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**WAYNE D. WATSON TO RETIRE AS CHANCELLOR  
OF CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO**

Chicago, IL (August 20, 2008) – City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Wayne D. Watson, widely credited for raising academic standards during his tenure at one of the largest community college systems in the nation, announced that he plans to retire from the position at the end of the current academic year in the summer of 2009. The announcement was made at City Colleges’ recent district-wide faculty convocation.

“Wayne Watson has provided strong leadership to City Colleges in his decade as chancellor. His work has strengthened the effectiveness of the colleges in delivering learning opportunities and educational services to the diverse student population of our city,” said Mayor Richard M. Daley.

Watson was appointed chancellor in March 1998. Under his leadership, and for the first time in the nearly 100-year history of City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), Community College District 508, all seven of its independently accredited colleges concurrently hold the highest accreditation (10 years) by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

“The City Colleges of Chicago has moved forward immensely under Chancellor Watson’s leadership,” said James C. Tyree, chairman of the CCC Board of Trustees. “Our community colleges and most importantly, our students, have benefited from his belief that the bar can always be raised higher. We thank Wayne Watson for his dedication to the City Colleges of Chicago.”

In announcing his decision, Watson expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity to lead the “People’s College” as City Colleges was known when its doors first opened in 1911.

“The past ten years have been both challenging and rewarding. City Colleges’ mission is to proactively deliver exceptional learning opportunities and educational services to Chicago’s diverse student population. This mission engenders the quintessential reason for why my life is dedicated to education,” stated Watson. “I have been blessed to work in an environment of participatory governance with faculty and presidents of outstanding talent who share my passion for excellence and diversity in education.”

Upon his appointment as chancellor, Watson immediately began instituting changes he viewed as necessary to achieve his goal of academic excellence - earning him a reputation among his peers as a *Change Agent* and as profiled in the April 18, 2005 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education (April 8, 2005).

Highlights of his accomplishments include:

- Presided over the development of the new Kennedy-King College located in the heart of Chicago's Englewood community. Dr. Watson worked with the architects to ensure a new architectural paradigm for community colleges in Chicago. The 40-acre campus consists of six state-of-art buildings which house arts & sciences, applied sciences, athletics, student services, the CCC Center for Distance Learning, WKKC-FM radio, WYCC TV-20 and the Washburne Culinary Institute. The buildings also contain a high-tech research library and Chicago's largest public day care center.
- Reached an unprecedented labor agreement – 12 months early - with the Cook County Teachers Union (CCTU) Local 1600 – which gives City Colleges six years of institutional continuity and stability for the first time in its nearly 100-year history. The agreement is also unique in that it incorporates language to reflect a new commitment to collegiality and collaboration between City Colleges and its faculty by specifying the two parties will work in a partnership for the academic and educational success of the students they serve.
- Initiated CCC's strategic plan -Vision 2011- to ensure that its mission and standards reflect the reality of the new world order of globalization. As City Colleges approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, the initiative calls for an assessment of all aspects of CCC curricula and its delivery systems.
- Established the Workforce Institute (WI) with the goal to be the provider of choice for entry-level and incumbent worker-training services in Chicago. Working closely with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the WI will partner with businesses in these targeted areas: construction, healthcare, hospitality / culinary, retail, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing. CCC has met or exceeded its workforce goals established in collaboration with its external partners.
- Began Master Faculty Seminars and subsequent Faculty Development Seminars in April 2007 with the aim of improving the culture of teaching, student learning outcomes, and methods of pedagogical engagement. Over six hundred faculty members have participated in the seminars.

- Raised the standards and increased the capacity of the Nursing RN programs by over forty percent within the last four years. CCC nursing and other health care providers can be found in most hospitals in the Chicago metropolitan area.
- Established the Construction Technology Center at Dawson Institute of Kennedy-King College, which is recognized by business and community leaders as one of the primary resources for trained workers in the industry and as an important catalyst for change in the building trades by preparing more African-Americans, Hispanics and women for careers in the construction industry.
- Implemented PeopleSoft - a comprehensive suite of software specifically designed to meet the changing needs of higher education institutions. The PeopleSoft application provides City Colleges with a competitive advantage. It offers the best end-to-end solution for managing the entire student life cycle from recruitment, admissions, financial aid and registration to graduation, career planning, issuance of transcripts and alumni follow-up. City Colleges was among the first of community colleges in the nation to implement all three PeopleSoft systems for Human Resources, Finance and Student Administration.
- Developed and implemented the Annual Program and Service Analysis (APSA) – an innovative and precedent-setting quality improvement initiative to enhance programs and educational opportunities. It is unique from existing program reviews in its frequency, its cost vs. revenue analysis and the detail of its findings that provide data for decisions and accountability.
- Expanded the office of the Inspector General to insure compliance with residency rules and created an Ethics Officer position to oversee compliance with CCC ethics procedures.
- Conceived and spearheaded Project Align – a unique K-16 undertaking with five local universities and the Chicago Public Schools – designed to better prepare high school students for college classes by linking curricula. Funded by the prestigious FIPSE grant, CCC was the first community college in the country to head up a curriculum initiative of this magnitude.
- Strengthened the work culture at City Colleges by stressing diversity in hiring and increasing employee training. Consulted with the Gallup Organization to develop a faculty selection process that enhances the measurement of a potential hire's capability to be an instructor at an urban community college.
- Oversaw a \$300 million capital development, which in addition to the new Kennedy-King College, included the renovation of the other six colleges in the District.

