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CITY COLLEGES CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION THAT WORKS

City Colleges of Chicago first opened its doors on September 11, 1911 as Crane Junior College. Nicknamed “the people’s college,” it was established under the Chicago Board of Education as a way to provide a high quality, affordable education accessible to all in Chicago. There were just 30 students in the first class.

By 1929, Crane Junior College, with 4,000 students, was the largest junior college in the country. But, the college was forced to close in 1933 during the Great Depression. There was an immediate public outcry, led by students, faculty, members of Chicago’s growing labor movement, and most notably, attorney Clarence Darrow. The college reopened less than a year later as Herzl Junior College. Two new sites were added: Wright Junior College on the Northwest Side, and Wilson Junior College on the South Side.

During World War II, the colleges were taken over by the military for use as training facilities. After the war, soldiers returning to school on the GI Bill filled City Colleges to capacity.

In the 1950s, Truman College opened as an evening college at Amundsen High School. Fenger College and Southeast

College also opened consolidating to create Olive-Harvey College two decades later.

Expansion continued in the 1960s, with the opening of Bogan Junior College on the Southwest Side (later renamed Daley College) and Loop College Downtown (later renamed Harold Washington College). In 1968, students closed down several City College campuses amid civil rights issues. To recognize the key civil rights leaders, Herzl College was renamed Malcolm X College and Wilson College became Kennedy-King College.

WYCC TV began televised instruction in the 1980s through the Center for Distance Learning and Olive-Harvey College’s South Chicago Learning Center opened.

Satellite sites continued to grow as well. Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center and Arturo Velasquez West Side Technical Institute opened in the 1990s under Wright and Daley Colleges respectively and Dawson Technical Institute became part of Kennedy-King College.

In 2007, a brand new Kennedy-King College opened at 63rd and Halsted Street which houses WYCC TV, Washburne Culinary Institute, and WKKC Radio.

As City Colleges approached its 100th anniversary, Chancellor Cheryl Hyman and Chairman Martin Cabrera, Jr. launched the Reinvention initiative in 2010. The centerpiece of the Reinvention effort is to ensure student success, drive greater degree attainment, job placement and career advancement and become the economic engine for the city of Chicago. The initiative is a long-term, ongoing effort designed to ensure CCC continues to benefit Chicago into its second century.



The Crane Junior College baseball team poses for a photo on the front steps of the college in 1929. The college had an active athletic program which also featured football, basketball, wrestling and swimming.

A letter from the Chancellor

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD



As City Colleges of Chicago celebrates its 100th year of educating the diverse population of Chicago, it is important to have a historical perspective of City Colleges and the events and people that made it what it is today.

The objective of City Colleges of Chicago when it opened its doors in 1911 as Crane Junior College was to deliver quality education accessible to all. Our mission remains the same today.

Many of our colleges today bear the names of inspiring leaders of the last 50 years – Daley, Washington, King, Kennedy, Malcolm X – and our walls echo with the success of millions of Chicagoans who reached for higher education at a time when it was confined to a privileged few. Each time a new college opened, it grew faster than we could build buildings, proving Chicagoans' thirst for knowledge and empowerment. Since then, we have helped lift up several generations who have defined and refined Chicago, from Pulitzer Prize Winner Gwendolyn Brooks to Nobel Laureate Dr. Herbert Brown.

Building upon the foundation of the past 100 years, City Colleges of Chicago has taken a big, bold step to secure the city's future with the launch of Reinvention. The vision of Reinvention is to transform City Colleges into a world-class institution that fully prepares students to enter the increasingly competitive workplace, be it directly with associate's degrees matched to today's jobs or indirectly by preparing students to go on to bachelor's degrees and beyond. It's all about ensuring student success. We must become an economic engine for the City of Chicago as we remain a proud defender of social mobility and opportunity.

Chancellor Cheryl L. Hyman



CENTENNIAL GRADUATES of City Colleges of Chicago

Three inspirational stories out of thousands in the 2011 graduating class



Heather Lalley

Kennedy-King College
Washburne Culinary Institute
Class of 2011

Heather Lalley says attending CCC opened her up to an entirely different career avenue. The former newspaper reporter recently graduated from the Washburne Culinary Institute at Kennedy-King College. "I thought the facilities were top notch," she says. "The instructors were very experienced and, of course, the price couldn't be beat."

