



Office of the President  
University Park, IL 60484  
708.534.4130  
Fax: 708.534.4107  
emaimon@govst.edu  
www.govst.edu

September 11, 2015

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor  
City of Chicago  
121 N LaSalle Street  
Chicago City Hall, 4th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Emanuel:

I'd like to join the chorus of those singing the praises of the City Colleges of Chicago's Star Scholarship Program and of the University of Illinois at Chicago's new program to provide special opportunities for these Star Scholars to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

I hereby volunteer to be the first university president to accept your [challenge](#) to other universities to support the Star Scholars. Indeed, in April, 2012, Governors State University signed an agreement with CCC to become one of our partner community colleges in the [Dual Degree Program](#). The DDP provides community college students with an affordable, accessible, high quality pathway to complete their bachelor's degrees.

GSU's Transfer Specialist spends four days a week on CCC campuses to help students develop a four-year plan to complete their associate degrees, transfer, and complete their bachelor's degrees, at GSU – or at any university that best fits their academic needs. In addition to academic advising, our Transfer Specialist helps with financial planning.

GSU's tuition is the most affordable in Chicagoland, and we also offer GSU Promise and DDP Honors Scholarships that enable selected students, if they are thrifty, to graduate without debt. Among the many transfer students from CCC this fall are six DDP students who are receiving GSU Promise scholarships. Another 50 students are currently enrolled in the DDP at their CCC campus, ensuring their successful pathway from associate to bachelor's degree.

A growing number of CCC students are transferring to GSU, which now provides residence housing and continues to offer easy access from Chicago via a Metra stop near campus. In fact, there were 319 students from the CCC among our graduates this spring.

Mayor Emanuel, we also want you to know that we have already initiated talks with CCC to provide a special opportunity to the Star Scholars. We enthusiastically accept your challenge to ensure that Star Scholars can also complete their bachelor's degrees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine P. Maimon".

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.  
President