



**ATLANTA METROPOLITAN COLLEGE**

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**Reverend Joseph Lowery to deliver**

**Atlanta Metropolitan College's Honors Day Address**

**College will Honor the Academic Accomplishments of Students**

**Atlanta, Georgia** — April 9, 2012 —Atlanta Metropolitan College will celebrate its Annual Honors Day on Tuesday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Physical Education Gymnasium. This event will honor the academic accomplishments of more than 200 students. Of the 2012 honorees, one student will be given the honorary title of University System of Georgia Academic Recognition Day Scholar.

Introduced in 1975, Honors Day is the occasion when students who have achieved academic excellence are honored by academic officers and members of the faculty. The Honors Day Celebration includes a processional of student honorees, presentation of medallions to Distinguished College Scholars by academic officers, inspirational messages and celebratory music.

Reverend Joseph Lowery will deliver the 2012 Honors Day Program Address. Reverend Joseph Lowery was born in Huntsville, Alabama. Considered the dean of the civil rights movement .He attended Knoxville College, Payne College and Theological Seminary, and the Chicago Ecumenical Institute. Lowery earned his doctorate of divinity as well.

Lowery began his work with civil rights in the early 1950s in Mobile, Alabama, where he headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an organization devoted to the desegregation of buses and public places. In 1957, Lowery and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and Lowery was named vice president. In 1965, he was named chairman of the delegation to take demands of the Selma to Montgomery March to Alabama's governor at the time, George Wallace.

Lowery is a co-founder and former president of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of black advocacy groups. The Forum began protesting apartheid in South Africa in the mid-1970s and continued until the election of Nelson Mandela.

After serving his community for more than forty-five years, Lowery retired from the pulpit in 1997. He also retired in January of 1998 from the SCLC as president and CEO. Despite his retirement, Lowery still remains active. He works to encourage African Americans to vote, and recorded a rap with artist NATE the Great to help spread this message.

Lowery has received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. *Ebony* has twice named him as one of the Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers.

In January 2009 Lowery delivered the benediction for the inaugural ceremony of U.S. president Barack Obama. Lowery is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right.

For more information, please contact Sheila Tenney, Director of Media Relations, at (404) 756-4012 or at [stenney@atlm.edu](mailto:stenney@atlm.edu).

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*Founded in 1974, Atlanta Metropolitan College is a unit of the University System of Georgia. All courses offered by AMC are transferrable to senior-level colleges and universities.*