Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 21, 2022

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Board Meeting

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RENAME STEPHEN DOUGLAS HALL, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename Stephen Douglas Hall

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Interim Vice President, University of Illinois System recommends for approval a proposal to rename the Stephen Douglas Hall as the Frederick Douglass Hall. This proposed change is in line with recommendations from the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Engagement.

The renaming is sought to fortify UIC’s efforts to promote organizational culture and structure, grounded in access, equity, and inclusion principles. Senator Stephen Douglas’ values and principles were incongruent with the culture at UIC. UIC seeks to create an inclusive learning environment and address critical social issues to advance the city of Chicago.

Former slave, abolitionist, and social reformer Frederick Douglass, advocated for equality for all people. The university celebrates Mr. Douglass’s values and the role he played during one of the most challenging times in our nation’s history with the proposed renaming.

This change is in alignment with UIC’s identity as a federally designated Minority Serving Institution (MSI) that has been recognized as the highest in the Midwest and 13th nationally for the diversity of its students and faculty[[1]](#footnote-1). The UIC Senate endorsed the renaming, in accordance with the Guidelines for Honorific Names of Campus Facilities, in recognition of Mr. Douglass’s contributions to the public life of the nation[[2]](#footnote-2).

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 President of the University of Illinois System concurs.

1. “Top Colleges in the Midwest for Diversity,” *The Wall Street Journal*.

   <https://www.wsj.com/articles/top-colleges-in-the-midwest-for-diversity-11620240581> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Minutes of the UIC Senate Meeting, March 2, 2022. <https://senate.uic.edu/documents-library/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)