

Board Meeting  
July 19, 2012

ESTABLISH THE NATHALIE P. VOORHEES CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD  
AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, COLLEGE OF URBAN PLANNING AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and  
Community Improvement, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs recommends approval of the establishment of the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement.

The Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement (Voorhees Center) is a technical assistance and applied research unit in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for all residents in Chicago, the region, the State, and nationwide by engaging and working with community organizations, government entities, residents, and other stakeholders to assist in their efforts to revitalize the many and varied communities. The Voorhees Center has redefined its central focus on affordable housing through a new interdisciplinary approach that weaves the core issues of affordable housing into a new, holistic, and comprehensive community development “tapestry” of jobs, economic development, transportation, education, safety, health, and the environment.

The Voorhees Center was started in 1978 with an endowment of \$1.2 million dollars by Mr. Alan Voorhees in the name of his wife, Mrs. Nathalie P. Voorhees. The Voorhees Center became a stand-alone center with its own director from 1981 through 1992. In 1992, it became a program within the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED), sharing staff and facilities with CUED. Over the years, the activities of the Center have been increasingly expanding, and its identity as an applied research and technical assistance public service Center is widely recognized both in the Chicago Region and nationwide. It is important that the unit be once again formally recognized as a Center in order to continue as a strong entity, able to fulfill the purpose for which it was established by its benefactor. The Voorhees Center functions as a fully independent unit.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.