2025 scholarship recipients were Angelica Bahena, Dakota Bankole, Adaria Blackwell, Denesha Gorman, Daisy Hernandez, LaGail Jennett, Xavier Lyons, Taylor Reese, Diana Sanchez, and Trinity Thomas.



## Building Global Bridges in Türkiye

In October 2024, a Chicago State University delegation—including Provost Sonja Feist-Price and senior academic leaders—traveled to Türkiye to strengthen international partnerships and represent CSU at major education conferences. During the visit, the team signed a Memorandum of Understanding, met with university and government leaders, and participated in events on cutting-edge topics such as personalized learning and global academic innovation. By connecting with Turkish institutions and influential figures, CSU is opening new pathways for global collaboration and student opportunity.

## Opening Doors to Media Careers with Spark Foundry

Thirteen Chicago State University students visited Spark Foundry's downtown Chicago office for an immersive glimpse into careers in strategic media and marketing, as part of an ongoing partnership that offers a dedicated internship pipeline and a media course led by Spark Foundry each spring. Welcomed by Chief Strategy Officer Esther E.T. Franklin and CSU instructor Robyn Petit, students learned about the legacy of Leo Burnett and Spark Foundry's evolution as a leader in the field, participated in a career panel with Publicis Groupe professionals, and received personalized resume feedback from Spark Foundry's Talent Acquisition team, equipping them with practical tools and industry insight.



## CSU and UChicago Forge Inclusive STEM Partnership

Chicago State and the University of Chicago have sealed a groundbreaking partnership to open more inclusive pathways in science, technology, and research for students and faculty alike. This collaborative agreement unlocks hands-on research, shared teaching initiatives, and innovative programs in fields spanning quantum science, data science, medicine, and engineering—all designed to position South Side talent at the forefront of discovery and opportunity. By centering equity in motion, both institutions are committed to breaking barriers, nurturing diverse STEM leaders, and fueling community impact for years to come.

# DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



## Senator Duckworth Champions CSU Success

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth visited Chicago State, engaging with students, leaders, and elected officials to spotlight federal support driving student equity and achievement. The campus discussion celebrated grants that advance health sciences for African American men, fund evening child development for student-parents, and expand pathways into IT careers—critical steps that embody equity in motion and sustain opportunity for CSU’s diverse learners.



## Mayor Johnson Inspires on Power of Education

Chicago’s Mayor Brandon Johnson joined the CSU community for a spirited “Lakeside Chat,” engaging over 125 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and civic leaders in an open conversation on expanding opportunity and closing education gaps across the city. Following a performance by CSU’s marching band – the Marching Soul of Chicago – the event was moderated by Dean of Students Dr. Antwone Cameron, and voices from faculty and students spotlighted how CSU and city leadership are boldly advancing equity in motion for today’s—and tomorrow’s—Chicago students.



## Rep. Canty Explores CSU Innovation

Illinois State Representative Mary Beth Canty visited Chicago State’s campus to connect with faculty, students, and young innovators leading quantum research and STEM learning. Touring the Child Development Center and advanced science labs, she witnessed firsthand the breakthroughs driving CSU’s future—and voiced strong support for CSU’s mission and commitment to educational equity in motion.



## CSU and HHS Sign Landmark Partnership

Chicago State welcomed Assistant Secretary Cheryl Campbell and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services leaders for a milestone visit, culminating in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that creates new career, research, and funding pathways for CSU students, alumni, and faculty. Engaging fireside chats, campus tours, and the formal ceremony underscored a shared commitment to elevating health equity, opportunity, and professional advancement through this powerful collaboration.



## CSU and EPA Launch STEM Career Pathways

Chicago State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have forged a strategic partnership aimed at connecting students from all backgrounds to careers in environmental science and engineering. This new agreement offers hands-on experiences, mentorship, and exploration of vital career possibilities in sustainability—championing CSU’s mission to shape diverse leaders and driving equity in motion for a sustainable future.



## Department of Energy Spotlights CSU Climate Research

CSU welcomed U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary Dr. Geri Richmond and Argonne National Laboratory for an in-depth look at the university’s cutting-edge climate research and STEM equity leadership. The visit featured a tour of CSU’s scientific super site, insights into the transformative U.S. Department of Energy grant-funded CROCUS project on urban climate change and environmental justice, and inspiring dialogue among student researchers from leading regional institutions—all showcasing CSU’s prominence as a national leader in advancing STEM excellence and opportunity.



