



## *News Release*

### **LAMELL McMORRIS ELECTED AS TRUSTEE OF ELMHURST COLLEGE Founder, CEO of Perennial Strategy Group will begin Three-Year Term July 1**

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**ELMHURST, Ill., June 1, 2009** – Following a unanimous vote during its 2009 spring meeting, the Elmhurst College board of trustees has added a new member to its ranks.

Effective July 1, 2009, Lamell McMorris will join the College's board.

Recognized by *Ebony* magazine as one of the top "30 leaders of the future, age 30 and under," and included on *Washington Life Magazine's* "Power List" of influential people in Washington, D.C., Lamell McMorris is the founder and CEO of Perennial Strategy Group, a consulting firm that specializes in government relations, public affairs, global diversity, and management consulting for Fortune 500 companies, non-profits and trade organizations.

"I am very excited by the addition of Lamell McMorris to our board," said Elmhurst College President S. Alan Ray. "He brings an entrepreneur's spirit and a heart and mind committed to social justice."

McMorris, the former Executive Director and CEO of Southern Christian Leadership Conference and current NAACP Trustee, has worked under the tutelage of and served as a Senior Advisor to the nation's foremost civil rights leaders and advocates (*e.g.*, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition). McMorris was hand-picked by Martin Luther King III to serve as executive director and chief operating officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference – a position once held by Martin Luther King Jr. He has also worked with prominent civil rights organizations and non-profits (NAACP, National Action Network and Chicago Urban League's Youth Development Initiative) to create career opportunities for minority youth and to empower urban communities across the country.

Lamell McMorris has few peers when it comes to his passion for justice, equality and the empowerment of all people, and those principles were the driving force that led him to found Perennial Strategy Group. McMorris is also the founder of Perennial Law Group and

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Perennial Sports and Entertainment. He holds a M.Div. with a concentration in social ethics and public policy from Princeton Theological Seminary and a B.A. from Morehouse College, where his studies focused on religion and society.

“Lamell’s fine personal qualities and impressive professional achievements will serve as models to our students,” said Ray. “I am sure he will open many doors for the College, and through him, we will make new friends in business and government at the highest levels.”

For more information, visit [www.elmhurst.edu](http://www.elmhurst.edu) or call (630) 617-6148.

Elmhurst College is a premier comprehensive college in metropolitan Chicago. For 138 years, the College has sought to prepare students superbly – for their first jobs, and for lifetimes of personal and professional fulfillment.

Founded in 1871, Elmhurst College is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.