

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Angelica Ramirez
Flowers Communications Group
312.847.0670
aramirez@explorefcg.com



**CHICAGO STATE
FOUNDATION**

**CHICAGO STATE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO SUPPORT
GROUNDBREAKING EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AT
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

CHICAGO (July 7, 2020) — **Chicago State Foundation**, the chief fundraising partner of Chicago State University (CSU), is proud to announce five newly-appointed members to its Board of Directors to support the exciting and trailblazing work to improve educational and economic outcomes for students and the community.

- **Donna Coaxum**, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, OSI Group, LLC
- **Jeanne M. Gills**, Partner and Intellectual Property Lawyer, Foley & Lardner LLP
- **Nicholas Hnatiw**, Chief Technology Officer, Side Channel Security
- **Kimberly Loftis**, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Blue Marble Payroll
- **John C. Robak**, Chief Executive Officer, Greeley and Hansen

Each new board member brings a wealth of knowledge to help support the initiatives aimed at changing the lives of CSU students and the surrounding community. The recently constituted Foundation Board and leadership team will support the University through a positive, transformative stage to execute President Zaldwaynaka Scott's comprehensive plan for growing student enrollment and increasing retention and graduation. The University recently launched its [Cougar Commitment](#) program designed to support students holistically through their college experience, including its *Rise Academy* which offers full tuition, fees, textbooks, laptop and internet access to all incoming freshmen for the 2020-21 academic year. This program has been supported in part by the work done by the Chicago State Foundation (CSF), a recently transformed 501c3 that works to identify strategic private support priorities and create suitable fundraising strategies to advance the interests and welfare of the University.

"Our board members continue to support the bold vision of President Scott to decrease the barriers present for our communities to achieve access to education," says Darrious Hilmon, Executive Director, Chicago State Foundation. "We're excited to align with these great leaders who will extend our reach and opportunities to serve our students and Black and Brown communities across the city of Chicago."



Donna Coaxum is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of OSI Group, LLC, where she directs all aspects of the global legal and compliance functions supporting a nearly \$7B global consumer products food manufacturer supplying products and services to some of the world's leading food service and retail brands. She serves on the Company's Benefits Committee, as a Director and Secretary of the OSI Group Foundation Board and as the Coordinator of the Corporate Critical Incident Management team that provides guidance to senior management in resolving crises. Coaxum has decades of experience in analyzing, structuring, and negotiating a wide range of complex domestic and international transactions spanning four continents. She has established a record of successfully establishing and maintaining a culture of cost savings year-over-year and serves as a trusted advisor to the senior leadership team where she is able to combine her business and legal backgrounds for more effective and insightful counsel



Jeanne M. Gills is a partner at Foley & Lardner LLP where she serves as Vice Chair of its national Intellectual Property Department and a member of the firm's Management Committee. Jeanne acts as lead trial counsel in complex patent, trade secret, trademark, copyright and unfair competition litigation and appeals in diverse industries. Her litigation experience has dovetailed into counseling clients on global IP strategy, including work for multiple Fortune 500 companies. She is a member of several bar associations and is a staunch champion of diversity in the legal profession. She previously mentored high school students through Link Unlimited and served on the Evening Associates Board of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Nicholas Hnatiw has more than 15 years of experience creating technologies spanning network security to artificial intelligence and robotics. He served as the majority owner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the network security firm Loki Labs Inc., until the company sold in 2019. Prior to Loki Labs, Hnatiw served as the technical director for network operations supporting U.S. intelligence agencies, U.S. Cyber Command and other Department of Defense research organizations. He also worked as a network security researcher and software developer at Sunbelt Software with responsibility for developing a next generation antivirus platform that detected malicious blocks of code before malware could run on a potential victim's computer. Currently, Nicholas is the CTO at Side Channel Security, a virtual CISO firm offering strategy and implementation guidance for its customers.



Kimberly Loftis has more than 20 years of expertise in helping organizations improve their strategy and bottom line, turning around stagnant companies as well as assisting them with rapid growth. She is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Blue Marble Payroll. In her tenure, she has grown revenue each year by more than 100 percent created and restructured departments in this high-growth environment and led both the operations and finance teams in their international expansion. Under her leadership, Blue Marble earned its first listing on the *Inc. Magazine* 500 fastest growing companies list.



John C. Robak is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Greeley and Hansen, a leading civil and environmental engineering firm serving the needs of the water infrastructure sector. With 30 years of professional experience, Robak directs all business affairs for this 20-office global firm and is responsible for international growth operations in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. Robak is an appointed member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC), as well as the Illinois District Export Council. He also leads efforts to support community initiatives and organizations aligned with the firm's mission to create improved urban environments, which includes actively promoting the advancement of STEM education programs to students. Robak is equally committed to supporting associations and programs focused on driving inclusive diversity, creating opportunities, and advancing economic equity in corporate workplaces.

ABOUT CHICAGO STATE FOUNDATION

Serving as the university's chief fund development partner, the mission of Chicago State Foundation (CSF) is to advance the interests and welfare of Chicago State University by building relationships, securing philanthropic support, stewarding assets and otherwise procuring private

support on behalf of the University. Working in concert with the President of Chicago State University, CSF helps to identify strategic private support priorities, create suitable fundraising strategies and tactics, and implement and evaluate appropriate development programs designed to advance the interests and welfare of the University. In its role, CSF procures private support on behalf of the University.

ABOUT CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1867, Chicago State University (CSU) is a public, comprehensive post-secondary institution that stands distinctively as one of Illinois's oldest public universities, providing access to higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and educational needs. CSU is a nationally accredited university with five colleges—Health Sciences, Arts and Science, Business, Education, and Pharmacy—offering 31 undergraduate and 25 graduate degree-granting programs. Consistently evolving to reflect state-of-the-art trends in higher education, CSU prepares students for success in the twenty-first century.

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