## National Security Careers Take Center Stage at CSU

Chicago State welcomed Dr. Stacey Dixon, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, for an engaging dialogue with students, faculty, and senior leaders on building accessible, equitable pathways into intelligence careers. Highlighting the impact of CSU’s Center for Information & Security Education and Research (CINSER)—led by CSU’s Dr. Moussa Ayyash and Dr. Kimberly Black-Parker—the conversation reinforced CSU’s leadership in advancing women and scholars of color in national security fields and affirmed a shared commitment to nurturing diverse talent for the nation’s most critical roles.



## CSU Celebrates Honorary Degree Trailblazers

At the 2025 Commencement, Chicago State honored three extraordinary leaders whose life’s work exemplifies service, empowerment, and creative excellence. Karen Freeman-Wilson, trailblazing attorney and President of the Chicago Urban League; Christine Houston '17, groundbreaking playwright, TV writer, and CSU alumna; and James Reynolds, Jr., visionary finance executive and champion for economic equity, were each awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters, inspiring the graduating class to pursue impact and justice in every field.

# ADVANCING THE MISSION:

## Leadership Highlights 2024-2025



### President Scott Amplifies CSU's Voice

President Scott's tireless advocacy for Chicago State shaped a year defined by bold engagement and visible leadership throughout Chicago and beyond. Named a 2024 Notable Black Leader by Crain's Chicago Business, President Scott galvanized efforts for equity in higher ed—from driving policy at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund summit in D.C. to championing workforce and economic mobility at national meetings of Predominantly Black Institutions.

Her activism reached every corner of the community: she powered panels on social mobility at the Braven Summit in New York, anchored the historic Black Student Athlete Summit in Chicago, and was honored with the "Making a Difference Award" by Chicago Women in Philanthropy for deep impact in the social sector. President Scott helped strengthen public-private partnerships as a new Intersect Illinois board member, advanced economic development through CSU's university village project, and hosted civic engagement events—empowering CSU as a catalyst for student success, regional opportunity, and transformative change.





## Provost Feist-Price Champions Innovation and Global Impact

This year, Provost Dr. Sonja Feist-Price elevated CSU's academic and civic leadership on national and international stages. From representing CSU at the State of the Union in Washington, to serving on the board of the pioneering Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, Dr. Feist-Price advanced breakthrough research and new career pathways in STEM for CSU's diverse students.

Forging connections from Türkiye to Chicago, she led global partnerships, signed new academic MoUs, and built coalitions for student and faculty collaboration worldwide. Named to the 2025 Daniel Burnham Fellowship for civic leadership, she also drove transformational partnerships, including with the EPA, deepening CSU's commitment to sustainability, environmental justice, and hands-on experience for students. Provost Feist-Price's active engagement underscores CSU's role as a launchpad for inclusive excellence and innovation on the world stage.



# ADMINISTRATION



## **CSU Director of Global Engagement Recognized on International Stage**

CSU's Director of Global Engagement, Katherine Haan, was selected for the highly competitive 2024 Virtual Exchange Academy, hosted by The Stevens Initiative at the Aspen Institute. This honor spotlights CSU's commitment to innovative global learning, as Katherine leads efforts to expand transformative international opportunities for students and drive the university's worldwide connections forward.



## **Athletics Leader Earns Citywide Recognition**

CSU's Dr. Monique Carroll, Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, was selected for the prestigious 2025 Chicago Urban League IMPACT Leadership Development Program, joining 46 other rising leaders from across sectors to strengthen Chicago's civic and business leadership pipeline. This honor highlights Dr. Carroll's growing influence and commitment to advancing both CSU and the broader community. Her selection follows another milestone—being named Athletic Professional of the Year by the Black Student-Athlete Summit, Inc. —demonstrating her visionary leadership and unwavering focus on developing student-athletes and building equity in motion through sport.



## **Enrollment Champion Earns Notable Latino Leader Honor**

Mark Smith, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at CSU, has been honored with Oscar Rodriguez, Vice President of Enrollment Management, was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a Notable Latino Leader for 2025. Known for his relationship-driven, student-focused strategy, Oscar is shaping CSU's enrollment approach to open doors for underserved and diverse learners—ensuring future leaders start their journey with a campus that reflects and supports them every step of the way. students and colleagues at CSU and beyond.