- Entered into an articulation agreement with the National Labor College (NLC) that is designed to increase access to union jobs and higher education for CCC students. CCC associate degrees (including construction technology-union apprenticeship related coursework) will transfer to NLC bachelor degree programs.
- Led City Colleges in receiving the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal years 2005 and 2006 and the GFOA Distinguished Budget Preparation for fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- Restructured the utilization of CCC's Human Resources department resulting in a twenty percent increase in revenue generation.
- Created Student Success Centers manned by college advisors that focus on providing an improved and expanded delivery of support services to all CCC students. The model for the centers received overwhelming approval when presented at an annual conference of the American Association of Community Colleges. It was also nominated for the prestigious Bellwether Award, which is sponsored by the Community Colleges Futures Assembly.
- Transformed WYCC-TV 20 into one of the fastest growing television stations in Chicago – currently reaching 1.7 million viewers with digital and high definition broadcasting 24 / 7. Since 1998, the station's underwriting revenue has increased nearly 900 percent and membership by 300 percent.
- Introduced the town hall meeting series on WYCC-TV 20 in which CCC students and faculty engage in televised discussions about issues of current significance. The series is a combination of curriculum and news media and covers a wide range of topics from a stem cell debate to the war in Iraq.
- Revamped City Colleges' five child-care centers by requiring higher levels of instruction and introducing the Montessori Language Immersion program at Kennedy-King's child-care center. District-wide capacity at the centers is currently at 200.
- Brought fine-dining to the South Shore Cultural Center with the opening of the **Parrot Cage** restaurant in 2006 showcasing the talent of students from the Washburne Culinary Institute by integrating the restaurant experience into the culinary school's curricula. A second fine-dining restaurant, **Sikia**, recently opened at the new Washburne Culinary Institute at Kennedy-King College. The restaurant features live music and is a much-anticipated addition to the Englewood community.

- Rejuvenated and expanded CCC's athletic programs for both men and women in an effort to replicate a full college experience for the students and to serve as an attraction to Chicago Public School students.
- Brought the internationally acclaimed French Pastry School to City Colleges. The school offers instruction based on the artist-apprentice model that has been in operation in Europe for hundreds of years.

“Chancellor Watson has demonstrated great vision and has raised the standards by executing programs of high quality for the City Colleges and the communities we serve,” said Perry Buckley, president of the Cook County College Teachers Union, Local 1600. “He took the initiative to build a better working relationship between the faculty union and City Colleges’ administration. One of the reasons Wayne Watson has been a good Chancellor is because he is a product of the community college system and understands the importance of its mission.”

As Chancellor, Watson is responsible for educational programs that serve an average of 115,000 students annually and oversees an administration with a \$476.5 million budget and more than 5,700 full-time and part-time employees.

“The quality of faculty hired by Chancellor Watson’s administration has been most impressive,” said Keith McCoy, president of the CCC Faculty Council. “He has encouraged faculty and administrators to be more open toward change and the creation of new educational paradigms. The chancellor has promoted diversity and taken the district in a positive direction, which I applaud.”

Watson says his focus in the coming months will be on four primary initiatives, which are the continued review of CCC’s general education curricula to ensure quality outcomes district-wide; the implementation District-wide of a comprehensive exam in order to graduate with an associate’s degree; the expansion of the Honors Program and the Great Books Program to all seven colleges; and the Workforce Institute.

Prior to his appointment as Chancellor, Watson served as president of Kennedy-King College from 1994 to 1998 and Interim President of Harold Washington College from 1993 to 1994. His career within the City Colleges system started in 1978 at Malcolm X College and progressed over the years to positions of increased responsibilities.

“At the time Dr. Watson was appointed chancellor in 1998, the City Colleges of Chicago was an institution in transition and in need of strong, decisive and inspired leadership. His dedication to quality education and his creative pursuit of excellence to continue to raise the standards at City Colleges earned local, statewide and national recognition for the district. It was an honor to work with him,” stated Zerrie D. Campbell, Malcolm X College President Emeritus.

Watson's belief in change for the better also leads him to a strong commitment to community service. He currently serves on the boards of the American Association of Community Colleges, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the Chicago Botanic Garden and Windy City Harvest. He also serves on advisory committees for the Fantus Health Center, the Capital Campaign Leadership Committee for the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture and the DuSable Museum of African American History. Watson was a Northwestern University Trustee from 2003 to 2007 and currently is board chair of the School of Education & Social Policy at Northwestern University.

The City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), Community College District 508, is a system of seven independently accredited colleges. CCC provides four essential services. They are: Liberal Arts Education (associate degrees and certificates); Occupational Education (workforce training); Adult Education (General Educational Development, English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education); and Continuing Education (programs that add value to the quality of life).

City Colleges of Chicago, District 508, includes Richard J. Daley College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S. Truman College, Harold Washington College and Wilbur Wright College. WYCC-TV Channel 20, a public broadcast station, is also part of the City Colleges system. For more information about the City Colleges of Chicago visit [www.ccc.edu](http://www.ccc.edu).

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