



# CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS



2	A Brighter Future in Motion	
4	Mission, Vision and Values	
5	Message From The President	
6	Letter From Chair Zopp	
7	University Leadership	
8	CSU Snapshot	
9	Safely Back In Action	
11	Hosted With Honor	
12	Investing In Our Students' Future	26
13	National, State & Local Leaders In Action	28
14	Celebrating Student Life & Achievements	30
17	Future In Motion: Reflections Q&A with Dr. Leslie Roundtree	31
19	Cougar Pride: Faculty Recognition	32
21	Excellence In Leadership	33
23	Partnerships	34
		Community Engagement & Leadership
		Athletics
		Financials
		News
		Scholarship Gala
		Board of Trustees
		Chicago State Foundation Board of Directors





**CSU** is where our leaders of tomorrow put their **FUTURE IN MOTION** every day.

The CSU family is proud to continue our long-standing philosophy of cultivating a safe, positive, welcoming education environment and a campus community that thrives on connection, innovation, encouragement, hope and ambition.

As we conclude another year of unprecedented change and new challenges, CSU stays unwaveringly focused on creating unique ways to fuel student success while building on our momentum in continually setting new standards for higher education that creates opportunities and changes lives.

**TOGETHER,  
WE'RE CREATING  
A BRIGHTER FUTURE  
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







## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SCOTT

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

As the CSU family continued traversing a unique education environment, the needs and preferences of our stakeholders served as our guidepost. After creating a specialized University Operating Plan that followed CDC guidelines and safety protocols, we successfully returned to a full, in-person schedule in 2021 that continued in 2022. Our COVID-19 task force actively monitored CDC guidelines and local data related to ongoing campus safety. Their efforts drove key safety measures that we continued employing such as indoor masking, continual and free

on-campus COVID-19 testing, and vaccination clinics throughout the year, many of which were also open to the community. I'm exceptionally proud of our team's united efforts to bring the CSU Cougar family together again on campus.

The 2022 academic year also brought new attention to our on-going innovation in producing a flow of diverse leaders, as CSU was honored to host a number of state and national dignitaries. We kicked off the school year with a visit from the U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, and the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, as part of the Department of Education's "Return to School Road Trip." Dr. Alondra Nelson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Head of the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP), also visited to discuss the faculty's cutting-edge STEM research and initiatives which are driving diversity in the STEM fields. CSU was also proud to welcome Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton and State Senator Elgie Sims Jr. (17th District) to campus to learn more about CSU's leadership in addressing Illinois' teacher shortage while simultaneously increasing educator diversity. Finally, we hosted Governor JB Pritzker on campus for the signing of his administration's budget package into law which included significant investments in Illinois' higher education institutions and our state's students.

Consistent with our core values, CSU continued fostering an open and transparent line of communication with students, faculty, staff, and community members at our annual State of the University community events. We shared key updates, new programs, upcoming opportunities, and other information regarding initiatives that the university is undertaking. The events also provided an opportunity to raise community awareness around CSU's new childcare development center, our health sciences center, and other innovations happening on campus. We look forward to continuing this new tradition in the coming year.

Looking to the future, CSU is proud to continue advancing our vision of equitable community development by forging innovative partnerships that expand beyond our campus. In 2022, we partnered with the City of Chicago Department of Planning (DPD) to study 95th street and future development opportunities for the corridor. Community members were invited to share their visions for the future of 95th street including community needs and ways to maximize the CSU campus to help generate long-term investments and spur economic activity. Beyond this, CSU also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Metra to redevelop the 95th Street Metra Electric line station located at the edge of campus to improve support for equitable transit for our community.

It has been another pivotal year at CSU, and we're excited about the continued forward momentum of the university. We remain resolved in our commitment to serve as anchor for the city's South Side and as a beacon for opportunity and progress.



## LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN ZOPP

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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we want to thank you for your continued support of Chicago State University.

Our 2021-2022 Annual Report shares highlights from the year, including some of the achievements of our students, faculty, and staff, all beginning with a successful return to in-person learning. After assessing the needs of our stakeholders and a careful review of ongoing health conditions, CSU was excited to welcome the Cougar family back to campus for the 2021-22 academic year. This successful return could not have been possible without the continued support of our Board, and that was just the beginning.

Together, the Board and University leadership continue to build upon a strong foundation designed to bolster the University forward and provide the best opportunities for students, families, and the community. We know that economic growth is linked to increased educational attainment, which helps to build stronger communities, so our focus remains steadfast on student success outcomes, our new brand initiatives, creating innovative learning opportunities, and providing attractive scholarships. With the Board's strategic thought leadership and support, we have continued implementing new programs that foster student success while giving back to the communities in which we all work and live.

Our global engagement efforts are building a CSU brand that is world-renowned, and as such, we continue to attract students from all over the world. Chicago State's academic programs continue to prepare students for career paths in the most in-demand fields such as healthcare, science, education, and technology. Beyond the latest degree programs, we continue forging innovative partnerships, such as our latest with Discover Financial Services, where students gain access to invaluable mentorship, real-world experience, and resources dedicated to helping them succeed.

All of this contributes to our overarching mission: to develop and launch the diverse leaders of tomorrow who are well-prepared to reshape the global landscape in remarkable ways.

I am exceptionally grateful and proud to be part of a campus community, rooted in academic excellence, that never takes its eyes off the greater good of students, families, and the community. I hope you enjoy all of the amazing CSU stories in the pages ahead and find a way to engage in the great work happening at Chicago State University.





# UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



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



KIM H. TRAN  
CHIEF OF STAFF



WALTER PRYOR  
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL  
COUNSEL & CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER



MICHAEL HOLMES  
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT,  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



CRAIG DUETSCH  
CFO & INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT  
OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS



WILLIAM SLIWA  
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT,  
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

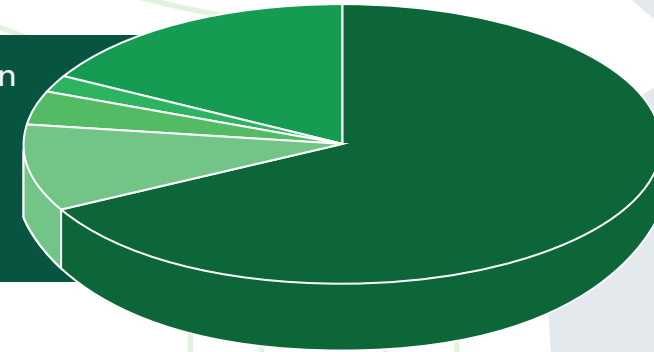


# CSU SNAPSHOT

## STUDENT SCHOLARS (2021-22)

*Undergraduate*

- 76% African American
- 8% Latinx
- 4% White
- 1% Asian
- 10% Other



# 56

Degree programs

# 555

Average number  
of degrees awarded  
during the last 3  
years

CSU was ranked by a Harvard economist in the **top 4%** of public and private universities nationwide in supporting its graduates' economic mobility.

