

City Colleges of Chicago

Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting

4/03/2025

Student Trustee Report

For the month of

April 2025

Student Trustee David Aaron Ramirez

Term 2024-25

HAROLD WASHINGTON • HARRY STRUMAN • KENNEDY-KING • MALCOLM X • OLIVE-HARVEY • RICHARD J. DALEY • WILBUR WRIGHT

CITY COLLEGES[®]
OF CHICAGO

Table of Contents

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT	3
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	3
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	3
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE	6
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	6
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	6
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:	6
HARRY S. TRUMAN COLLEGE	7
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	7
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	7
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	7
KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE	8
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	8
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	8
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	9
MALCOLM X COLLEGE	10
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	10
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	10
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	10
OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE	12
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	12
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	12
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	12
RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE	13
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	13
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	13
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	13
WILBUR WRIGHT COLLEGE	14
SECTION I: EVENTS AND GENERAL UPDATES	14
SECTION II: ADVOCACY, GOALS, AND HIGHLIGHTS	14
SECTION III: ANNOUNCEMENTS	15

**City Colleges of Chicago
District Student Government Association**

**Student Trustee Report
For April 2025**

Section I: Events and General Updates

Total number of events district-wide: 26 (reported)

Types of events & number of events per category:

- Student Social: **18**
- Community Event: **5**
- Resource Event: **1**
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event: **2**
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Goals:

- Academic Year:
- Current / Next Semester:
- Completed:
 - Enhance student engagement and awareness around academic and mental health resources.
 - Boost awareness of DSGA and the student trustee position.
 - Continue to encourage collaboration and engagement between City College campuses.
 - Continue monthly Trustee visits to each of the City College Campuses, fostering friendships, connections, and networking.
 - Survey all colleges on advocacy areas.
 - Have all City Colleges participate in Advocacy Day

Highlights:

- Advocacy Day will have its City Colleges “take over” as we are planning to have representation from all 7 colleges on April 9th.

Section III: Announcements

Due to Spring Break being last week, many SGAs did not turn in reports for today’s meeting. However, those that did are reported

ICCB – SAC UPDATE:

ADVOCACY DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! As of March 2025, there's a reported amount of 40-50 students, staff, and faculty that are attending with numbers still being determined as we have some last-minute sign-ups. We are beyond excited to have City Colleges present at this year's Advocacy Day with all 7 colleges!!

Esteemed Board of Trustees, College Presidents, and District Officers,

I trust that you are all well and comfortable. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity that you gave me to serve as your Student Trustee for this academic school year. Thank you for the trust you placed in me.

I started my community college experience in the Fall of 2022 afraid, but who isn't right? College is a very new yet different experience from high school, and I don't want to age myself but Class of 2018, we did it!

My time in City Colleges has been the most rewarding experience, I started as a Senator at Richard J. Daley's SGA in Spring 2023. It was a quick jump out of my comfort zone because it required me to talk to people. Now that's even scarier. People?? Yeah no. However, through this experience I learned that I had hidden skills, Leadership skills. This prompted me to step up and become the Treasurer of Richard J. Daley's Student Government Association for the 2023 – 2024 academic school year. I quickly discovered that leadership isn't just about sitting at the table, it's about making sure we're actively listening, learning, and, at times, negotiating for hours and hours with an Excel spreadsheet that doesn't want to cooperate. But we got the job done, didn't we?

As I continued my education, I was informed that I would need to complete an extra year to graduate. This of course was not in my plans, but I truly believe that everything happens for a reason. At this time, I was also told that Daley was to hold the Student Trustee position. I signed up immediately. Was I afraid? Yes! Was I anxious? Yes! Was I nervous? Yes, even as I speak to you all today. However, I felt the need and the calling to create an impact and leave my legacy, to give back, to speak for those who couldn't. I was also elected to be the Chair for the Illinois Community College Board - Student Advisory Committee (ICCB – SAC). Throughout my time in these positions, I've learned that nothing worth doing comes without its hurdles—and let me tell you, I certainly hurdled a lot! I have faced various challenges, from heartbreak, late nights, drama, family issues, uncooperative word documents, slow CCC Wi-Fi, scheduling conflicts. Imposter syndrome started to settle in. But even through it all I had friends, fellow students, SGA members, SGA advisors, family and others in my corner cheering me on. Together, we tackled advocacy with both heart and humor. We faced challenges with the same determination that students put into finishing their finals with one hour of sleep (which, let's be honest, is an art form in itself). Even when things got tough, we kept pushing forward, always remembering why we're here: to ensure every student has a brighter future ahead of them. I wanted to make an impact, in my state, in my community, City Colleges, my campus. No matter how small. Do I wish I could have done more? Do I wish I had more time? Absolutely. However, I am so proud of the work I was able to accomplish, the legacy that I am leaving behind. The legacy of advocacy, Mental health awareness. Raising student voices across the state. Creating bridges and connections in DSGA. Fostering growth and leadership. Friendship. Support. Empathy.

