



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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Treasurer Frerichs Presents Awards to Chicago Leaders In Honor of Black History Month

Celebration to Recognize Great Achievements of African Americans

CHICAGO – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today hosted a celebration to commemorate Black History Month and honor leaders in the African American community.

The event, held at the state government building at 555 W. Monroe St., was an opportunity to reflect on the great achievements of Black leaders. The eight honorees included a radio broadcasting owner, an affordable housing executive, a youth sports manager, a university president, an Illinois Senate leader, a transit union advocate, a table tennis and IT entrepreneur, and an opera singer.

“It is important that we acknowledge the great achievements and contributions of African Americans every day, not only during the month of February,” Frerichs said. “These leaders are creating jobs, making a difference in the lives of our youth, and fighting for a more equitable Illinois. We celebrate their dedication to making our communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Black History Month is a national effort. In 1926, University of Chicago graduate, author and educator Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. In 1976, the annual celebration was expanded to a month.

Treasurer Frerichs honored the following individuals for their outstanding commitment to the community:

Outstanding Service in Business

Melody Spann Cooper

Owner | Midway Broadcasting Corp.

Outstanding Service in Leadership

Angela Hurlock

Chair | Chicago Housing Authority

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Outstanding Commitment in Education

Dr. Cheryl Green

President | Governors State University

Outstanding Commitment in Community Service

Lamont Jones

General Manager, Youth Sports | Rockford Park District

Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official

Hon. Mattie Hunter

Illinois State Senator, Assistant Majority Leader | 3rd District

Outstanding Achievement in Workforce and Labor

Deborah Cosey-Lane

Financial Secretary-Treasurer | Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308

Outstanding Achievement in Sportsmanship

Robert Blackwell, Jr.

Founder and Chairman | Killerspin and EKI-Digital

Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanity

Keanon Kyles

Opera singer, Music teacher

Later this month, Frerichs will hold a celebration in Springfield honoring Downstate Black leaders.

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