In addition to being a great cook, Heather is a freelance food writer. Her articles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, and she wrote a farm-to-table cookbook, "The Chicago Homegrown Cookbook", which was released last Summer. Not one to sit still, Heather has been busy promoting her book at farmers' markets and other events. She is in talks to do another cookbook which will focus on baking.

William Hill

Olive-Harvey College, Class of 2011

In May 2011, William Hill graduated with a 3.8 grade point average in early childhood education from Olive-Harvey College. He is currently pursuing a Type 04 (Early Childhood) Certification for teaching in Illinois and a degree in psychology. He plans to go on to graduate school for a degree in school administration and child psychology.

In line with his interest in early childhood development, William serves as a director at the Lots of Love Pre-School and supervises 100 children between the ages of two and six. William, who is a father himself, says that while at Olive-Harvey he learned to really appreciate how a quality education can change your life and set you on the right path.



Tiffany Almanza

Richard J. Daley College
Class of 2011

Tiffany Almanza graduated from Daley College this past May with a 4.0 grade point average. She credits her caring, dedicated parents, who instilled in her the value of a good education, as well as terrific instructors at Daley, who gave her tremendous support every step of the way, for her academic success.

Tiffany is in the process of enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. She has successfully taken the Armed Services entrance exam and is now focused on preparing for the rigorous physical exam. She says her enlistment should be completed within a month and she anticipates leaving for basic training in the spring of 2012. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in either criminal justice or political science while in the Air Force.

OTHER FAMOUS ATTENDEES

City Colleges alumni have gone on to shape our City - including culinary entrepreneurs like John Meyer (BJ's Market & Bakery), former Superintendent of Police Terry Hillard, real estate developer Dempsey Travis, author Gwendolyn Brooks, Alderman Walter Burnett, radio personality Marv Dyson, former State Senator Emil Jones, Dr. Carl Bell, City Colleges Chancellor Cheryl Hyman, actors Dennis Franz and Kim Novak, and the first African-American astrophysicist Rita Kay Williams.



COLLEGE HISTORY



MALCOLM X COLLEGE EST. 1911

Malcolm X College is located near the birth place of the City Colleges of Chicago. Crane Junior College was established in 1911 at the corner of Jackson and Oakley. After a modest beginning with only 30 students that first year, Crane grew to be the largest junior college in the nation by the year 1929 with 4,000 students.

The Great Depression forced the college to close in 1933 only to re-open less than a year later under the name Herzl Junior College. It was named to honor Theodore Herzl, a journalist, playwright and an early leader of the movement for an independent Jewish state. During World War II, the school served as a Naval training college in 1944 and 1945.

In the 1960s, there were numerous civil rights demonstrations at Herzl Junior College. The CCC Board of Trustees renamed the school Malcolm X College. At the time it was split into two campuses: one on Harrison Street at the site of the old Loyola Dental School building; the other campus was located a block west of Halsted on 14th Street in an old, abandoned grammar school building. The current building at 1900 W. Van Buren opened in 1969.



KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE EST. 1934

Kennedy-King College was originally founded as Woodrow Wilson Junior College in 1934. The college was established during the Great Depression after the city and school board, faced with a budget crisis, were forced to shut down Crane Junior College. Legendary Chicago lawyer Clarence Darrow argued in defense of keeping the college open. He stated that higher education in the form of the junior college had to endure because it was “for the people.” A few months later Wilson and Wright Colleges were established.

Wilson’s first graduating class in 1936 included Gwendolyn Brooks who later went on to become a Pulitzer Prize winning poet. She was appointed Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968.

City Colleges of Chicago was not immune to widespread student protests in the 1960s. Following civil rights demonstrations by CCC students, Wilson Junior College was re-named Kennedy-King College in 1969 to honor U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., one year after they were assassinated.



WILBUR WRIGHT COLLEGE EST. 1934

Wright College was founded in 1934 when the entire country was in the grips of the Depression. Responding to demand, the city established two tuition free junior colleges: Wright on the Northwest Side and Wilson on the South Side.

Wilbur Wright Junior College was named for one of the Wright brothers, who invented and built the world’s first successful airplane. Wright’s first graduating class in 1935 included Dr. Herbert Brown, who went on to become a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. Future graduates of Wright College include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and actors Dennis Franz and Kim Novak.