Today, we have students from **8** countries and **38** states

# 88%

Illinois residents

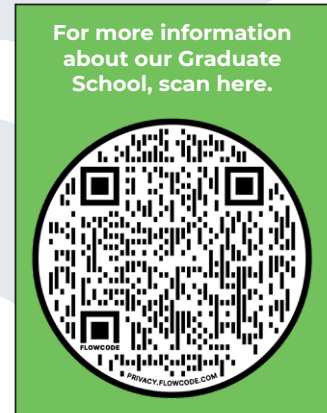
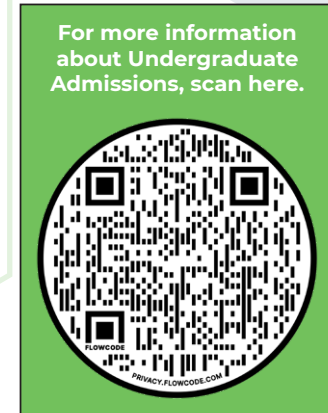
## *Undergraduate & Graduate*

- 2,968** Student scholars
- 76%** Received federal Pell grants

## *Student Life*

- 50\*** Student organizations
- 8** Fraternities and sororities
- 15** Division 1 NCAA sports teams

\*Approximately







## SAFELY BACK IN ACTION

While we recognized the need for remote support and new financial aid programs, CSU also gauged the attitudes of students, faculty and staff and found that most preferred to return to an in-person learning environment when it was safe to do so. After carefully a specialized Operating Plan that followed CDC campus guidelines and safety protocols, we were excited to bring faculty and staff back to campus on July 6. We celebrated with a campus-wide employee luncheon to welcome (and welcome back), new and returning employees who are now rebuilding those all-important interpersonal connections.

On August 23, students returned to campus for in-person classes. The fall 2021 semester kicked off with the Back to School Parade and Welcome Week to celebrate being back together as a community.

Throughout the year, CSU continued striving for ways to best support the safety and success of students, faculty and staff by providing flexible learning options in any environment, along with continuous free, on-campus COVID-19 testing, regular vaccination clinics, and access to personal protective equipment around campus. We're excited to see the CSU family together once again and thriving through the new academic year.



**"I felt like I won the lottery"...  
From pandemic job loss to a second  
chance at college"**

Kiara Roberts returned to Chicago State University this fall after the pandemic knocked her studies off track. Courtesy of Kiara Roberts / WBEZ

### Innovative Ideas to Fuel Post-Pandemic Success

CSU faculty and staff galvanized throughout the pandemic to create innovative ways to help ease stress and facilitate remote learning such as offering laptop loaners and making support services available remotely. But the COVID-19 pandemic put extreme financial pressure and stress on students and families, which decreased their accessibility to an education that was designed to create economic mobility.

In response, we launched the Student Debt Relief program to help qualified students (juniors and seniors in good standing with a 2.0 GPA or higher) with documented hardships eliminate debts to the University, which affected 7% of the student population.





Dr. Miguel Cardona  
U.S. Secretary of Education

Dr. Vivek Murthy  
U.S. Surgeon General



J.B. Pritzker  
Illinois Governor



## HOSTED WITH HONOR

As the only Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) in Illinois, CSU continues building on its long-standing reputation as a leader in higher education, bringing a world-class education to Chicago's South Side. That resolute focus on advancing higher education in the area is not only uplifting the students and families, it is garnering attention and interest from notable leaders in support of our contributions to education and the community.

In September, 2021, CSU was honored to host U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy as part of the Department of Education's "Return to School Road Trip," a bus tour highlighting schools and communities that have safely welcomed students back to in-person learning. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot joined the Secretary and Surgeon General in attending this event, along with Chicago State's Board of Trustees Chair Andrea Zopp. Surgeon General Murthy participated in a STEM roundtable discussion with CSU leadership, faculty and students. Secretary Cardona visited CSU's College of Pharmacy before leading a program with President Scott and Mayor Lightfoot about CSU's leadership in advancing equity in education.

**"CSU is a place of Black excellence and community,"**  
Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education



## INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS' FUTURE

CSU was proud to host Governor J.B. Pritzker, Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, and state legislators to campus for the signing of the Illinois State budget on April 19, 2022. The \$46 billion 2023 fiscal year state budget included significant investments in Illinois' higher education institutions and students, including:

- adding \$1.8 million to CSU's appropriation for the 2022 fiscal year;
- 5.4% overall increase for 2023 education funding;
- 25% increase to the Monetary Assistance Program grants, equating to \$122 million (from \$6,438 to \$8,508 per student);
- \$68 million to further stabilize community colleges and public universities; and
- Additional funds to bolster career and technical education programs and scholarships for minority teachers.



# CELEBRATING STUDENT LIFE & ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Alondra Nelson  
Head of the White House Office of  
Science & Technology Policy

Dr. Valerie Goss  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
at CSU



## NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL LEADERS IN MOTION

Dr. Alondra Nelson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Head of the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) visited CSU to discuss the faculty's cutting-edge STEM research and initiatives driving diversity in the STEM fields. Dr. Nelson visited the university to learn from CSU as a world-class leader in STEM research, and to better understand the sector's economic impact while fostering a more inclusive and equitable talent pipeline.



CSU also welcomed Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton and Honorable Senator Elgie Sims (17th District) to campus to learn about CSU's leadership in closing Illinois' teacher shortage and increasing teacher diversity. CSU also shared insights on supporting students with pandemic-related challenges, as well as our strategies for closing Illinois' teacher shortage gaps.

In these photos: Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton (left), and Elgie Sims, Illinois State Senator (right)



### President's Cup & Lincoln Laureate

CSU is proud to celebrate graduating senior and Criminal Justice major Nekoia Washington who received the CSU President's Cup Award and was inducted as a Student Laureate into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

The CSU President's Cup was commissioned in 1999 to recognize a graduating senior for his/her exceptional leadership, scholarship and service. Student Laureates of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois are

honored for their leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. During her time at CSU, Nekoia has been an active member of the Student Government Association, completed several internships with various city and state offices, and founded "Single Ladies with Babies," an organization dedicated to leading single moms into successful futures and healthy, whole lifestyles.

Congratulations on reaching incredible heights during your time at CSU, Nekoia, we look forward to watching you thrive on the next step of your journey.