I have so much respect and admiration for all 7 SGAs, for the way they collaborate, support one another, and advocate for student needs, even when it means agreeing to disagree. They have made it clear that it's not just about getting things done, but it is about making sure that they make a difference. And I am so proud to have been a part of that, guiding, leading, connecting, creating friendships and greater connections.

Since our last Board meeting, I have been visiting all campuses. Preparing SGAs with the help of our district advisors for Advocacy Day!

Now, as I move forward in my transfer process and educational career at the old but young age of 24, I have exciting news!! You will all see me sitting on that stage at graduation; I have been admitted and accepted into the University of Illinois Chicago. At UIC I will be pursuing a major in Integrated Health Studies with a concentration in Behavioral Health. I am driven to enter this field because of my own personal medical experiences which have given me the inspiration to pursue a career in psychology. Being able to dive into the challenges of mental health and understand what influences behavior will give me the chance to make a real difference in the mental health field. I am particularly drawn to the idea of

being able to work with underserved populations who may currently lack access to the mental health services that they need. As someone who has witnessed firsthand barriers to adequate care, I feel compelled to be part of the solution by offering accessible and compassionate support. I want to work as a mental health professional, so I can directly support individuals and communities who need help. Whether it's through therapy, raising awareness about mental health, or creating programs to improve access to care, I'm focused on making a real impact in this field. As the Student Trustee for the City Colleges of Chicago, I have always prioritized mental health awareness and resources, and I plan to keep advocating for it both during and after my studies. My goal isn't to only succeed but to also help those in need of mental health services, particularly those who may not have easy access to them. I want to be a role model for others, especially for those who are interested in careers in Medicine, and I hope that my journey can inspire others to chase their dreams and overcome obstacles just as I have. As Henry David Thoreau once said *"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."* At UIC I will be doing just that and who knows, I might just be the next Student Trustee for the University of Illinois Chicago.

Thank you everyone, Chancellor, Board Members, College Presidents, District Officers. I wish I had more time to connect, collaborate with each and every one of you. However, I wish you all continued success as you work in City Colleges and a lifetime of Wi-Fi that never drops during a Zoom meeting. I will see you all soon, as I plan to visit from time to time. City Colleges has left its impact on me, and I can never forget that.

With the upmost respect and the kindest regards to you all,

David Aaron Ramirez
He/Him/His
Associate of Science | AS
Class of 2025
CCC Board of Trustees | Student Trustee
District Student Government Association
Illinois Community College Board: Student Advisory Committee | Chair
RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE
CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

-Thank You-

City Colleges of Chicago
Harold Washington College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

Total number of events:

Types of events & number of events per category:

- Student Social:
- Community Event:
- Resource Event:
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event:
- Other:

General Updates:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Next Month:

- In progress:

Highlights:

Section III: Announcements

Announcements Section:

City Colleges of Chicago
Harry S. Truman College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

Total number of events:

Types of events & number of events per category:

- Student Social:
- Community Event:
- Resource Event:
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event:
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

-Advocacy:

- Current Semester:
- Next Semester:

-Goals:

- Next Month:
- Completed:

-Goals Addressed:

Highlights:

Section III: Announcements

-UPCOMING EVENTS / PLANNING:

City Colleges of Chicago
Kennedy-King College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

Total number of events: 5

Types of events & number of events per category:

- Student Social: 4
 - Empower Her Paint and Pose 3/5 (SGA Lead)
 - Jump Rope Celebration (SGA Supported)
 - For Colored Girls Live Read and Production (SGA Supported)
 - Women In Construction Lunch and Convo 3/20 - (SGA Supported)
- Community Event: 1
 - Her-Story in Every Cup Tea and Social 3/21 - (SGA Supported)
- Resource Event:
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event:
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Goals:

- Our primary focus is on achieving retention, engagement, and outreach through intentional strategies leading up to Advocacy Day on April 9th. These efforts will ensure meaningful participation and amplify our collective voice in advocating for key issues.
Support for Student Athletes: Recognizing the unique challenges faced by student athletes, we will provide tailored resources and mentorship opportunities to help them balance academic and athletic commitments while staying engaged in advocacy efforts.
KKC Women's Club Collaboration: Partner with the KKC Women's Club to highlight Women's History Month and celebrate the contributions of women in advocacy. This collaboration will foster a sense of community and inspire continued participation.
- Engagement: Support for Upcoming Student Events: Actively promote and support upcoming student-focused events, such as Resource Grad Fest activities. These events provide valuable resources for graduating students and offer opportunities to engage with advocacy initiatives.
- Countdown Posts: Utilize social media to share countdown posts leading up to Advocacy Day. These posts will build excitement, provide updates on logistics, and keep Advocacy Day top of mind.