The first U.S. synchronized swimming competition was held at Wright in 1939 where the sport still thrives today.

During World War II, the school was taken over by the U.S. Navy as a radio training facility.

After holding classes for many years in a building on Austin Boulevard, Wright College moved into its current Betraud Goldberg designed building on North Narragansett in 1993.

“It is from the diversity of city life and the variety of cultures and backgrounds...”





HARRY S TRUMAN COLLEGE
One of the City Colleges of Chicago

TRUMAN COLLEGE
EST. 1956

Truman College was founded in 1956 as an unnamed “evening college” at Amundsen High School on Foster Avenue.

In 1961, the college moved into a former elementary school on Wilson Avenue in Uptown and was named Mayfair College.

Throughout the 60s and early 70s, Mayfair College enrollment increased with Uptown’s population. In response, the City and the State governments agreed to construct a college in Uptown called Northeast Community College. During its planning, Frank Sullivan, the press secretary for Mayor Richard J. Daley, suggested naming the College after President Harry S Truman, a lifelong proponent of higher education.

In 1976, amidst residents’ concern that the college would displace them from the heart of Uptown, Harry S Truman College opened its doors. To remind the City and the college of its mission to deliver quality education for all, Uptown residents painted a mural on the ‘E’ supports facing the college to say ‘the eyes of community are on you’.

The mural can still be seen from the college today.



OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE
EST. 1956

Olive-Harvey College began as two colleges. In the late 1950s, Fenger and Southeast Junior Colleges were established. These two campuses were consolidated and re-named Olive-Harvey College in 1970. The college moved into nine buildings at its present site at Woodlawn Avenue and 101st Street pending the construction of a new building.

The college is named in honor of two Chicagoans who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. PFC Milton Lee Olive, III, an 18-year-old paratrooper, saved the lives of fellow soldiers by jumping on a live grenade. Carmel Bernon Harvey, Jr., a 20-year-old infantryman, charged a machine gun position while defending a grounded helicopter. His actions enabled two wounded Americans to evacuate the area.

In 1981, the main campus of OHC was completed with the opening of a four-level building on a 67-acre campus. It’s the largest campus of any of the seven City Colleges.

In 1988, the college completed construction of the South Chicago campus, which provides additional educational programs and services in the heart of South Chicago.



DALEY COLLEGE
EST. 1960

Daley College was founded as William J. Bogan Junior College in 1960. The college utilized classrooms in the evenings at Bogan High School on the city’s Southwest Side. Mr. Bogan was Superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools in the 1920s and 30s.

A leading authority on vocational education, Mr. Bogan placed special emphasis on educating non-college-bound students – those he termed “the forgotten 90 percent.”

A few years after its opening, Bogan Junior College had outgrown the limited space in the high school and was spreading east along 79th Street in trailers and store fronts. In 1970, having acquired land on Pulaski Road, City Colleges of Chicago opened its full-time “interim” campus of six prefabricated buildings and four trailers. The school was renamed Southwest College.

It was Richard J. Daley, Chicago’s six-term mayor, who laid the plans and broke ground on the current facility. One week after his death in 1977, the school was renamed Richard J. Daley College. The new building opened its doors in 1981.



HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE
EST. 1962

Harold Washington College is named after the first African-American mayor of Chicago. Originally known as Loop Junior College when it opened in 1962, it was founded to serve Chicagoans who worked downtown and needed a college that was convenient to work.

The college had a total of 250 students the first semester. Classes were held on the 11th floor of the former University of Chicago/DePaul Center, eventually occupying six floors as the student population grew. The new school generated just enough tuition to pay the rent.

In 1982, the college moved from 185 N. Wabash into new facilities at 30 East Lake Street. During a commencement address at Loop College in 1984, Mayor Washington spoke about the importance of community: “It is from the diversity of city life and the variety of cultures and backgrounds...that we find the common threads that bring us together to form a college community.”