**Mother & Daughter Graduate with MSW**

It is truly inspiring to see families reach higher and accomplish more by pursuing an education at CSU, especially when two generations from the same family achieve their goals at the same time. In 2022, Maria Carillo and her daughter Stephanie Carillo both graduated with their masters in social work. Maria will pursue a license in clinical social work to continue serving underprivileged communities while Stephanie looks forward to opening her own practice. CSU is proud to see the Carillo family dedicating their lives to serving others and wishes them all the success in the journey ahead.



**Occupational Therapy Students' Article Published**

CSU Occupational Therapy (O.T.) graduate students Marissa Epps (second year MOT student SOTA—ASD/ Professional Development Chairperson), Marina Mishin (second year MOTS), Asia Clark (second year MOT student), and Michael Singleton (a second year MOT student) were published in the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) monthly e-newsletter, OT Student Pulse. This mini cohort of four founded a tri-weekly writing circle aimed at assisting each other in improving their writing skills, and in the process, were recognized by AOTA. Their article offered research and collaboration tips and techniques for students in the field.



**CSU & Hope Chicago Celebrate Inaugural Class**

CSU hosted an exciting launch event in October, 2022 to celebrate Hope Chicago, a new multi-generational scholarship program created for Chicago Public School graduates. The event brought together students, community leaders and educators from across the state. In its inaugural year, the program included six CSU freshman recipients, two of whom were featured on Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien where they shared the life-changing impact of the organization.



Hope Scholars are eligible for the full suite of comprehensive support including scholarships paying for all college expenses—not just tuition and traditional dormitory life, but also transition support, academic and social/emotional support, and exclusive access to dedicated support staff on campus. Hope Chicago's CEO Dr. Janice Jackson served as CEO of Chicago Public Schools and is a CSU alumna. The organization has a goal of raising and investing at least \$1 billion dollars over the next decade to help tens of thousands of Chicago students earn a degree. CSU is proud to see this early-stage partnership kickoff with such success and we look forward to supporting the cohorts of Hope Chicago scholars in the years to come.



**State-Of-The-Art Child Development Center to Support Our Community**

CSU hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dr. David Kanis Child Development Center. Attendees included faculty, staff, students, community members, our guest of honor, Dr. David Kanis (former CSU professor and Associate Vice President for Sponsored Programs), Senator Elgie Sims Jr., Representative Nicholas Smith, and Representative Marcus Evans, and donors, Nancy Ratner and Peggy Montes. This new state-of-the-art facility is uniquely designed to serve the children of CSU students as well as faculty, staff and the community, and is a critical part of CSU's student success strategy to offer students much-needed family support while they earn their life-changing degrees. Our sincere gratitude for Dr. David Kanis' unwavering dedication to the university in his successful pursuit of funding to make this Child Development Center dream a reality.

**Pre-College Youth PREP/STEM Program Recognized as Program of the Year**

CSU is proud to have its Pre-College PREP/STEM Program recognized as Program of the Year by the National Society of Black Engineers for 2022. This remarkable program, led by Marnie Boyd, Assistant Director of Engineering, invites students from grade 6-12 to a six-week summer program at CSU where they are exposed to science, technology, engineering, and math activities, all designed to have a positive impact on pre-college students beyond just the walls of the classrooms.

The program is assisting future college graduates build a strong foundation in science and technology to prepare for the future of STEM careers that continue to be integral to the global economy. Programs like PREP/STEM are a great way to get young people started early on a path that will lead to lucrative and world-changing careers in STEM based industries.

**CMAT Class Film Project Screened at the Out of Africa Film Festival in Nairobi Kenya**

The film WHOLE, produced by students in Dr. List's CMAT Digital Cinema Practicum, was screened in Nairobi Kenya in September 2021 as an official selection of the Out of Africa Film Festival.

The screenplay for WHOLE was written by Media Arts senior Ryonn Gloster, to address the practice of female genital mutilation through the narrative genre of a dystopian thriller. Ms. Gloster's script became the basis for the annual department film project. Well received on the festival circuit, WHOLE was screened at five international film festivals including at the Gene Siskel Film Center as part of the Chicagoland Shorts showcase and won the BEST STUDENT FILM AWARD from the Collected Voices Film Festival in Chicago.

**Celebrating Graduating Leaders of Tomorrow**

On December 16, 2021, CSU celebrated its 368th commencement, with Dr. Janice K. Jackson, a CSU alumna, former CEO of Chicago Public Schools and CEO of newly formed nonprofit, Hope Chicago, giving a compelling commencement address. The ceremony, held at the Emil & Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center, was the university's first in-person ceremony since its return to in-person classes. CSU paid special recognition to the determined graduates who persevered through an unprecedented time.

CSU was also proud to celebrate the May 12, 2022 graduating class in our 369th commencement ceremony that featured the Honorable Melissa Conyears-Ervin, Treasurer of the City of Chicago, who focused her address on the University's commitment to equity in communities. Treasurer Conyears-Ervin made history by being the first female elected to the Office of Treasurer for the City of Chicago who was not previously appointed.

Congratulations to our Classes of 2021 and 2022, we wish you the brightest of futures to come!

**Prestigious Edna Huffman Award**

Falilat Lasisi was named CSU's 2022 Edna Huffman Award Recipient, honored alongside other top students across Illinois' colleges and universities at the Annual Illinois Health Information Management Association Meeting. Committed to her volunteer passions, Lasisi spends time mentoring HIA entry level students and collaborates in community theater. While at CSU, Lasisi was selected as the Illinois Student Liaison on the ILHIMA Board of Directors representing bachelor's degree-seeking students in the state of Illinois (term 2021-20220) and recipient of the Health Information Administration's certificate of Honor for the Honors Convocation.







## FUTURE IN MOTION: Reflections Q&A with Dr. Leslie Roundtree

Interim Provost & Senior Vice President  
of Academic Affairs

**Q: CSU's Cougar Commitment initiative was a breakthrough strategy to help students thrive even before the pandemic and economic climate shifted. How is the program achieving its goals?**

**A:** We're proud of this innovative initiative that reflects CSU's mission and is at the heart of our commitment to student success. One of the key components is our Rise Academy, a program designed to assist first-year, often first-generation, students through year one, offering them all the tools they need to succeed. Starting with a five-week intensive summer course that earns them credits, students get immersed in college life with classmates, professors, and the campus community. Every Rise Academy student receives a scholarship that covers tuition, fees, textbooks, a laptop, and Internet access for that year. It's been a clear success and a springboard for many students who are able to attend college without the burden of additional debt. To date, the Rise Academy has created XX scholars, and we look forward to the next wave of Rise Scholars to come.

