December 7, 2017

UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN ACADEMIA TASK FORCE HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

The Underrepresented Groups in Academia Task Force, called for in House Joint Resolution 2, sponsored by Rep. Andre Thapedi (D-32) and Sen. Napoleon Harris, III (D-15), has been convened and held an organizational meeting on November 30. The Task Force members are:

- **State Representative Andre Thapedi**, 32nd District
- **State Representative Norine Hammond**, 93rd District
- **Dr. James Applegate**, Visiting Professor in the College of Education’s Center for the Study of Educational Policy, Illinois State University
- **Dr. Linda Renee Baker**, Professor, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, Southern Illinois University
- **Ms. Khadine Bennett**, ACLU Director of Advocacy and External Affairs
- **Mr. Andrew Broy**, President, Illinois Network of Charter Schools
- **Ms. Claudia Castro**, Hispanic Lawyers’ Association of Illinois
- **Ms. Veronica Cortez**, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- **Dr. Mona Davenport**, Director of Minority Affairs, Eastern Illinois University
- **Mr. Will Davis**, Vice President for Development, Governors State University
- **Ms. Cathy Early**, Board of Trustees Chairwoman, Western Illinois University
- **Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden**, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer, Northern Illinois University
- **Dr. Valerie Goss**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Studies, Chicago State University
- **Dr. Satasha Green**, Interim Associate Provost, Chicago State University
- **Dr. Robert Jones**, UIUC Chancellor and University of Illinois System Vice President
- **Dr. Daniel Lopez**, Vice President for Student Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University
- **Ms. Candace Moore**, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights
- **Dr. Sulyema Perez**, Director of Governmental Relations, Northeastern Illinois University
- **Mr. Scott Savage**, Principal at Bloom High School, Chicago Heights

The Task Force plans to determine ways to better assist African-American and Latino populations, in particular, in achieving access, academic success, and completion of postsecondary educational pursuits. Four Task Force meetings are planned for 2018, with a final report due to the Governor and General Assembly by the end of that year. The Illinois Board of Higher Education is designated by the Resolution to provide administrative support.

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