



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **New Program Pays College Expenses and More And Includes Part-Time Job at UPS**

*4 Open Houses Planned This Spring*

**HODGKINS, IL** – Individuals interested in college now can enroll in an exciting new financial assistance program that enables them to get both a virtually debt-free college education and employment at UPS.

The Chicagoland Regional College Program (CRCP), open to students of any age, is a new partnership between Chicago State University, Moraine Valley Community College and UPS. CRCP students get their college tuition, fees and books paid; are provided with transportation assistance; and are eligible for a housing allowance of up to \$4,000 annually, as well as academic bonuses for successful coursework completion. They also get a part-time job at UPS in southwest suburban Hodgkins.

"This program is about changing lives," explained Savelure McMath, CRCP's director of marketing and recruitment. "Not only does CRCP help students avoid taking out loans for college, but many of our students are first-generation college students. They're pursuing degrees and vocational certificates that will lead to a better quality of life for them and their families, and at the same time positively impact our communities."

Among the eligibility requirements, students must have a high school degree or equivalent; be accepted for admission at either Chicago State or Moraine Valley; and successfully complete the CRCP admissions process, which includes a pre-enrollment interview and attendance at an open house. They also must be hired by UPS, where they'll be paid to work part-time as a package handler and receive employment benefits, including health care insurance.

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“It’s an awesome program, a definite 10,” said Jennifer Zima, a 19-year-old Moraine Valley Community College freshman from Palos Hills, who has saved \$3,000 in two semesters after being part of an initial CRCP pilot program. “The job pays well. I get free tuition and books. And I make additional money through academic bonuses and through my job at UPS.”

While most CRCP students likely will be young adults, the program isn’t just for recent high school graduates. CRCP full-time student James Hawthorne, a 42-year-old Chicagoan and father of two, works the sunrise shift at UPS and attends Chicago State during the day.

“I tell all my friends that this is an excellent program, that it can help them get a degree without a bunch of loans that they’ll have to repay afterward,” said Hawthorne, who hopes to either become a teacher or go into business management. “It’s never too late to return to school if you’re willing to work hard, and get lots of perks for doing it.”

Continuing later this month, CRCP is holding four open houses at UPS’ office in Hodgkins. Staff members will discuss the program and explain what it takes to enroll and participate. The open house dates are May 27 and June 2, 15 and 24. To register, call 1-866-501-CRCP (2727) or go to [www.crcprogram.com](http://www.crcprogram.com).

Chicago State is a four-year college offering dozens of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as specialized and extension courses. Moraine Valley is a two-year college offering more than 100 degrees and vocational certifications.

**ABOUT CRCP:** The Chicagoland Regional College Program is a new academic-employment partnership between Chicago State University, Moraine Valley Community College and UPS. These organizations enable aspiring college students to achieve their unique educational and career goals without having to carry huge debts into the future, while working a part-time job.

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