



# OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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## Treasurer Frerichs Awards Illinois Leaders in Honor of Black History Month

*Frerichs Recognizes Great Achievements of African Americans in Illinois*

**SPRINGFIELD** – In honor of Black History Month, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today kicked off a virtual campaign to highlight and celebrate the achievements of African Americans in Illinois. This year’s national theme is **Black Health and Wellness**.

“Each year, it is important that we pause to honor the great contributions of people in Illinois doing impactful work in their communities,” Frerichs said. “These leaders are creating jobs, making a positive difference in the lives of our youth, and breaking down barriers to lead to a more equitable Illinois. We are thankful for their dedication and will continue to support those working hard to make things better for all.”

Frerichs will honor the following recipients for their outstanding commitment to their Illinois communities:

### **Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanities**

**Roger J. Carter, Artist, Chicago**

### **Outstanding Service in Business**

**Trez V. Pugh III, Founder & CEO of Sip & Savor, Inc., Chicago**

### **Outstanding Commitment in Community Service**

**Rev. Herman Watson, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, East St. Louis**

### **Outstanding Commitment in Education**

**Dr. Rosetta “Rosie” Brown, Community Leader, Alton**

### **Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official**

**Illinois Senate Majority Leader, Kimberly Lightford, Maywood**

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**Outstanding Service in Workforce and Labor**

**Joyce Ivy, Laborers Local 773, Cairo**

**Outstanding Service in Leadership**

**Dr. Suzet McKinney, Public Health Expert, Chicago**

**Outstanding Achievement in Sportsmanship**

**Dr. Curley “Boo” Johnson, Former Harlem Globetrotter, Peoria**

Throughout the month of February, Frerichs will share pre-recorded video conversations with each awardee via his [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These videos will also be hosted online at [illinoistreasurer.gov/heritageevents](http://illinoistreasurer.gov/heritageevents).

Black History Month is a national effort. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. In 1976, the annual celebration was expanded to a month.

**About the Treasurer**

As Illinois State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs is the state’s Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$52 billion. The portfolio includes \$27 billion in state funds, \$16 billion in retirement and college savings plans and \$9 billion on behalf of local and state governments. Frerichs’ office protects consumers by safeguarding more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property, encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, assisting people with disabilities save without losing government benefits, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. The Treasurer’s Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

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