## **Physics Innovator Earns APS Fellowship**

Dr. Edmundo J. Garcia-Solis has been named a 2024 Fellow of the American Physical Society, recognized for promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in physics and supporting international research experiences for underrepresented students. His original work in high-energy nuclear physics with the ALICE experiment at CERN and his leadership in mapping archaeological pyramids in Mexico using atmospheric muon detection drew national attention to CSU's dedication to scientific excellence and to opportunities for students in one of the top-producing physics programs for Black graduates in the country.



## **CSU Spearheads Change at Bisnow Panel, Leadership Circle**

CSU served as the keynote voice at Bisnow's 'South of Roosevelt' conference, with Vice President of External Affairs Erin Steva joining the panel to spotlight the university's leadership in revitalizing the 95th Street Corridor. The discussion highlighted CSU's anchoring role, new philanthropic investments, and dynamic partnerships fueling Roseland's transformation. Steva's recent participation in the Chicago Leadership Circle cohort underscores her commitment to collaborative, purpose-driven leadership as CSU continues to drive economic and civic vitality for the South Side.



## **Philanthropy Leader Earns Citywide Acclaim**

Melanie Sillas, Executive Director of the Chicago State Foundation, was named a Crain's Chicago Business Notable Leader in Philanthropy for 2025, recognizing her dynamic leadership in private fundraising and alumni engagement. Under Sillas's direction, CSU's 1stGEN Scholarship Gala shattered previous records and the Alumni Association relaunched with renewed energy, fueling support for the university's mission and long-term vision. A Leadership Greater Chicago fellow and IMPACT alumna, Sillas is expanding CSU's philanthropic reach and community impact across the city.



## **Finance Leader Recognized for Impact**

Nicole Latimer-Williams, Chief Financial Officer of CSU, was named one of Crain's Chicago Business 2025 Notable Leaders in Finance, honoring her exceptional stewardship and vision. Her strategic leadership has strengthened the university's fiscal health, driven equitable resource alignment, and ensured CSU's long-term sustainability—all in service of advancing student success and institutional excellence.





## COUGARS ATHLETICS:

# CSU HIRES COACH BOBBY ROME II TO LEAD FIRST-EVER DIVISION I FOOTBALL FOR CHICAGO

CSU made history, hiring Bobby Rome II to build Chicago's first NCAA Division I football program—demonstrating an unwavering commitment to athletic excellence, community engagement, and bold institutional growth. Coach Rome brings a proven record of revitalizing programs at Florida Memorial, Virginia University of Lynchburg, and even overseas, combining strategic vision with deep mentorship to transform teams from the ground up.

Chosen from more than 230 applicants, Coach Rome stands out for his success in turning teams into championship contenders and his heartfelt promise to represent the South Side and empower local talent. His mission starts with recruiting the best from Chicago's high schools and galvanizing alumni, donors, and neighbors around a new point of Cougar pride.

As CSU's football program gains momentum, the university calls on the entire city to join in bringing Division I football to the South Side, fueling school spirit, boosting enrollment, and shaping Chicago's next generation of scholar-athletes and community leaders.



# ATHLETICS



## Women's Tennis Makes History with Championship Rings

CSU honored its Women's Tennis Team with a special Ring Ceremony after their trailblazing season brought home the university's first-ever conference and tournament titles, plus a historic NCAA Tournament berth. With Coach Jack Barton named Horizon League Coach of the Year, this team's legacy of talent and determination sets a new standard for Cougar excellence.



## Volleyball Champions Dominate in Debut NEC Season

The CSU Women's Volleyball Team made school history by capturing the 2024 Northeast Conference Championship in their very first NEC season, earning an unprecedented NCAA Tournament bid. Led by NEC Coach of the Year Tony Trifonov and standout player Patrycja Lagida, the Cougars' powerful 13-1 run set a new milestone for excellence in CSU athletics.



## NBA Referee Inspires Cougar Men's Basketball

CSU Men's Basketball welcomed NBA referee James Capers for an unforgettable visit, where he shared his expertise and championed leadership and sportsmanship among student-athletes. The event reflected CSU's commitment to preparing athletes for success beyond the game, offering unique learning opportunities from top professionals in the field.

## Women's Triathlon Team Makes History in Debut Race

CSU's inaugural Women's Triathlon Team marked a major milestone by competing in their first-ever contest at North Central College, thanks to the vision and leadership of Coach Wills. This groundbreaking event is part of CSU's drive to expand athletics and provide new opportunities for student-athletes across emerging sports.



