

America's Urban Campus®

1 East Jackson Blvd. Ste. 2006, Chicago, IL 60604 | www.americasurbancampus.org

Memorandum: To the Lori Lightfoot Mayoral Transition

Date: May 1, 2019

Name: America's Urban Campus®

**Contact: David Baker, Executive Director, Dbaker25@depaul.edu,
(C) 773.519.1440**

**Transition Committees: Economic, Business and Community Development;
Public Safety and Health**

Member Institutions

Adler University
The Chicago School of Professional
Psychology
Chicago State University
City Colleges of Chicago
Columbia College Chicago
DePaul University
East-West University
Illinois Institute of Technology
The John Marshall Law School
Loyola University Chicago
National Louis University
North Park University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Robert Morris University
Roosevelt University
Rush University
Saint Xavier University
School of the Art Institute of
Chicago
University of Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago

Executive Director:

David E. Baker

(c) 773.519.1440

Dbaker25@depaul.edu

A potential initiative:

Chicago's colleges and universities will consider how to leverage their presence in the neighborhoods to support Mayor Lightfoot's strategic initiatives to improve economic activity and reduce violence.

How the new administration can infuse the values of equity, transparency, accountability, diversity and inclusion, and transformation in that initiative:

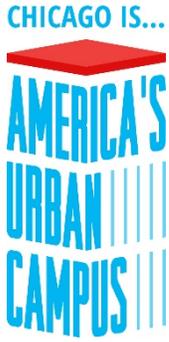
Chicago's higher education institutions have a long tradition of working for these values through their faculty, students, research center and community engagement offices. But until now, they have worked largely independently of each other. Mayor Lightfoot and her staff can leverage these resources working with America's Urban Campus® to infuse these values into their working together in partnership with neighborhood and community groups.

What is happening today that we need to keep?

In 2017, America's Urban Campus® (AUC) hosted a workshop on the root causes of violence in the city, and the role of higher education in addressing these causes. As part of this project, AUC produced a "Snapshot" of the programs then operating in the neighborhoods: <https://www.americasurbancampus.org/institutional-snapshot.html> AUC also produced a "heat map" locating the programs geographically that will soon be on the website. This work will provide the foundation for an "On the Table" conversation on May 14, 2019 among AUC members regarding the best approach to leveraging our collective work in the neighborhoods for the benefit of the city.

What we need to implement in the next 100 days:

AUC will report the outcome of these conversations to the Lightfoot Administration in the form of a more detailed memo. Our universities will look to see how these resources and initiative can complement the Mayor's new strategic initiatives this summer.



America's Urban Campus®

1 East Jackson Blvd. Ste. 2006, Chicago, IL 60604 | www.americasurbancampus.org

continued page 2

What we can plan for longer-term implementation:

Longer term, the Lightfoot Administration has the opportunity to link the current and future university-based youth enrichment and education programs, support for neighborhood organizations and research projects into geographically specific strategic initiatives for the neighborhoods. This has never been attempted before. AUC provides the mechanism to support the collective activity of the universities.

What challenges we might encounter in executing on this initiative:

There are always issues of concern over turf, funding, and competition among the various institutions. However, in light of the seriousness of the issues our communities face, our higher education institutions are much more willing to collaborate and have already worked together on producing the data base of community activity.

Member Institutions

Adler University
The Chicago School of Professional
Psychology
Chicago State University
City Colleges of Chicago
Columbia College Chicago
DePaul University
East-West University
Illinois Institute of Technology
The John Marshall Law School
Loyola University Chicago
National Louis University
North Park University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Robert Morris University
Roosevelt University
Rush University
Saint Xavier University
School of the Art Institute of
Chicago
University of Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago

Executive Director:

David E. Baker

(c) 773.519.1440

Dbaker25@depaul.edu