

# Message from the Interim President: Rachel W. Lindsey



November 16, 2017

Dear Members of the Chicago State University Community,

Chicago State University has weathered a barrage of challenges over the years, especially during FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 when education funding was withheld from all state universities, CSU being no exception. But like the slow and steady tortoise, with endurance and persistence, we remain resilient, continuing to move further toward our goal. We reached a momentous milestone this week, and it gives me great pleasure to share this occurrence with you.

As a public university, a significant portion of our funding is provided through the state of Illinois. During the years noted above when the Illinois General Assembly hit a budget impasse, CSU's financial resources were strained. This debilitating loss invited unfavorable media reports and cynics to predict closure. Concerns relative to operations and educational programs also caused the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to issue a sanction of Notice making our efforts to effectuate solid leadership plans in the face of limited resources even more exigent. Still, CSU never lost its accreditation, and we also never lost faith or hope in recovery.

This week, the HLC removed these sanctions fueling our pride and providing encouragement as we continue to fulfill the goals and objectives aligned with our mission.

Chicago State stands as a strong, viable symbol of hope on Chicago's South Side. It is a comprehensive public university that provides access to higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and educational needs. We pride ourselves on fostering the intellectual development and success of our student population through a rigorous, positive, and transformative educational experience. I thank our faculty and staff for the ingenuity that led to an increase in the enrollment of freshmen and transfer students this fall. We are now expanding our outreach even further to recruit, enroll and graduate more students in graduate as well as undergraduate programs. We aim to guide a growing population of students toward careers that transfer into lasting, meaningful employment opportunities and to help them claim their portion of the often-elusive American dream.

Having the sanction of Notice removed is a great achievement for CSU and a huge moral booster. On behalf of our board of trustees, leadership team, and our tireless, committed faculty and staff, please know that we appreciate your demonstratively enduring support. Chicago State has remained a distinctive and essential university for 150 years because of you — our community partners and stakeholders near and far. Be assured that CSU continues to provide a quality, affordable higher education and remains an exceptional choice for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel W. Lindsey".

Rachel W. Lindsey

P. S. The Higher Learning Commission letter will be posted on the CSU website.