## **Culver Dominates as NEC Rookie Standout**

Freshman sensation Aiyanna Culver has claimed the NEC/Atlantic Tomorrow's Office Rookie of the Week honor four times, highlighted by her first career double-double and impressive scoring run for CSU Women's Basketball. Averaging 14.3 points per game and consistently delivering on the court, Culver's breakout performances are energizing the Cougars and setting a high bar for newcomers.



## **Cougar Student-Athletes Set Academic Records**

Chicago State student-athletes excelled beyond the field, with 37 Cougar athletes achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA and 96 earning above a 3.0 in Spring 2025. Ten teams posted team GPAs of 3.0 or higher, with women's volleyball leading the department at 3.82—demonstrating CSU's strong culture of academic achievement, balance, and determination.



## **Coach Carter Named to WBCA "Thirty Under 30" Honor Roll**

CSU Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Kiara Carter was recognized as one of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association "Thirty Under 30" honorees for 2024–25, celebrating her emerging leadership in collegiate athletics. With a standout playing and coaching background from Michigan State to CSU, Carter's achievement brings pride to Cougar Nation and spotlights the rising talent shaping the future of women's basketball.

# CHICAGO STATE FOUNDATION

## 1stGEN Gala Sets New Standard for Celebration and Impact

CSU's fifth annual 1stGEN Scholarship Gala soared to record heights, bringing together over 500 leaders, sponsors, and community partners—including presenting sponsor United Airlines—to champion first-generation students and public service. The event honored trailblazers like Congressman Danny K. Davis, Valerie Jarrett, and John Atkinson, while raising vital scholarship funds and showcasing the transformational power of Cougar civic engagement and generosity.



*"Every success this year affirms our belief that education transforms lives. Through partnership and purpose, we're creating lasting opportunities for Chicago State students to excel, and strengthening the foundation of a university that changes the world, one graduate at a time."*

*- John Robak, Chicago State Foundation Board Chair*

## Grant-Fueled Transformation: Scholarships, Facilities, Opportunity

Chicago State University completed renovation of four major lecture halls—thanks to \$1.285 million in philanthropic support—which now serve over 2,500 students each semester with accessible, technology-enabled spaces that boost engagement and academic excellence. The ComEd Scholars Program also continues to close tuition gaps and offer mentorship and internships to future community leaders, welcoming thirteen scholars since its 2023 launch. AT&T sustained CSU's Dual Enrollment Program for a third year, empowering 113 high school students to earn college credits and expanding outreach to boost enrollment to 200, building pathways and belonging for early college success.

## BMOA's Inaugural Golf Outing Drives Scholarship Support

On September 13, 2024, the Black McDonalds Operator's Association hosted its first annual Scholarship Golf Outing at Harborside Golf Club, raising \$25,000 in scholarship support for the Chicago State Foundation. Beyond the golf course, BMOA also served as a Gold Sponsor for the 2024 1stGEN Scholarship Gala: Accelerate Presented by United and has already committed to extending its partnership into the next fiscal year. The association's generosity is helping open new doors for CSU students through expanded scholarship opportunities.

## **RISE Academy Champions Mentoring Excellence**

In 2024-2025, CSU welcomed 146 *RISE* Academy Scholars who achieved significant academic gains—students with entry GPAs below 2.50 raised their average to 2.64, and spring persistence nearly doubled to 82%. Champion Mentors, including corporate partners, alumni, and area business leaders, provided monthly guidance and real-world insight, pairing with Scholars to nurture personal and professional growth. With financial support, holistic mentorship, and rigorous training, the Champions Program ensures every *RISE* Scholar is equipped for success, higher earning potential, and meaningful community impact.



## **CHICAGO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

### **Alumni Association Relaunch Sparks New Connections**

This year, the Chicago State Alumni Association (CSAA) was reimagined and brought under the Chicago State Foundation, unlocking greater resources and support to elevate alumni experience and engagement. The reorganized CSAA features new branding, a leadership structure, a committee focus on engagement, athletics, advocacy, scholarship, and a peer mentoring program launching in FY26. Alumni membership grew by 20%, digital membership cards were introduced, and more than 700 alumni participated in 12 signature events—including a refreshed annual Alumni Breakfast and five Alumni Service Awards. With alumni accounting for 52% of individual Foundation donors and over \$110,000 given to support CSU students, the new CSAA is building a powerful, diverse community rooted in pride and partnership.



