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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
County of Cook and State of Illinois

KWANZAA 1998  
MALCOLM X COLLEGE

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS

that Malcolm X College, in conjunction with the Shule Ya Watoto (School for Children) and the National Black United Front successfully conducted their fourth annual seven-day Kwanzaa Celebration; and

that Kwanzaa is a cultural festival during which African-Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage as the products of two worlds. It begins December 26 and lasts for seven days. Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga, a college professor and African American leader, who believed that a special holiday could help African Americans meet their goals of building strong families, learning about their history, and creating a sense of unity. After conducting extensive research in which he studied the festivals of many African groups of people, he decided that the new holiday should be a harvest or "first fruits" celebration, incorporating ideas from many different harvest traditions. Kwanzaa is a Kiswahili word meaning "the first fruits of the harvest;" and

that the Malcolm X College celebration, which combines the ceremony and cultural entertainment, was enjoyed by more than 8,000 visitors who came from 15 different states and 2 foreign countries. The cultural entertainment was rich and varied; it ranged from traditional African dance to ballet. There was magic, music, song and dance. The celebration is highly acclaimed and was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson  
Chancellor

March 4, 1999