**Q: Students continued seeing more challenges over the past two years in social, economic, and health dynamics, creating a unique and equally challenging educational environment. How else is the Cougar Commitment initiative helping students succeed along their education journey?**

**A:** It's certainly true - pursuing a college education amidst an ever changing and challenging environment can be difficult. The Cougar Commitment program is designed to cross barriers and reach students right where they are. By providing a suite of data-driven academic programs, well-being supports, and scholarships, the initiative helps increase CSU student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. In essence, we're partnering with students, families, and communities to create access to higher education that supports the students' journey through graduation. We know that communities prosper when generations of families can invest in themselves and their neighborhoods. CSU is proud to share that student retention has improved by 14%, and graduation rates increased by 4%.

**Q: We know today's workforce will be very different in the years ahead given how rapidly science and technology are advancing. How is CSU helping to prepare students and future leaders for tomorrow's most in-demand and critical jobs?**

**A:** Year after year, CSU has proven to be an exceptional leader in Illinois higher education by our focus in preparing graduating students in STEM fields, who go on to become diverse leaders in this critical area. The focus in building out such degree programs, which now includes the arts and quantum information science and technology (aka "QuSTEAM"), has been very intentional as we know these fields are the future of tomorrow's workforce. The National Science Foundation

established a \$25 million institute in Chicago to investigate quantum sensing for biology and train the quantum workforce. Headquartered at the University of Chicago and in partnership with Chicago State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Harvard University, the institute will be funded for five years. Through this institute and funding, CSU will create a certificate program in quantum science and continually develop curriculum that will train students in skills needed for the quantum workforce. CSU faculty and students will also perform outreach with Chicago Public Schools. This grant will also offer funding support for students at UChicago, Chicago State, and UIC. Faculty from all institutions also will collaborate on scientific exploration, bringing together ideas and resources.

**Q: Higher education is an integral foundation for improving earning potential, quality of life, and uplifting communities, but real-world experience is also invaluable to a student's career journey. How is CSU opening career path doors to help students succeed when their graduation date arrives?**

**A:** The CSU team has been steadfast in its focus to build meaningful partnerships with Chicagoland businesses that are thriving in today's most in-demand fields. The goal is to offer students real-world experience and mentorship and to understand what a 'day in the life' looks like on the job. Today, CSU students have the ability to participate in a boot camp through the Publicis Groupe which prepares them for media, digital marketing, and advertising internships across the company's subsidiaries, including Leo Burnett Chicago, Arc Worldwide, and The Pub. These internships have led to successful job placements for many of our students who participate in the program.

We've also launched a partnership with Discover for a new program that will offer fully-funded undergraduate degrees. The program will be available to Discover employees living in Chicago who enroll at CSU and current CSU students who work full-time at Discover. Not only does this program allow students to finance their education, it offers valuable professional development opportunities to help them advance their careers. We are proud to share that CSU is the first Chicago-based institution in the Discover College Commitment and the first education partner to offer in-person learning. CSU is committed to seeking these valuable new partnership opportunities to continue our Cougar Commitment from pre-college to career placement.





# COUGAR PRIDE: FACULTY RECOGNITION



## CSU Partners to Support NSF's New \$25M Quantum Biology Research Institute

As part of a nationwide initiative to boost research in quantum science, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will establish a \$25 million institute in Chicago to investigate quantum sensing for biology and to train tomorrow's quantum workforce. Headquartered at the University of Chicago and in partnership with Chicago State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Harvard University, the institute will be funded for five years.

Planned activities at Chicago State University include the creation of a certificate program in quantum science and the continued development of curriculum that will train students in skills needed for the quantum career paths. CSU faculty and students will also perform outreach with Chicago Public Schools to garner interest in the up-and-coming field. The grant will offer funding support for students at UC, CSU, and UIC, and faculty from all three institutions will collaborate on scientific exploration, bringing together ideas and resources to further fuel quantum innovations.

## Dr. Sarah Buck Receives IAHPERD Honor Award

At the December 2021 Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) Convention, CSU Associate Professor Dr. Sarah Buck was awarded the Honor Award at the event ceremony. The Honor Award recognizes leaders who have been actively involved in leadership at IAHPERD, who have contributed significantly to both the conferences and programs, and who have contributed professional literature through writing or co-authoring relevant articles.

## CSU Professor Stevenson Receives Jazz Education Network's 2022 Griot Award

Congratulations to CSU Professor Roxanne Stevenson, Department of Music Interim Chair and Director of Bands, as the recipient of the 2022 Donald Meade Legacy Jazz Griot Award. Founded by the African American Jazz Caucus (AAJC), The Donald Meade Legacy Foundation has been built upon the premise that the "story" is an essential part of Jazz education, and therefore, the storyteller (or Griot) creates a vital link between the music and life stories. Stevenson joined CSU in 1992 and has led CSU's marching band, "Marching Soul of Chicago," since it was established in 2019.

## Gwendolyn Brooks Library Receives \$40,000 ALA Grant

CSU's Gwendolyn Brooks Library received a \$40,000 grant from the American Library Association (ALA), with thanks to our astute grant writer, Professor Charlene C. Snelling, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Services. The grant extends weekend and evening hours, in addition to increasing resources, digital access and reference materials available to the campus community. The grant is part of ALA's COVID Library Relief Fund created to help academic, public school and tribal libraries that experienced substantial economic hardship due to the pandemic. CSU was part of only 15 percent of grant applicants awarded money from the fund, originally seeded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of its efforts to bolster educational and cultural organizations devastated by the economic fallout from COVID-19.

## Associate Professor Dr. Hall Recognized as MPA Fellow

The Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) has recognized the leadership of CSU faculty member Dr. Tonya Hall for her significant contributions to the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, and for her role in the American Psychological Association, Division 27, Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA). Dr. Hall has been a dedicated supporter of SCRA at the MPA Conference along with her consummate record of teaching, service, and research, which led her to be accepted as an MPA Fellow.

## CSU Receives \$50,000 to Expand Broadband Access

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced that Chicago State University and other universities were awarded \$50,000 each through the Broadband READY Grant to increase broadband access throughout the state. Each university will provide assessments and deliverables tailored to their region which will guide program implementation and resource investments in efforts to close broadband equity gaps across the state.

CSU faculty including Dr. Daniel Block, serving as grant chair and PI, Dr. Rae-Anne Montague, and Dr. Aynaz Lotfata will focus on working to develop training based at public libraries, and engaging a research effort on digital equity in Northeastern Illinois.







Dr. Leslie Roundtree  
Interim Provost and VP of Academic  
and Student Affairs at CSU

**Dr. Roundtree Named to AOTA “Roster of Fellows”**

CSU Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Leslie Roundtree, was named to the American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) 2022 “Roster of Fellows” for her significant contributions to the field of occupational therapy. Dr. Roundtree led the development of training programs for underserved and underrepresented students in health care and secured a \$15 million, six-year national demonstration project employing people from low income households for health careers. She also assisted the state of Illinois through CSU in graduating the most minorities in health information administration, nursing and occupational therapy than any other time in CSU’s history.

