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Commissioner Steele Recognizes University of Illinois at Chicago's CHANCE Program

CHICAGO – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) honored the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) CHANCE Program today in a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Kari K. Steele. The MWRD highlighted UIC's efforts to increase the enrollment of underrepresented populations at the university. Since the program's inception in 2004, UIC has successfully graduated 660 students through CHANCE.

In 2011, UIC expanded the CHANCE Program to expose students of color from surrounding high schools to the college experience. In a partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the Ameresco Corporation, UIC created the CHANCE for CHAnge Summer Youth S.T.E.M. Camp to introduce sophomore and junior students to careers in S.T.E.M.

Over 200 students, residing in CHA, have taken part in the S.T.E.M. Camp to date, and last month Commissioner Steele led 16 high school students from the 2017 Summer Camp on a tour of the MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant and encouraged them to consider STEM careers.

The students and UIC CHANCE Program administrators attended the MWRD Board meeting today and had the opportunity to observe the proceedings and witness the presentation of the Resolution. Commissioner Steele urged the students to continue this path they are on and perhaps "one day, you may be sitting in our [Commissioner's] seats".

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