

PRESS RELEASE

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Chicago State to Compete in 29th Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament in Los Angeles

National Quiz Bowl Celebrates Academic Achievements of Historically Black Colleges and Predominately Black Institutions

Chicago, IL., (March 28, 2018) - Top contenders in their qualifying tournament, Chicago State University's academic skills team will compete against fellow Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) at the 29th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship (HCASC) Tournament. Teams from 48 HBCUs will go head-to-head in the National Championship in the premier academic quiz bowl for top HBCU students on the American Honda Motor Co., Inc. campus in Los Angeles, California.

The veteran team will be represented by Nicolette C. Sanders, a senior majoring in Chemistry from Chicago, IL, Isiah Samuel, III, a junior majoring in Pre-Pharmacy from Chicago, IL, Courtney L. Jenkins, a senior majoring in Psychology from Chicago, IL, and Kayla A.C. Mensah, a junior majoring in Biology & Pre-Med from Baltimore, MD. Dr. Olanipekun Laosebikan and Brandon Morgan will coach the team.

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is a year-round program that includes intramural play, qualifying tournaments and culminates with the National Championship. The quiz bowl competition highlights students' academic prowess and ability to answer questions about history, science, literature, religion, the arts and pop culture.

"I am proud of our students for their determination and scholarly achievement," said Dr. Rachel Lindsey, interim president of Chicago State University. "Earning a place at the National Championship is no easy feat, and they have represented the university well."

Since the beginning of the academic year, the team has practiced weekly in preparation for the National Championship. In 2016, the CSU team took second place in the National Championship and earned \$30,000.00 in prize money for scholarships.

"I have great faith in them and believe they have the potential to win it all come April," said Dr. Laosebikan. "I am proud of the way they represent both themselves and our institution with great confidence and pride."

In 1989, Honda established HCASC to highlight and recognize the academic achievements of HBCU students. More than \$8.5 million in grants from Honda have provided support for scholarships, facility upgrades and other investments to improve the student experience. Chicago State University has the opportunity to win the HCASC top prize of \$75,000, an institutional grant from Honda.

“Honda congratulates Chicago State University for advancing to the ‘Great 48,’ a group that represents some of the brightest HBCU students across the country,” said Steve Morikawa, vice president, Corporate relations and social responsibility, American Honda Motor Co., Inc. “Beyond the impressive academic competition, Honda Campus All-Star Challenge has fostered a network of ‘friends for life’ that champions students as they pursue their professional dreams. We look forward to hosting an exciting HCASC National Championship Tournament in April.”

Chicago State University will be hosting a HCASC Finals Watch Party on Tuesday, April 10 starting at 11 a.m. CST in the Gwendolyn Brooks Library Sunroom. The watch party is open to the entire campus community and alumni.

For more information on HCASC, including a full list of the 48 qualifying teams, visit www.hcasc.com.

About Chicago State University:

Chicago State University (CSU) is a public, comprehensive post-secondary institution that provides access to higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and educational needs. Founded in 1867 to meet the demand for a trained teaching force, CSU is home to Illinois’ oldest College of Education and stands distinctively as one of the state’s oldest public universities. CSU is currently celebrating its 150th year anniversary.

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