

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Background

Chicago State University (CSU) was founded in Blue Island, Illinois, in 1867. Today, the university is located on the south side of Chicago and has become a multi-public institution, serving a mostly commuter student population. The multi-racial student body reflects the demographics of the Chicago metropolitan area, particularly the southern and western regions of the city adjacent to the suburbs. CSU provides educational opportunities to over 7,200 students in 36 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree-granting programs. The student population is approximately 88% minority and about 71% of the students are women. The average age of the student population is 27 years. A substantial number of students come from disadvantaged economic backgrounds and nearly 90 percent of all CSU students receive some form of financial aid.

Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, Esq., unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees’ to serve as the 12th permanent president of Chicago State University, assumed the role on July 1, 2018.

President Scott oversaw the development and advancement of the CSU Strategic Plan 2020-2025, ensuring that the institution will lead with the mission of transformation for students’ lives through innovation and excellence in ethical leadership. She also supervised the launch of a historic re-brand of the University, putting into motion new brand assets and campaigns to revitalize the institution’s reputation and raise awareness among new stakeholders. President Scott is also a well-known advocate for equity in higher education, having formed and co-chaired the Equity Working Group, a body of leaders from across the education, public, private, philanthropic, and community development sectors to formulate an action plan for addressing Black student access and success in Illinois higher education

The Pre-Freshman Program in Engineering and Science at CSU is an academic enrichment program designed to expose students to career opportunities in STEM, by providing them with critical insight into engineering professions. The program supports students in grades 6th – 12th. Through project-based learning, students are taught to think like scientists and engineers by participating in hand-on STEM activities to prepare them for productive careers in STEM. PREP celebrates its 34th anniversary in summer 2022.