

Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
Aug. 21, 2021

For More Information:
RepFord@LaShawnFord.com
773-416-4663

Ford, House Committees to Push Trade School Investment in Illinois

CHICAGO – As part of efforts to emphasize the need to reinvest in trade schools, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will lead a joint hearing of the House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee and House Higher Education Committee this Monday, Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. virtually and in-person at the Bilandic Building in Chicago.

Ford believes that our traditional educational system leaves too many people behind and locks them out of the mainstream economy. Therefore, we must connect them to new opportunities that give people hope and can end the ongoing violence in Chicago.

"Just in the last week, I was able to tour an aviation trade school in Chicago – the Aviation Institute of Maintenance – that trains mechanics for United, American, Southwest, and also meet with an Illinois trade school – Escoffier School of Culinary Arts – which is headquartered in Schaumburg and trains chefs and culinary professionals," Ford said. "Trade schools should be a foundational part of our education system, opening doors for young adults to pursue well-paying careers in demand."

Ford notes that Illinois had a long tradition of effective vocational schools, including Chicago's Washburne Trade School, which served to train thousands of skilled workers through a public-private partnership with public educators, building contractors and trade unions. Monday's hearing will discuss the possibility of how Illinois can reinstitute trade schools and reengage young adults to consider a trade career. Representatives from area unions are expected to speak at the hearing.

"While college can be a tremendous path for many, it doesn't have to be the only way to have a successful future," Ford said. "There is a need for a renaissance of trade schools here in Illinois, and it's time we begin to invest in this economic generator that will profoundly impact communities across our state."

To follow the committee online, please visit <https://ilga.gov/houseaudvid.asp>.

Who: State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, Higher Education Committee, AFL-CIO, CISCO, HIRE 360, GROmentum Lab, DCEO

What: Committee hearing on trade schools in Illinois

When: Monday, Aug. 23; 10 a.m.

Where: Virtually (<https://ilga.gov/houseaudvid.asp>) and in-person at the Bilandic Building's 6th floor hearing room; 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago

###