Completed: Goal(s) Addressed:

Highlights:

Students stayed engaged through meaningful interactions and incentives, with the SGA raffle table boosting excitement and involvement via swag giveaways. Students were encouraged to bring a friend

who has never been to a General Body Meeting. Resources for Student Services, Transfer, Project Safe, and more were shared, fostering discussions, and encouraging students to utilize campus services and safety and security. Clubs showcased their initiatives to raise awareness and build community, while access to campus resources empowered students' academic and personal growth.

Section III: Announcements

Upcoming events / Planning

SGA Sneaker Ball 4/25

Grad Fest Activities

Finish Strong Activity Day and Resource Fair 4/16

Professional Headshots Day in connection with Transfer and Career Center – Pending

Issues / Concerns:

DEI Funding Cuts: Potential budget reductions threaten access for underrepresented students.

Financial Aid Challenges: Rising costs, student debt, and funding gaps demand stronger advocacy.

Athletic Support and Academic Stress: Student athletes face challenges balancing academics and athletics.

City Colleges of Chicago
Malcolm X College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

Total number of events: 9

- Student Social: 4
 - The Art of Sisterhood Brunch
 - Herstory Self Care Workshop
 - Women's History Jeopardy
 - St. Patrick's Day Bingo
- Community Event: 4
 - Math Club – Pi Day
 - Women's Affirmation Pop up
 - Project Safe: Bystander Intervention
 - Crochet & Connections
- Resource Event: 1
 - MXC Women's appreciation ceremony
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event:
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Academic Year Goal:

Goal:

Current Semester Goal: Expand the culture and diversity on campus by creating various organizations such as clubs.

Next Semester Planning: increase the level of comfortability between SGA Members and the student body.

Completed:

Highlights:

Section III: Announcements

Announcements Section:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Grad fest
- Earth Day
- CCC Alumni Panel

City Colleges of Chicago
Olive-Harvey College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

No. Total of events:

- Student Social:
 - BHM opening
- Community Event:
 - BHM opening, Love & Marriage panel Discussion
- Resource Event:
 - Knowledge Bowl
- Student-Family Events:
 - Love & Marriage panel Discussion
- Advocacy Event:
 - Love & Marriage panel Discussion
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Goals:

- o Goal(s) Addressed:

Highlights:

Next Semester Planning:

Upcoming events / Planning

Section III: Announcements

- Announcements Section:

City Colleges of Chicago
Richard J. Daley College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

No. Total of events:

- Student Social:
- Community Event:
- Resource Event:
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event:
- Other:

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Academic Year Goal:

Current Semester Goal:

Next Semester Planning:

Completed Goals:

Highlight:

Section III: Announcements

- Upcoming Events:

City Colleges of Chicago
Wilbur Wright College
Student Government Association
Campus Report
For April 2025

Section I: Events and General Updates

No. Total of events: 12

- Student Social: 10
Name of Event(s): ASME "Shark Tank", GBSS WHM Event, International Women's Club Day, Wright's Movie Day, SASE Pi Day, Herstory Game, ACM Build A Website event, ACS Women in STEM Network & Panel, Women Activist Fair.
- Community Event:
- Resource Event:
Name of Event(s):
- Student-Family Events:
- Advocacy Event: 2
Name of Event(s): Tabling for Student Concerns form, Advocacy Day, SGA E-board Applications, SGA E-Board Washington D.C. trip.
- Other:
Name of Event(s):
-

Section II: Advocacy, Goals, and Highlights

Goal:

- Academic Year: Create and maintain a robust senate, make club resources more accessible and comprehensive, Grow SGA presence, and maintain and further develop our business pilot.
- Current Semester: Advocate for student concerns, start getting ready for a new SGA E-Board, and start celebrating the Graduates of 2025. Continue growing our senate and SGA presence. Continue helping clubs be more active and accessible.
- Next Semester:
- This Month: Prepare SGA for advocacy day on April 9th and finally elect our new executive board for SGA.
- Completed: We are tabling for the rest of the semester to continue growing SGA presence and giving the students a voice with our Student Concerns Form.
- Goal(s) Addressed: SGA's PR teams is developing more and more ideas to have students hear about SGA while also coming up with more social media ideas to have students interact with SGA. Student Affairs has been working hard to hear the student's concerns from the survey responses, and they have started to put some solutions into action.

Highlights:

- We celebrated Women's History Month by having an international women's club day where every club represented a very impacting and important woman in history. We gave students fun fact cards and each club had a fun activity to go along with their fun facts.
- We participated in an Activist fair for Women's History Month

- Wright had a movie night for Women's History Month; we watched The Wild Robot.
- SGA E-Board attended the ASACC Conference in Washington D.C. to learn more about advocating for our students, why it is important, and what is the best way to go about advocating in general.

Section III: Announcements

-

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ICCB-SAC Advocacy Day in Springfield!