

## U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis Applauds Historic Funding Increases for Predominantly Black Institutions to Improve Access to Higher Education, Including Awards for Malcolm X, Olive-Harvey, Kennedy-King, and Chicago State

Washington,

D.C.- On September 29, 2008, Congressmen Danny K. Davis (D-IL) applauded the announcement of the first grant awards to Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) by the Department of Education.

Washington, D.C.- On September 29, 2008, Congressmen Danny K. Davis (D-IL) applauded the announcement of the first grant awards to Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) by the Department of Education. Congressman Davis said, "As a result of a significant student aid law passed by Congress last year, Predominantly Black Institutions (or PBIs) as well as other minority serving institutions will receive record increases in funding. I celebrate with Malcolm X College, Kennedy-King College, Olive-Harvey College, and Chicago State University that will receive approximately \$600,000 each for the next two years to strengthen their high-caliber programs in fields such as science, technology, engineering, and education as well as to improve educational outcomes for African American men. Predominantly Black Institutions play an important role in educating low-income, minority students. I have advocated for years for such funding to strengthen the capacity of our higher education institutions to retain and graduate these students in critical areas of education."

Davis continued, "The College Cost Reduction and Access Act provides \$510 million in new funding for minority serving institutions to help expand college access, strengthen support services that focus on helping low-income and minority students stay in school and graduate, and renovate campuses in need of improvement. Predominantly Black Institutions will receive \$30 million over the next two years. Predominantly Black Institutions represent a growing cadre of four-year and two-year institutions that serve as the access point for a growing number of urban and rural Black students whose family and financial situations limit their ability to gain access to college in many states. These institutions account for much of the recent increase in Black students in education. Many of their students come from low-income families and are also "first generation" college students, whose educational preparation for college and family finances presents special challenges to educational success. This grant represents the first time that federal aid will support Predominantly Black Institutions in their capacity as a type of minority serving institution. Although the Higher Education Act has historically provided funds for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Predominantly Black Institutions have been ineligible for this aid, which requires that an institution be established prior to 1964 and have experienced the history of segregation by law. The new law recognizes that Predominantly Black Institutions are indeed minority serving institutions and provides critical aid to strengthen these institutions of higher education. Chicago has many Predominantly Black Institutions, and I am proud that the high quality education provided by Chicago State University and the City Colleges of Chicago is now recognized nationally."

Davis

added, "In addition, this law will further support African American students in attending and completing college by raising the amount of Pell grants and lowering interest rates on federal student loans. Indeed, the first reduction in interest rates occurred this past July. Together, these changes will greatly aid students in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation in paying for college and obtaining high-quality education."

###