



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicagoland Regional College Program
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Illinois State Senator Martin A. Sandoval Celebrates 7 Years of College and Employment Partnership

Program Offers Paid Tuition, Rental Assistance, a Job and More, to Make College Affordable

WILLOW SPRINGS, IL – A strong proponent for employment and education within the 12th District, Illinois State Senator Martin A. Sandoval joined forces with key stakeholders and students to kick off the seventh year of the Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP), recognize UPS' 102 years in business, and reiterate his support in assisting students in pursuit of higher education. Morton College President, Dr. Leslie Navarro, marking the college's four years of program participation, spoke of Senator Sandoval's commitment to college students and the community at large. Held on August 28, at the UPS employment center in Hodgkins, the event also included testimonials by program participants, Erika Serrano and Veronica Hernandez who spoke of the tremendous opportunity the CRCP offers. CRCP Executive Director, Dr. Genevieve Lopardo recognized four student recipients with the Order of Excellence Award for outstanding achievement as students and employees.

In addressing the more than 50 student participants, who attended after their 4am-9am UPS shifts, Senator Sandoval challenged students to "take advantage of this moment," saying, "you'll never have this advantage again. Have you taken advantage of UPS, housing, tuition, the opportunity for further education, living it to the fullest?" Senator Sandoval also recognized the leadership of Jan Bailey, UPS Vice President of Transportation and Dr. Lopardo. In closing, the audience joined him in a chant of "Yes, we can!" and "Si, se puede!" translated, "Yes, it can be done!" a slogan coined by Mexican American activist, César Chávez in 1972 and adopted by President Obama for the 2004 Illinois Democratic primary and 2008 Presidential campaign.

The CRCP offers a great opportunity for conscientious students of any age to attend college, pursue career certificates or degrees while minimizing debt. Program participants attend one of six area colleges part-time while working part-time at the UPS Hodgkins location.

While balancing the two efforts, participants receive paid tuition, books, an opportunity for rental and transportation allowances, and academic awards, along with a weekly paycheck. Instead of worrying about how to pay for classes and other expenses, CRCP students are able to focus on academic success.

ABOUT CRCP: Launched in July 2003, the Chicagoland Regional College Program is an academic-employment collaboration between higher education institutions Chicago State University, Governors State University, Moraine Valley Community College, Morton College, Prairie State College, Olive Harvey College, and UPS. While pursuing their unique educational and career goals, and minimizing student loans and debt, participants develop essential workforce skills that equip them for entry into the Illinois workforce.

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[Editor's note: More information about the Chicagoland Regional College Program is available at <http://www.crcprogram.com>]