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MEDIA ADVISORY

RUSH, DAVIS & GARCIA SOUND ALARM AS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CRISIS PLAGUES ILLINOIS
IL Employers Hunt For Workers While Tens of Thousands of Youth Are Out of School & Jobless

WHAT: U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush, U.S. Congressman Danny Davis and Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia will join the **Alternative Schools Network (ASN)** on Monday to highlight the release of its first-ever report on Illinois’ youth joblessness. The report sheds light on the joblessness struggles of rural and urban African America, Latino and White Illinois youth who face a lack of education and job opportunities.

While the latest figures show that 250,000 people dropped out of the labor market and employers scour the job market for entry-level workers, hundreds of thousands of older teens and young adults who could fill those positions are sitting on the sidelines, according to the latest in a series of ASN-commissioned studies on the youth employment crisis in Chicago, Cook County and now Illinois, including a national comparative analysis.

Produced by **The Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago**, the report is the first of its kind to view a state’s jobless and out of school situation for 16 to 24-year olds broken out by race and gender. The report will address the growing economic challenges not only for urban and suburban youth and young adults, but also the **often forgotten and ignored but still suffering youth and young adults in predominantly white downstate cities and rural areas of Illinois**. Case studies cover Peoria, Tazewell, Kankakee and Sangamon counties.

WHO: News Conference speakers feature:

- **U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-IL-1**
- **U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, D-IL-7**
- **Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, D-7**
- **Alma Anaya, Democratic candidate for Cook County Commissioner**
- **Teresa Córdova, Director, Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago**
- **Jack Wuest, Executive Director, Alternative Schools Network**
- **Young Illinois residents**
- **Business leaders and owners**

WHEN: 10 a.m., Monday, May 14, 2018

WHERE: Innovations High School, 17 N. State St, 2nd Floor, Chicago

WHY: Companies across the nation are voicing frustration with the paucity of potential workers seeking employment. “Worker Shortage Dogs Midwest,” the Wall Street Journal said on April 2. Meanwhile, more than 4.5 million 16 to 24 year olds across the country are jobless and out of school, thus not acquiring the education and work preparation and work-related skills that will help them become productive workers. For more information go to <http://www.asnchicago.org/>.

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