

Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD



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For More Information:

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Ford, Chicago Urban League, and Illinois CMS Team Up to Tackle Double Digit Unemployment Rate at Career Fair with More Than 80 Vendors

CHICAGO, IL. – With the statewide unemployment rate lingering in the double digits, state Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) has teamed up with the Chicago Urban League, The City Colleges and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to bring a Career Fair to Chicago.

“We are aggressively working to ensure that the government and private sector businesses are on-site to bring jobs and encouragement to all,” said Ford. “It is important for people to know that even during this long recession, there are opportunities for the most qualified, best prepared, and the most eager and aggressive job hunters.”

The Career Fair will take place on Wednesday, June 23, at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren Street in Chicago. Area residents who are out of work are encouraged to mark this date on their calendars, come dressed in business attire, and be prepared to distribute resumes.

Employers that serve as vendors may be able to hire employees at no payroll cost to the employer. This is made possible through the *Put Illinois to Work* program. For up to six months, qualifying individuals may work with local businesses, non-profit organizations and governments at \$10 per hour. The program is subsidized through government funds to help small businesses create jobs. More than 80 vendors seeking employees have registered to participate at the Career Fair.

“Historically, there is a correlation between high unemployment levels and crime. With the unemployment rate in the double digits, programs like *Put Illinois to Work* will help give the local business community a boost and add people to the skilled workforce on the West Side,” Ford said. “Jobs and careers obtained will undoubtedly help to reduce the number of unemployed, and hopefully will help to increase community safety.”

For additional questions, please call Rep. Ford at 773-378-5902.

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