As an advocate at the national level, Dr. Roundtree also testified in Washington on the importance of investing in programs that increase access to occupational therapy and other health professions. Congratulations Dr. Roundtree on this prestigious recognition and thank you for your dedication to supporting CSU and the field of occupational therapy!

**CSU Submits Testimony for Higher Education and Workforce Investment House Subcommittee Hearing**

CSU is thrilled to share that the U.S. House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment discussed the importance of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs).

President Scott was honored to submit written testimony for the Congressional record, and shared details on CSU as an ‘engine for upward mobility,’ proudly producing 1 in 10 of the Black college graduations in the state of Illinois, with 75% employed in their field of study. The President also expressed the socio-economic impacts of higher education on uplifting families, communities and the region, as well as the increased future earnings potential graduates recognize over their working lives.

*President Scott urges the U.S. House Subcommittee on Higher Education to increase funding for Minority-Serving Institutions of Higher Education (MSIs), who serve as engines for upward mobility in Illinois and across the country. CSU produces 1 in 10 Illinois Black college graduates, who receive a present value of \$288 million in increased earnings over their working lives, while 75% of CSU graduates are successfully employed in their field of study.*

The House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment streamed the hearing on Investing in Economic Mobility: The Important Role of Hispanic Serving Institutions and Other Minority Serving Institutions.

**CSU’s Aspen Clemons Selected for CUL IMPACT Leadership Development Program**

The University’s Deputy Chief of Staff, Aspen Clemons, has joined the ranks of the Chicago Urban League’s Class of 2022 IMPACT Fellows. Clemons shares the cohort with 40 other talented leaders from the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors including BMO, Lurie Children’s Hospital, The Kindness Campaign, IL Department of Corrections, United Airlines, Northern Trust, Salesforce, The Boeing Company, PepsiCo and many more. IMPACT is an intensive, nine-month program that helps Black professionals advance in their careers while building a more diverse pipeline of leaders across Chicago. Since 2014, IMPACT Fellows have been nominated by their employers and then selected through a competitive application process.

**CSU Health Sciences Simulation Lab Receives Federal Funding for Laboratory Equipment**

CSU is excited to announce an award of \$450,000 from the FY22 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, secured by US Senator Dick Durbin. The funding is a critical financial investment that will aid the purchase of science laboratory equipment for the University’s Health Sciences Simulation Lab.

The new equipment will be part of CSU’s state-of-the-art Health Sciences Simulation Lab, which will train thousands of students in much-needed job skills for the medical profession. The College of Health Sciences and the College of Pharmacy at CSU are critical to sustaining a pipeline of underrepresented professionals by educating a caring, competent, and diverse student body. CSU graduates have 100 percent job placement in nursing and occupational therapy and the College of Pharmacy is first in the Midwest for graduating underrepresented students with doctoral degrees.

*“The Health Sciences Simulation Lab will provide top-level training to our students and supply the diverse leadership needed in the health profession,” - Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, Esq., President of Chicago State University.*





# PARTNERSHIPS



CHICAGO STATE UN



Roger C. Hochschild  
CEO of Discover Financial Services

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

## Discover and CSU Innovate to Increase Access to Education & Accelerates Pathways to Careers

In the spring of 2022, Discover announced it was expanding its fully-paid education benefit program to the city of Chicago through a partnership with CSU. The expanded partnership allows Discover employees living in Chicago who enroll at CSU, and current CSU students who work full-time at Discover, program eligibility. The program allows students to finance their undergraduate education, and receive professional development opportunities to help advance their careers.

CSU is the first Chicago-based institution in the Discover College Commitment program, and the first education partner to offer in-person learning. While the CSU program is available to all eligible Discover employees, the program was designed specifically to support employees working in Chicago, especially those in Discover's Chatham Customer Care Center on Chicago's South Side.

## CSU and Sterling Bay Partner to Fuel Equitable Growth in Life Sciences

CSU has partnered with Sterling Bay on their innovative Sterling Bay Scholar Program, designed to advance equity and inclusion in life sciences careers. Congratulations to our inaugural recipient, Ms. Jillian Tyson, a sophomore at Chicago State University majoring in Pre-Nursing, was selected from a pool of talented

candidates for her commitment to a career in pediatric nursing. Growing up with two younger brothers, one of whom has a developmental disorder, Ms. Tyson was inspired to pursue a career in pediatric medicine after witnessing the life-changing opportunities that targeted medical care and occupational therapy can provide to children in need.

## P33 Strong Start Program Brings Chicago Tech to CSU Classrooms

P33, a privately funded non-profit focused on driving inclusive, global tech and innovation leadership in Chicago, launched its P33 Strong Start program, designed to bring project-based learning experiences to 120+ STEM students at Chicago State University, University of Illinois Chicago, and Illinois Institute of Technology, by pairing the institutions with Chicago-based tech firms.

P33 Strong Start provides in-classroom, project-based learning to first- and second-year Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) students over the course of the academic semester.

In its pilot year, P33 Strong Start partnered the tier-one universities with four Chicago-based technology companies ranging from prominent venture-backed startups to Fortune 500 companies, including M1, G2, and Motorola Solutions, among others. After the first year pilot program's success, P33 Strong Start engaged eight companies at three schools in Fall 2022, more than doubling the number of students reached.

## CSU Teams with Dominican U on Ground-Breaking Research Study Abroad

As part of a four-year program, physicists and archaeologists at CSU and Dominican University have teamed up to use particles that originate in outer space to study the otherwise inaccessible interior of an ancient pyramid in Chichen Itza, Mexico called El Castillo.

The NAUM (Non-invasive Archaeometry Using Muons) Project, originally created 15 years ago by physicists Joseph Sagerer and Dr. Edmundo Garcia-Solis of CSU, will explore still-unsolved mysteries at the heart of El Castillo while offering a unique study abroad research experience for undergraduate physics students from two minority-serving institutions.

## Supporting Student Success with CSU's Learning Assistants Program

The CSU Learning Assistants Program was created to help cultivate engagement and foster student success through peer-to-peer guidance. The program began in 2010 with three Learning Assistants (LA) in Physics and now has around 20 LAs each semester supporting over 15 faculty in classes in marketing, education, psychology, English, music and all STEM disciplines. The program is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students who, through the guidance of weekly preparation sessions and a pedagogy course, facilitate discussions among groups of students in a variety of classroom settings to encourage active engagement and course subject understanding. Learning Assistants gain valuable in-class educator experience and deepen their course knowledge, while students get the benefit of student interactions and additional support resources to help them succeed on their education journey.



