

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Patricia Andrews-Keenan
The Tallulah Group
Phone: (312) 206-2821
Email: PKeenan@tallulahgroup.com

FOR RELEASE

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Clerk Dorothy Brown to be honored by Chicago State University at 2nd Annual Essence of an Angel Scholarship Luncheon April 1

Event salutes women leaders, while raising funds for single mother scholars

(CHICAGO) -- On Sunday, April 1, the Chicago State University (CSU) Foundation will honor Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, at its 2nd Annual “*Essence of an Angel*” Scholarship luncheon at CSU’s Academic Library, 4th Floor, from noon - 3 p.m. Clerk Brown is one of five successful women being honored at the event, where they will share their stories and speak on the importance of serving as an “Angel” (role model) to CSU students and others. The event also provides financial support to single mothers who attend the University.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to share my personal story at the ‘Essence of an Angel’ scholarship luncheon,” said Clerk Brown. “I was a single mother and had to juggle child rearing and working full-time to support my daughter and myself, while I pursued a law degree. I applaud the Chicago State University Foundation for their efforts to empower single mothers to graduate college and persevere through the many challenges they face every day.”

At CSU, over 71% of the student population is female and, of that number, over 30% are single parents. Recognizing the importance of encouraging its students, the CSU Foundation created the event to highlight the accomplishments of single mothers who have made significant contributions to CSU and the Chicago community. The other honorees are Barbara Bates, Owner, [Bates Designs](#); Amy Hilliard, Founder and CEO, [The ComfortCake Company, LLC](#); Leana Flowers, Urban Partnership Bank, retired bank executive; and Kimmah Shah, CSU student and Founder, Get Tight Get Right.

The chosen honorees were part of an open nomination process, and were selected by a panel of past honorees, CSU Foundation Board members and staff. The nominees all exhibit extraordinary success and achievement in their careers, devote themselves to making their communities healthier, safer and more inspirational places to live, and most importantly are representative of the paradigm shift in what it means to be a “single mom” today. Criteria included:

- Commitment to serving others in the greater community;
- Commitment to CSU and it’s mission;
- Service as a role model for students, faculty, or staff;
- Excellence in job performance or field of endeavor;

-- more --

As part of the event, Kelly Williams, motivational speaker and parent educator, who is the founder of singlemamahood.com, will sign copies of her book *Single Mama Dos & Don'ts*. The self-help, no-nonsense book provides support, appreciation, empowerment and parenting tips that show single women how to raise confident, joyful children. Emcee for the event will be Dr. Garrard McClendon, Emmy award winning talk show host, professor, and author.

Tickets are still available. To purchase tickets, make a donation or for additional information please call the CSU Foundation at 773.995.3839.

About Essence of an Angel

The Essence of an Angel Scholarship Luncheon's purpose is twofold: Celebrate the achievements of women in their professional and personal lives as single mothers, while acknowledging and supporting the impact single mothers have made to CSU and the Chicago community. Funds raised through the event provide scholarship support for single mothers attending CSU. Any full-time CSU student, who is a single mother, has not received the Essence of an Angel scholarship and meets the grade point average criteria may apply.

About the Chicago State University Foundation

The Chicago State University Foundation was chartered in 1967 and incorporated in 1968 as an independent, charitable organization with the sole purpose of soliciting, receiving, and administering private gifts to the Chicago State University. The CSU Foundation is committed to "helping one student at a time" by raising funds to support CSU students and programs. www.csu.edu/foundation.