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Governors State and Prairie State Announce Groundbreaking Male Success Initiative

Minority Men to Benefit from Expanded Partnership between the Two Schools

UNIVERSITY PARK, IL—Governors State University and Prairie State College are partnering in a groundbreaking initiative that will create a model for the community college-to-university pathway for male success. The agreement will create the Dual Degree Program-Male Success Initiative (DDP-MSI) and will be signed by the school’s presidents at a day-long summit at GSU on Thursday, Oct. 1.

The summit at GSU will include a keynote address at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. Shaun R. Harper, the nationally-renowned expert on male success. Dr. Harper is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and a leader in research and practice in this field. He has published 12 books and more than 90 peer-reviewed journal articles and other academic publications. His Eight Standards for Black Male Campus Initiatives were used in developing a comprehensive DDP-MSI Strategic Plan.

The DDP-MSI will expand the current partnership the two schools have in the Dual Degree Program (DDP). The DDP provides full-time community college students with a pathway to earn quality, accessible, and affordable associate and bachelor’s degrees. The new initiative will link the DDP with Male Success Initiatives (MSI) on both campuses to multiply their impact.

The goal of the new endeavor is to increase the number of men of color who enroll in the DDP at Prairie State, help them to earn their associate degrees, then transfer to GSU (or any other university that best meets their academic needs) and graduate with their baccalaureate degrees.

The ceremonial signing of the DDP-MSI agreement between GSU President Dr. Elaine P. Maimon and PSC President Dr. Terri L. Winfree will follow the keynote address. A Student Panel discussion will also take place in the afternoon. The summit is open to the public and free of charge. For additional information, please contact Penny Perdue. Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484.

Governors State University serves more than 5,500 undergraduate and graduate students with 64 degree and 24 certificate programs that prepare them for success in business, industry, healthcare, the arts and education. As a state university, GSU is committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and responsible higher education opportunities. GSU is located 40 miles south of Chicago in University Park, IL and offers the most affordable undergraduate tuition and fees in the state. GSU is committed to embracing diversity and academic excellence.

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