Juliana Stratton  
Illinois Lt. Governor

## CSU Addresses Shortage of Diverse Teachers with Two Scholarship Programs

CSU's College of Education offers two leading-edge scholarship programs designed to address the shortage of diverse teachers, including the critical shortage of African American and Latinex male teachers, in tomorrow's education system: Diverse Scholars in Education and Call Me MISTER. The Call Me MISTER Program (an acronym for 'Mentors Instructing Students Towards Effective Role Models'), welcomed 5 new male students during the 2021-2022 academic year. CSU was also proud to have 11 Diverse Scholars in Education students, a unique program specifically designed for male and female students who have an interest in becoming Pre-K to 12th grade teachers, and a desire to commit to leading change efforts to improve educational outcomes for students in urban settings.



In the Fall 2021 semester, the Call Me MISTER cohort and male members of the Diverse Scholars program participated in an all-male educator panel on the topic of Men of Color in Urban Classrooms. The panel, consisting of male educators of color from Chicago Public Schools and suburban school districts, openly discussed some of the rewards and challenges of being a diversified male educator in the 21st century.

**Serving and Developing Critical-Thinking Leaders of Tomorrow in the Honors College**

Since its inception in 2004, the Honors College has been committed to developing critical thinkers focused on leadership, and on addressing local, regional, national, and global issues. In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Honors College welcomed an exciting new class of 12 freshman and 12 new transfer and current CSU students. This latest cohort represents a significant increase in new Honors College students over the previous two years (compared to 19 in the 2020 cohort and 12 in the 2019 cohort). The Honors College hosted a total of 45 active students as its faculty continues working on supporting and engaging all of its students with challenging coursework in its revised curriculum, and connecting students with ongoing opportunities for service and leadership.

**Paid Internships Pay Off with Leo Burnett Partnership**

Four Media Arts majors who completed the Pencil Project advertising course, sponsored by Leo Burnett were awarded paid summer internships. The students, Miguel Lee, Omar Strong, LaToya Johnson and Janae Putman, were placed in full-time positions under the supervision of a Leo Burnett department head. As the second year of the partnership between Leo Burnett and CSU faculty in the departments of Communications, Media Arts & Theatre, Art & Design and the College of Business, the innovative partnership combines a semester-long course with the opportunity for a paid summer internship.

Following successful completion of the Pencil Project course, Janae Putman was hired at The Pub, a sister company to Leo Burnett as a Production Associate. Janae graduated with a BA in Media Arts from the Department of Communications, Media Arts & Theatre. CMAT alumna Ericka Henderson was also hired as an Associate Producer in production at Publicis, Leo Burnett's parent company.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP



**CSU Hosts “Women Who Lead Chicago” Panel Discussion**

CSU and Chicago State Foundation hosted the “Women Who Lead Chicago” panel discussion and luncheon in March in celebration of Women’s History Month. Hosted and moderated by CSU Board of Trustees Chair Andrea Zopp. The event brought together current CSU students with civic and business leaders from across the city to discuss navigating leadership challenges and strategies for success, as well as the ladder of success journey for women of color.

Panelists included Melody Spann-Cooper, Chairwoman and CEO of Midway Broadcasting Corporation; Karen Freeman-Wilson, President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League; Suzet McKinny, Principal and Director of Life Sciences at Sterling Bay; and Helene Gayle, President and CEO of the Chicago Community Trust.

**CSU Hosts Presidential Lecture Series in Celebration of Black History Month**

Chicago State University’s Presidential Lecture Series, entitled “Our Stories Continue,” engaged conversations during Black History Month with thought-provoking leaders, all CSU alumni, designed to inspire the university and our broader community. The series, in partnership with JP Morgan Chase and Discover Financial Services, was conceived to elevate diverse thought leadership and spotlight speakers who bring inspiring ideas, promote courageous leadership, encourage civic engagement and elevate professional excellence. Speakers for the 2022 event included Dr. Brian Clay, Professor Cynthia Nance, and Anthony K. Anderson and student guest speakers for the series.



**CSU Launches Inaugural State of the University Community Events**

President Scott and university leadership discussed the state of the university with community members at a State of the University Community Event in July 2021 and March 2022.

The University presented updates on its new student success program (Cougar Commitment), scholarships for all freshman (Rise Academy) and future educators (Diverse Scholars in Education). The CTC/CSU Alumni President Yvette Warren also provided updates on alumni affairs and encouraged alumni to get involved.

The event raised scholarship funds and book vouchers for current students with financial needs. CSU was honored to host more than 200 attendees and many distinguished guests including Commissioner Stanley Moore, of the Cook County 4th District, JP. Morgan Chase, David Day from Rainbow PUSH, Oak Street Health, and other community leaders.

At the second annual State of the University Community Event, the University highlighted our partnerships with Leo Burnett and Discover, and Dean Cameron moderated a conversation with our “Call Me Mister” and Diverse Scholars students where they shared their CSU experience. Once again, we were honored to host more than 200 attendees and community leaders.

**City of Chicago Hosts Community Safety Town Hall at CSU**

CSU was honored to host the second of six City of Chicago Community Safety Town Hall events. President Scott opened by welcoming the community to the university and introducing Mayor Lightfoot. The town hall consisted of roundtable discussions and community members had an opportunity to speak with city officials about public safety. They also provided feedback on the city’s efforts in violence reduction and neighborhood safety. Community leaders, faith leaders and residents discussed the root causes of violence, and what strategies can be implemented to improve safety. The event drew over 200 community members and stakeholders.

**CSU and Department of Planning (DPD) Partner on 95th Street Development Study**

Chicago State University (CSU) and the City of Chicago Department of Planning (DPD) have entered a partnership to study 95th street and future development of the corridor. Community members were invited to share their visions for the future of 95th street including community needs and ways to maximize the CSU campus to generate long-term investment and spur economic activity. The study started in October 2021 and concluded in March.

Findings and feedback from the economic focus groups included recommendations and requests for additional student housing, commercial/retail space, office space, educational space for new CSU programming, outdoor and flexible use public spaces. From the health services focus group, participants made recommendations for additional plazas with seating, landscaping, lighting, and more active features such as park-like stationary gym equipment. The group also commented on improving campus design and landscaping to improve the campus experience, and for additional CSU programming space for medical professionals, and office space for professionals, business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

**CSU College of Business Partners with Illinois and CUL in Groundbreaking Study of Uncover Black Owned Small Businesses**

CSU’s College of Business partnered with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) and the Chicago Urban League (CUL) to launch the first-of-its-kind survey designed to collect candid feedback from Black business owners across the state. This innovative survey was aimed at capturing the challenges and opportunities small businesses are facing as they emerge from the pandemic and continued uncertain economic conditions. CSU’s College of Business faculty members, Professor Scott Upshaw and Dr. Ehab Yamani, worked to analyze survey results with the specific aim of exploring correlations and causations between key variables and questions posed in the survey. The findings will help the DCEO better tailor future resources to meet the needs and priorities of the business community. Our sincere gratitude to Professor Upshaw and Dr. Yamani for their efforts in this groundbreaking initiative.



