



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

Office of Communications • 1630 Metropolitan Parkway, SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30310

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2018

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Atlanta Metropolitan State College Focuses on the Environment

Atlanta (Aug. 30) – With the wealth of knowledge held within higher education institutions, colleges and universities are well-positioned to make a positive impact on protecting the environment. Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) is doing its part to ensure a healthy environment for its students and for metropolitan Atlanta communities, projects, and partnerships throughout the greater Atlanta area.

“Higher education plays a vital role in ensuring healthy and viable communities for students who are our future community leaders, residents, and environmental justice advocates,” noted AMSC Executive in Residence and former EPA Region 4 Deputy Regional Administrator Valeria Anne Heard, J.D.

AMSC is currently involved in three projects/partnerships that demonstrate its commitment to the environment: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP); the Environmental Justice Academy; and the United Nations Greater Atlanta Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

CUPP

CUPP partners colleges with underserved communities that are close in proximity to provide technical assistance to address environmental concerns. College curriculum goals are combined with EPA environmental concerns and partner agency mission goals. Communities receive much-needed technical assistance and students get practical experience using knowledge gained from the curriculum to address environmental concerns. The EPA and its partner agencies see an effective and efficient use of their resources to address environmental concerns. CUPP’s goal is also to foster long-term relationships between communities and their local colleges and universities.

About Atlanta Metropolitan State College:

Founded in 1974, Atlanta Metropolitan State College – a four-year institution located in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia – offers bachelor’s and associates degrees, as well as some certificates, in 42 programs of study, including business, mathematics and computer science; humanities and fine arts; natural sciences and social sciences. Atlanta Metro serves the needs of all of its students through a traditional day program, a Morning, Evening, and Weekend College, and online. For more information, please visit: atlm.edu.



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At AMSC, through the division of science, mathematics, and health professions, CUPP has partnered with the Cities of East Point and Riverdale, Georgia. In East Point, students have worked with the city's water treatment plant to help with water analysis. In Riverdale, students are working on a project called the Recovery & Revitalization of the Urban Infrastructure. This project involves four teams with four students each. Students use drones to survey vacant properties and assess the feasibility of refurbishing abandoned homes and occupying those homes with federal employees, first responders, and/or government workers in an attempt to revitalize the neighborhood and provide stability to those communities. Drones will also be used for environmental sampling and to provide students an opportunity to apply science principles using drones.

Environmental Justice Academy

The Environmental Justice Academy, formally led by the EPA, is a nine-month leadership development program for community leaders to become certified in identifying and addressing community concerns regarding the environment and public health. The program focuses on the need for local leaders, members, and stakeholders to work together to bring positive change to their communities.

AMSC, through Professor Kenja McCray, Ph.D. and Attorney Heard, will be at the helm of the academy. AMSC's leadership goal is for the academy to continue to thrive and grow in a central location to the communities it serves in Atlanta. AMSC currently partners with the EPA, the Center for Sustainable Communities, and the Atlanta Metro Food & Farm Network.

The Academy is open to anyone in the metropolitan Atlanta area, whether they be a student, community activist, professional, professor, or those who wish to launch an on-going environmental justice or sustainability project. Some of the environmental/sustainability concerns in Atlanta are access to quality food, contamination of creeks and streams, and fighting corporate pollution.

For more information on how to participate in the Environmental Justice Academy, please contact Dr. Kenja McCray at kmccray@atlm.edu. The Environmental Justice Academy is a collaborative project of the Greater Atlanta RCE.

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Greater Atlanta RCE

Earlier this year, the United Nations formally recognized the United States' sixth regional sustainability network. The network, the Greater Atlanta Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), is a collaboration of Atlanta institutions of higher learning which pools expertise and resources to maximize sustainable development achievements. The mission of the Greater Atlanta RCE is to accelerate student and community sustainable development leadership by reorienting existing education towards sustainability. The RCE achieves this objective by leveraging a network of institutions of higher education and other sustainability stakeholders to connect and accelerate diverse collaborations.

The Greater Atlanta RCE is co-chaired by Georgia Tech, Spelman College, and Emory University and governed by representatives from AMSC, University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University, Clark-Atlanta University, CARE, Atlanta Food & Farm Network, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta Regional Commission, and other stakeholders.

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