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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
March 27, 2014

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Ford Secures Funding for West Side NAACP High School Program

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – To help give students the resources that they need to succeed in the classroom, state Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, helped secure \$300,000 for an NAACP achievement program for high-school seniors on the west side of Chicago.

“From dangerous neighborhoods to crowded classrooms, students in our community face a very different school experience than many of their peers,” Ford said. “On the west side of Chicago, African-American children are faced with adversities that make it more difficult for them to excel, and the ACT-SO program sponsored by the NAACP can help give our students assistance with coursework and provide them with the added support to help them graduate and go to college. The West Side has a lot of talented and smart people that we must support and help them achieve their goals in life.”

The NAACP’s Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics program (ACT-SO) is a year-long achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. ACT-SO includes 26 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, business and performing and visual arts. More than 260,000 young people have participated from the program.

“When black males continue to have the highest dropout rate in Chicago Public Schools year after year, we are dealing with a crisis,” Ford said. “We must identify the obstacles that keep many African-American students from achieving their full potential, and help them overcome these challenges. This grant will help us attain a more level playing field so that everyone has an equal opportunity to receive a quality education.”

For more information, please contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or 239-E Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

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