Within weeks of his untimely death, the CCC Board of Trustees re-named Loop College Harold Washington College in 1988.

that we find the common threads that bring us together to form a college community.” Mayor Harold Washington





CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

GRADUATION



THEN & NOW

The City Colleges of Chicago has had two milestone anniversary graduations during its 100-year history. Similar celebrations took place in 1961 and 2011 – both included all of the colleges in a unified assembly. At the time of the 50th anniversary, City Colleges was one of the largest

community colleges in the nation with 25,000 students. The commencement exercises were televised and followed by week-long college-community activities that drew the favorable attention of the late President John F. Kennedy, among other notables.

The Centennial graduation was the first district-wide commencement since 1961. Following a banner presentation introducing the seven colleges' new colors, Mayor Richard M. Daley, in one of his last official acts as mayor, delivered the commencement address.

In recognition of his long-term commitment to an education that works for all Chicagoans, City Colleges conferred an Honorary Professorship of Leadership and Urban Studies on Mayor Daley. The graduation was aired on WYCC Channel 20 the following week.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

SWEET 100

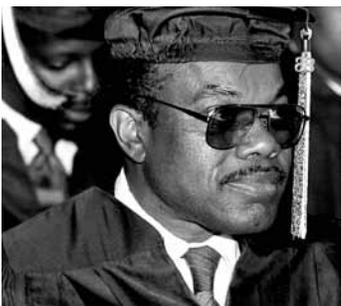
Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Chancellor Cheryl L. Hyman to mark City Colleges of Chicago's Centennial with a three-tiered cake prepared by CCC's own Washburne Culinary Institute, whose students and faculty attended the presentation.

"For a century, City Colleges has served as a gateway for Chicagoans striving to reach their education and career goals," said Mayor Emanuel. "I am committed to working with the City Colleges to prepare Chicagoans for the jobs of the future to ensure our City remains strong and competitive in the global economy."



Spirit of Success celebrations across the district marked CCC's 100 years.

Pictured: Harold Washington College SGA President Olurotimi Akindede





TRUMAN

1911 THE BEGINNING

- September 11, 1911: Crane Junior College opens with 30 students.

1920s

- Illinois Attorney General rules junior colleges not entitled to state funding.
- Chicago legislators fight for special funding authority.
- Crane Junior College becomes largest in the nation.

1930s

- Crane Junior College closed due to city budget crisis.
- Crane reopens as Herzl Junior College.
- Wright and Wilson Junior Colleges established.

1940s

- U.S. military takes over two colleges during World War II.
- Returning soldiers on GI Bill fill colleges to capacity.

1950s

- TV College is launched.
- Amundsen High School holds classes, a precursor to Truman College.
- Fenger and Southeast Colleges open.

1960s

- Bogan College renamed Daley College.
- Loop College opens, later re-named Harold Washington College.
- Chicago City Junior College celebrates 50th anniversary.
- Herzl College renamed Malcolm X College.
- Wilson College renamed Kennedy-King College.

1970s

- City Colleges adds vocational and technical education classes, plus ESL and GED.
- OHC South Chicago Learning Center opens.

1980s

- WYCC-TV provides televised instruction through the Center for Distance Learning.

1990s

- Dawson Technical Institute becomes part of Kennedy-King College.
- Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center opens.
- Arturo Velasquez West Side Technical Institute opens.

2000s

- The new Kennedy-King College opens.

2010s:

- CCC launches the Reinvention initiative.
- CCC Celebrates 100 years.



DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Herbert Brown, a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, was a Wright College graduate.



Loop Junior College opened in 1962 with a total of 250 students, generating just enough tuition to pay the rent.

Olive-Harvey College takes its name from two fallen Vietnam War heroes.

Crane Junior College was nicknamed "the people's college."

Synchronized swimming got its start at Wright College. In 1937, Wright instructor Kay Curtis organized the first co-ed synchronized swimming club in the world.



Malcolm X College has the only mortuary science program in the City of Chicago.



The Early Days: Crane Junior College opened its doors on September 11, 1911. The first class had 30 students. By the year 1929, Crane grew to be the largest junior college in the nation.

Truman College was previously known as Mayfair College and came close to being called Northeast Community College.

Legendary attorney Clarence Darrow came to the rescue of Crane Junior College after it was closed during the Great Depression arguing that it must stay open "for the people."

Bogan Junior College, later renamed Daley College, grew so quickly that classes were once held in trailers and store fronts along 79th Street.

Kennedy-King College was named after Robert F. Kennedy, not John F. Kennedy.

