

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

Wright Alumnus John Fountain
Wins ICCTA Distinguished Alumnus Award

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS Wilbur Wright College alumnus John Fountain, '83, former news correspondent, now a graduate-level professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, will receive the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's Distinguished Community College Alumnus Award June 17 in Springfield.

Fountain grew up on some of the meanest streets in Chicago, where drugs, crime, and moral decay consigned so many black children to a life of desparation and destruction. He was a father at 17 and a welfare case soon after. Still, he managed to graduate from Wright College and went on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign. As reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post* and most recently national correspondent for *The New York Times*, he has won numerous awards. He now owns his own inspirational publishing business and has joined the Northwestern University faculty.

Fountain chronicled his story in his book, *True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith, Hope and Clarity*, and is presently at work on a second book, *Steel Rain*, about Black homicides in Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson
Chancellor

June 3, 2004