



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Office of Communications – Chicago Housing Authority  
Matthew Aguilar: (312) 935-2646; maguilar@thecha.org;

**CHA salutes 90 teen residents leaving Chicagoland for college life**  
*Michigan State, Missouri, Wisconsin and Cornell among the destinations*

CHICAGO (Aug. 15, 2011) – The Chicago Housing Authority bid a fond farewell to 90 college-bound CHA residents who are leaving the Chicagoland area at a send-off reception Wednesday at CHA offices, 60 E. Van Buren.

With banners of some of the nation’s best colleges and universities adorning the walls, the class was saluted by CHA interim CEO Carlos Ponce. The teens will be attending college at Michigan State, Memphis, Missouri, Wisconsin and Cornell, among other great schools.

Julius Claybron, an 18-year-old who lives in the mixed-income community of Legends South, was among those who attended. The Urban Prep Academy standout leaves for Ivy League institution Cornell on Friday.

“When I received the email, I read it over and over,” he said of his first contact with Cornell personnel. “I even called my little sister over and asked her, ‘What do you think this means?’ I’ve never felt a shock like that before.”

As a child, Claybron and his grandmother used to look out of his window at the now-demolished Ickes Homes and see nothing but despair.

“She would say, ‘This is your future if you choose for it to be that way,’” he said. “It wasn’t exactly a land of dreams. It made me want to make her proud. I wanted to go farther than the average kid. I wanted to be different.”

His only regret is that his grandmother didn’t live long enough to see this day. She recently passed away: “She taught me how to navigate through Ickes, and how to get an education.”

The students received school supplies courtesy of Kohl’s, Windows of Opportunity and CHA.

####