**ATHLETICS**



**Rising Higher with Academic Accolades for Cougar Athletes**

Chicago State University student-athletes achieved a cumulative 3.25 overall departmental GPA in the classroom during 2022 spring semester, improving from an overall GPA of 3.15 during fall of 2021 while posting an overall GPA of 3.20 during the 2021-22 academic year. Cougar student-athletes have earned a combined GPA of 3.0 or better in the previous six semesters, dating back to the 2019-20 academic year.

During the 2022 spring semester, 29 CSU student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 while 92 student-athletes earned a GPA between 3.0 and 3.99. In total, 121 student-athletes posted a GPA of a 3.0 or higher. From a team standpoint, 13 of 15 Cougars teams posted cumulative team GPAs of 3.0 or better, led by the women’s tennis and men’s golf teams with the top two GPAs at 3.64 and 3.52, respectively.

Cougars student-athletes have a long history of succeeding in the classroom and are well represented on the Dean’s List, Provost’s Honor Roll, President’s Honor Roll and the University Honor Roll.

**Men’s Basketball Head Coach, Gerald Gillion, Named as Finalist for CollegeInsider Award**

CSU men’s head basketball coach, Gerald Gillion, was one of 15 finalists for the Joe B. Hall Award. The annual award is presented by CollegeInsider.com. The Joe B. Hall Award is presented to the top first-year coach in Division I college basketball. Gillion was named head men’s basketball coach at CSU on July 19, 2021 and earned his first collegiate victory with a season-opening win, and then leading the Cougars to their first Western Athletic Conference victory since March 2018. Congratulations to Coach Gillion and the men’s team!



**CSU's Jessica Poole to serve as First Black Female President of CoSIDA**

The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) has approved Jessica Poole, Chicago State's deputy athletic director/chief operating officer to serve as 2022-23 CoSIDA president. Poole becomes the 68th president of CoSIDA for a one-year term in 2022-23 after holding the first vice president office during this academic year. Poole is the first Black female president in CoSIDA history and becomes the sixth female to lead the organization.

Poole succeeds 2021-22 CoSIDA President Cindy Potter, senior deputy director of athletics at Columbia College (Missouri). This marks the first time in CoSIDA history that the presidential gavel pass takes place between an outgoing and incoming female president. CSU celebrates Poole and the advancement of Black females in athletic leadership roles. Congratulations Jessica!

**WAC Names Yanlis Feliz Volleyball Player of the Year & Tony Trifonov Coach of the Year**

CSU congratulates Yanlis Feliz, named the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Player of the Year and head coach Tony Trifonov is the WAC's Coach of the Year.

Feliz, CSU volleyball's star outside hitter, has rolled through her competition in her second season. Feliz capped the regular season with 499 kills, averaging 5.25 kills per set, both leading the WAC. Her kills per set also stand as the most per set in program history. Feliz wrapped the regular season ranking in the top three of all NCAA Division I in kills and kills per set.

In the season under Trifonov, CSU racked up the most wins in the program's Division I era (since 1988). Prior to 2021, no CSU team had even won 12 matches in a season. This year's Cougars won their 12th match on October 22, with nearly a month remaining in the season. Trifonov has engineered one of college volleyball's most dramatic turnarounds, turning a 1-9 squad from the spring into a 17-9 team.

Both honors are the first of their kind for the University since Chicago State joined the WAC in 2013.

**CSU Men's Soccer competes in first full DI season**

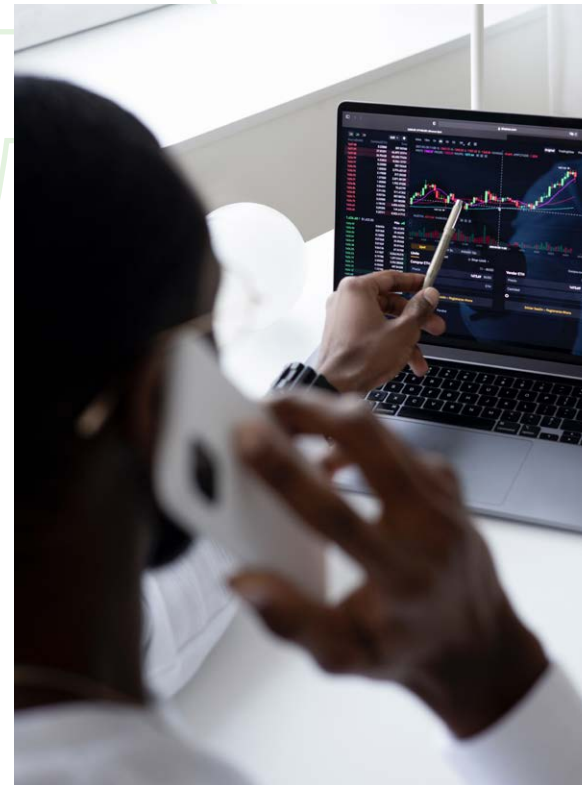
Chicago State expanded its offering of NCAA DI sports teams by launching a men's soccer program. In August 2021, the team kicked off its first full season of competition since the 1980s, led by head coach Trevor Banks, with assistant coaches Norris Howze, Joshua Clark and Charlie Latshaw III.

The upstart Cougars started the season very strong, earning a 2-1 win over Northwestern in the season's first match, scoring the go-ahead and what turned out to be game-winning goal on a penalty kick in the 87th minute. Chicago State's next four matches would be decided in overtime, two of them in double overtime, with a win over Green Bay and tie with Bellarmine while dropping one-goal matches to Detroit Mercy and Xavier. In describing what he expected from his team prior to the start of the season, then-head coach Trevor Banks said "Attitude, commitment, effort, pace. It's all about that. You're going to watch us put 100 percent effort into everything we do. The attitude on the field is going to be great and their commitment to what we're trying to do, how we're trying to play is going to be there and that's what I'm excited to showcase within this group."