### **CSAA Vice-Chair Honored with Alumni Service Award for Driving Cougar Pride**

Ron Lynch '88, Vice-Chair of the CSAA Athletics Committee, has been a lifelong advocate for athletics, education, and community building. A former CSU track standout who still holds school records, Ron's 40-year coaching career spans multiple high schools and now Olive Harvey Community College. Volunteering with the CSAA Board, Ron is focused on boosting alumni engagement and building a passionate fan base for Cougar athletics. Leveraging his extensive connections and dedication, Ron is poised to help drive attendance at games and elevate CSU's athletic programs—including the launch of NCAA football. This year, Ron was recognized with the Alumni Service Award for his impact on CSU Athletics and alumni engagement, ensuring Cougar pride reaches new heights.



### **Philanthropy in Action: Faculty and Alumni Transform Student Support**

CSU is grateful for the vision and generosity of faculty and alumni who are reshaping opportunity for future graduates. Dr. Byung-In Seo, a longtime College of Education professor, made two major gifts: a five-year pledge to rehab an Ed.D. classroom and a new Doctorate of Education Student Research Fund—providing research grants so CSU's Ed.D. candidates can compete with the best.

Following his retirement, accounting alumnus and professor Vincent Osaghae, '84, and his wife launched the Vincent and Mabel Osaghae Scholarship Fund, helping CSU accounting students offset the costs of the CPA exam—a major barrier for Black and Brown graduates nationwide.



Honoring her distinguished service, Dr. Nancy Grim Hunter established a fund supporting College of Education faculty with grants for classroom technology, equipment, and materials. Collectively, these gifts help more students and faculty achieve excellence, expand access, and inspire the next generation of leaders. Dr. Nancy Grim Hunter also provided a major gift to support classroom technology upgrades that will bring the College of Education into compliance with meeting technology standards for CSU teacher candidates.



# NEWS

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



**Chicago's Pullman porters formed first all-Black labor union 100 years ago**  
FOX Chicago | February 2025

Dr. Lionel Kimble spoke to FOX 32 about how Chicago's Pullman porters formed the first all-Black labor union in the U.S., paving the way for civil rights advancements.



**Illinois university leaders show united front as Trump threats loom**  
Crain's Chicago | March 2025

Z Scott, President of CSU, Paul Alivisatos, President of the University of Chicago; Tim Killeen, President of the University of Illinois system; and Michael Schill, President of Northwestern University joined Crain's Chicago for a wide-ranging conversation on how higher education is shaping Chicago and the Midwest while also touching on the state of higher education under a new presidential administration.



**How South Side College Students are Caring For Their Mental Well-Being**  
City Bureau | March 2025

Students from CSU's graduate-level occupational therapy program speak about mental health support.



**Former HBCU Head Basketball Coach Takes Charge At Chicago State University**  
Sports Illustrated | March 2025

Sports Illustrated featured CSU's the hiring of Landon Bussie as the new head coach of the Cougars men's basketball program.



**Chicago State University's First Football Coach**  
WGN | April 2025

Coach Bobby Rome II spoke with WGN Morning News' Pat Tomasulo about the path to launch what would be Chicago's only D1 football program.



**NSF's grant cuts fall heaviest on scientists from underrepresented groups**  
Science Insider | May 2025

Dr. Chris Botanga spoke to Science Insider about the now canceled NSF LSAMP grants, which were created to run programs to attract undergraduates into science, technology, engineering, and math fields and prepare them to pursue advanced degrees.



**'It's just devastating,' Chicago State president says of federal cuts**  
WBEZ & Chicago Sun Times | May 2025

President Z Scott spoke to Higher Education Reporter Lisa Philip about the federal cuts CSU and other regional public universities have experienced.



**With New Head Coach, Chicago State University Works to Launch Division I Football Program**  
WTTW's Chicago Tonight | June 2025

