

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026



Reception and Seating

Schools distribute cords upon arrival.

Grads leave items at their seats while enjoying the space.

Program Begins

Day-in-the-Life Early College Video

Welcome by emcee, **Tiffany Seay**, Early College STEM Initiative Manager, Chicago Public Schools

*Introduction by **Rigoberto** from Solorio HS*

*Introduction by **Johnathan** from Corliss HS*

Remarks from **Veronica Herrero**, Executive Vice Chancellor - Chief Institutional Advancement Officer and Chief of Staff, City Colleges of Chicago

*Introduction by **Arame** from Peace and Education HS*

Remarks from **Dr. Megan Hougard**, Chief of College and Career Success, Chicago Public Schools

Associate Degree Plaque Presentation and Cording Ceremony

Plaques honor the Associate Degree Milestone | Gold Cords honor the 30+ Credit Milestone |

Blue Cords honor the 15+ Credit Milestone

A school representative will read the earners for their school from the following colleges:

DeVry, Dominican, Malcolm X, Truman, Wright, Olive-Harvey, Kennedy-King, Harold Washington, Daley

Photographs and Fun

Schools may take group photos and enjoy the space.

Lunch Distribution and Board Busses

Graduates may grab a boxed lunch as they depart.



Honor Cords

Students wearing blue cords recognize their achievement of earning the 15+ Credit Milestone through dual credit and dual enrollment early college courses.

Students wearing gold cords recognize their achievement of earning the 30+ Credit Milestone through dual credit and dual enrollment early college courses.

City Colleges of Chicago associate degree earners may be wearing platinum cords that they wore at the City Colleges of Chicago Commencement ceremony earlier this month. The Platinum cord recognizes their achievement as Early College graduates who earned their associate degrees while still in high school.

Special Recognition

Thank you to the early college staff across CPS, City Colleges, DeVry, and Dominican who volunteered their time and efforts to plan and produce the 2026 Early College Milestone Celebration.