**Yanlis Feliz**  
2021 WAC Player of the Year

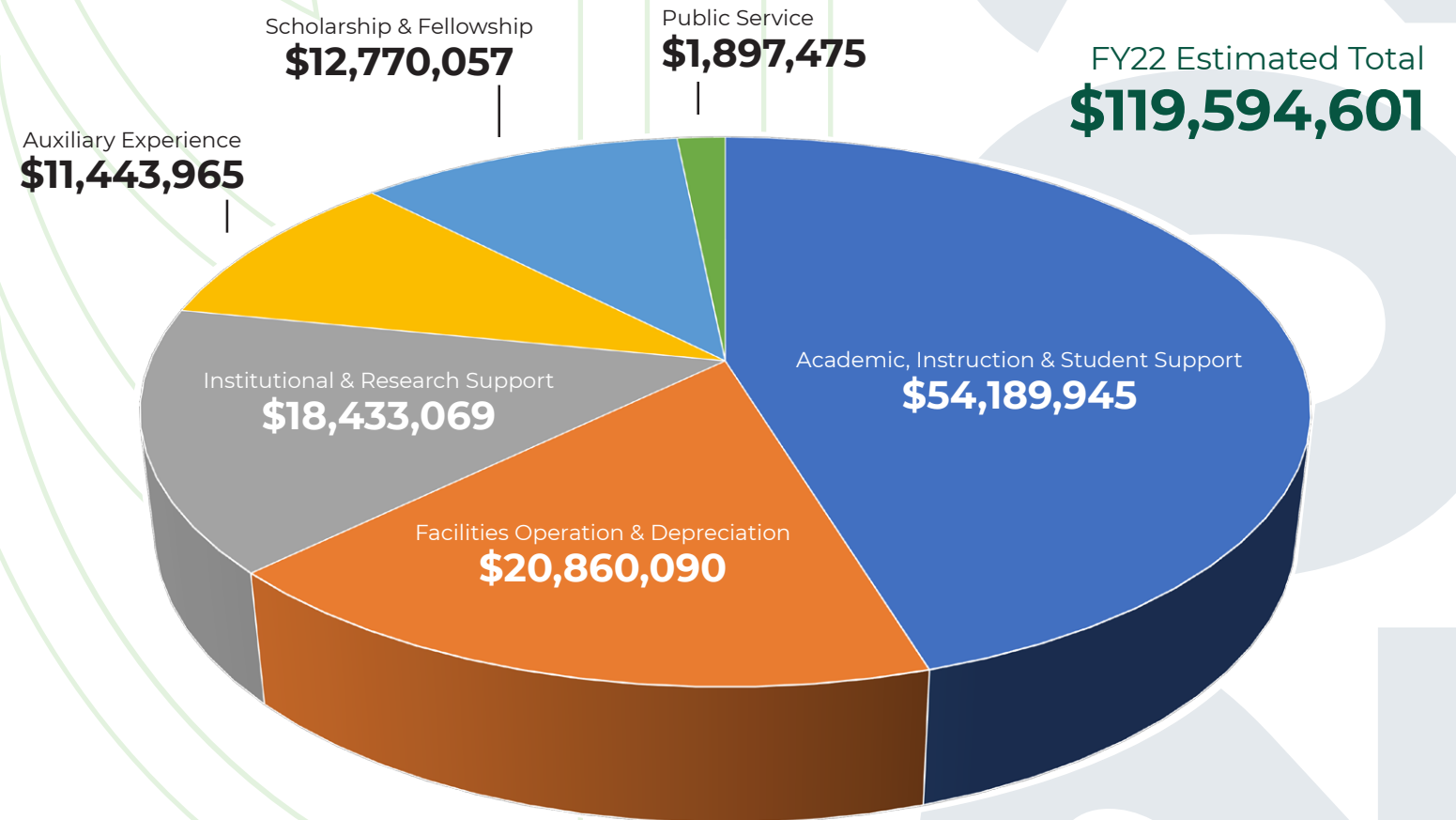
**FINANCIALS**



In the fiscal year 2022 (FY22), CSU's expenditures from federal grant awards totaled \$19,387,451. This includes the CARES Act grants for \$8,719,641, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund grants for \$526,079, Pell grants for \$4,213,853, and other student financial aid grants for approximately \$ 2,056,318.

The expenditures for the state, municipal, and other grants added to \$7,627,408 in FY22, including the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) for \$3,245,375.

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 \$7,583,641 in FY22, demonstrating the continued strength of CSU's award base.







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



**WBEZ's Reset hosted its first on-location live radio broadcast since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, at Chicago State University.**  
*President Scott being interviewed by Reset's Sasha-Ann Simons*  
WBEZ Chicago's Reset • August 25, 2022



**Op-ed: Illinois Must Tackle The Widening Higher Education Racial Divide**  
Chicago Tribune • August 30, 2021



**Meet the Spotted Skunks. They've Been Keeping a Secret From Us**  
*Quoting Dr. Molly McDonough, a phylogenomicist at Chicago State University*  
New York Times • September 1, 2021



**In the search for minority hires, firms turn to colleges**  
**Enrollment decline leaves fewer Black college students to recruit**  
Crain's Chicago Business • September 17, 2021



**Matter of Fact Listening Tour with Soledad O'Brien**  
*Highlighting Chicago State University students in the Hope Chicago program*  
December 16, 2021



**Chicago State Center Shares Her Incredible Basketball Journey from Mali to the Midwest**  
NBC Chicago • January 13, 2022



**Chicago's Wabash Y building in Bronzeville is birthplace of Black History Month**  
*The segment features an interview with Dr. Lionel Kimble Jr., Associate Professor of History, Chicago State University*  
ABC Chicago • Feb. 1, 2022



**Lessons Earned Podcast**  
Strada Education Network • April 20, 2022



**The Forgotten Predominantly Black Institutions of Higher Ed**  
*Op-Ed by CSU President Z Scott and University of Baltimore President Kurt Schmoke*  
Inside Higher Ed • June 7, 2022



**A new food pantry is helping show the many ways a food desert can bloom**  
*Featuring CSU Professor Dr. Daniel Block on food access.*  
WBEZ Chicago • June 13, 2022

#csuproud #wearecsu



SCHOLARSHIP  
GALA



Award Recipients (left to right): Cherita Ellens, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, William J. Walker, Angelique David

**CSU and Chicago State Foundation Host 2nd Annual 1stGEN Scholarship Gala**

Chicago State University and the Chicago State Foundation hosted its 2nd annual 1stGEN Scholarship Gala: Evolution, Presented by Chase, supported CSU's innovative first-year experience Rise Academy. The event raised over \$350,000 for Rise Scholars.

This year's Gala also saw the presentation of the inaugural Cougar Servant Leader Awards to CSU Alumnus and Sergeant at Arms, US House of Representatives Maj. General William J. Walker (Ret.) for Public Service, Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Esq. for Education Equity, and Women Employed CEO Cherita Ellens for Community Service. Funds from the gala allow CSU to continue removing financial barriers for first generation college students. CSU was honored to have our board chair, board members, students, corporate sponsors and alumni in attendance.

For more information about CSU News, scan here.





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**ZALDWAYNAKA "Z" SCOTT (EX OFFICIO)**  
 President, Chicago State University





DOUGLAS HALL

CORDELL REED STUDENT UNION



1867





# **FUTURE IN MOTION**

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