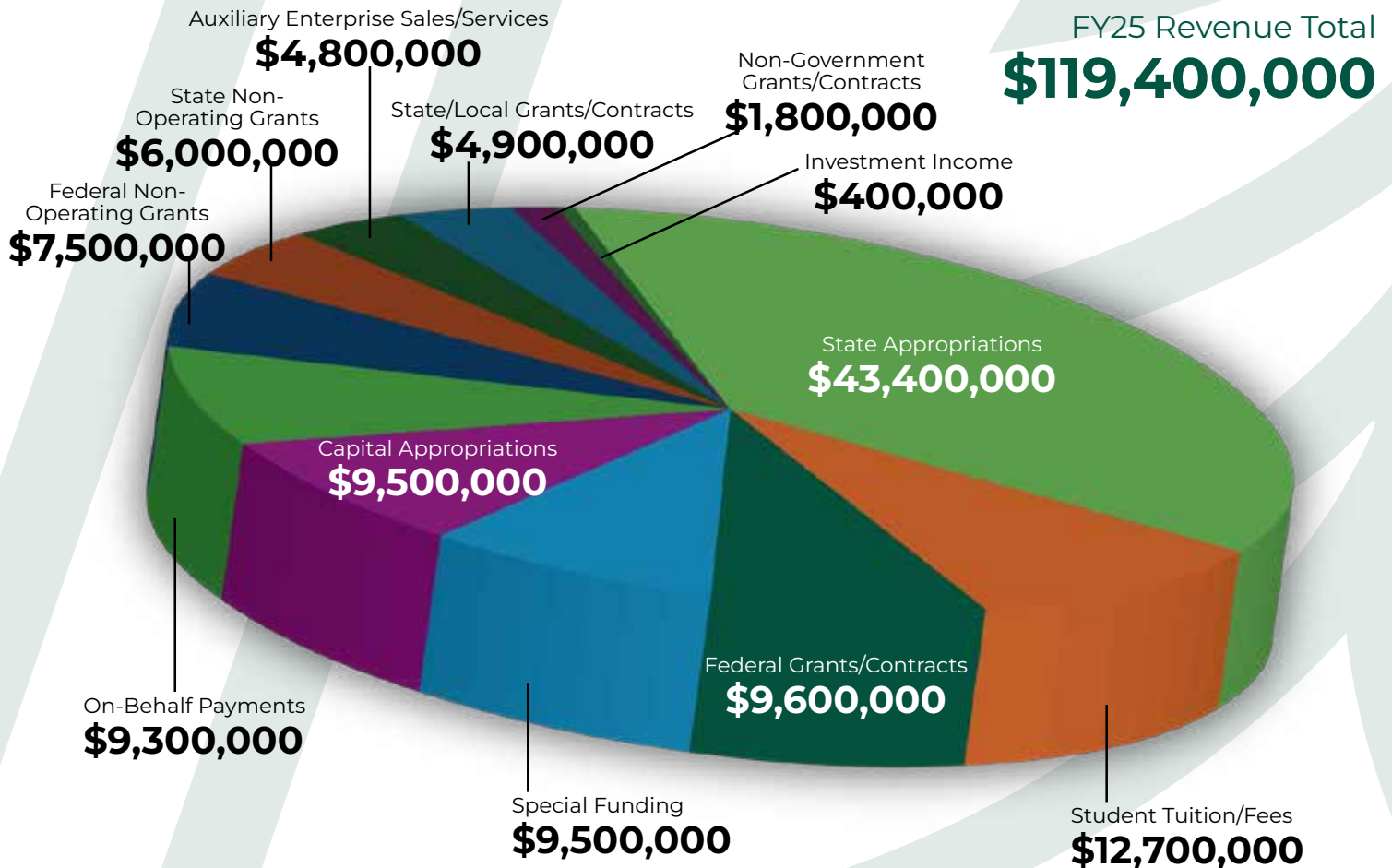
CSU President Z Scott and Coach Bobby Rome II spoke with Chicago Tonight's Brandis Friedman about building the school's Division I football program from the ground up.

# FINANCIALS

In the fiscal year 2025, CSU's expenditures from federal grant awards totaled \$17,286,978. This includes the Pell grants for \$6,041,886 and other student financial aid grants.

The expenditures for the state, municipal, and other grants added to \$11,346,236 in FY25, including the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) for \$4,682,995, and other non-operating grants.

CSU currently holds 50 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 \$17,540,011 in FY25 expenditures, demonstrating the continued strength of CSU's award base. The pie chart details Chicago State University's total revenue for fiscal year 2025.



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**Board of Trustees Welcomes New Leaders**

Chicago State University proudly welcomed three distinguished professionals—John C. Robak, Dixie Erwin, and Michelle Gooze-Miller—to its Board of Trustees in 2025. Appointed by Governor JB Pritzker, these accomplished leaders bring a shared commitment to educational equity, civic engagement, and community partnership. Their deep expertise in business, law, and public service strengthens CSU's mission and charts a powerful path forward for institutional excellence and student success.

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