



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sonja Roberts

PHONE: 404-756-3896

Family of Founding President Gifts AMSC \$125,000 for Continuation Scholarships

Atlanta (Oct. 8) – Since the founding of Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) as Atlanta Junior College, the Thompson family has been integral in the success of students in metropolitan Atlanta. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. was the founding president of AMSC when classes began in September 1974 and served in that role for 20 years.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, Edwin A. Thompson, Jr. presented AMSC with the largest gift in its 44-year history in the amount of \$125,000 at the AMC Foundation’s annual Celebration of Leadership (COL) Awards. COL raises funds for need-based continuation scholarships to help AMSC students remain in college.

“How fitting that this donation comes from the college’s founding family,” said AMSC President Dr. Gary McGaha during the awards. “This gift is the premier example of the impact and opportunity for which this college is renowned.”

Also, in attendance representing the Thompson family was Founding First Lady Ernestine Y. Thompson and Karen Thompson, daughter of Edwin and Ernestine Thompson.

Students receiving funds raised at COL are typically within a semester of graduating and in need of financial assistance to continue their education. Funds needed can often be as little as \$250.

The COL Awards honors outstanding community citizens, recognizing them for their incredible record of leadership, service, and generosity which has made a lasting difference in metropolitan Atlanta and beyond. This year’s recipients were Antioch Baptist Church North Co-pastor Rev. Kenneth Alexander, GBI Director Vernon Keenan, Regent Emeritus Elridge McMillan, APD Chief Erika Shields, and Willie A. Watkins, chief executive officer of Willie Watkins Funeral Home, Inc.

About the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc.:

The Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc. is a Georgia non-profit corporation with the expressed purpose of receiving, investing, and administering private support for Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC). A board of directors comprised of community, civic, corporate leaders and college administrators provide guidance for investing and managing charitable gifts to maximize the gift’s value to the College. The Foundation operates for the express purpose of supporting Atlanta Metropolitan State College in fundraising, external friend building, establishing and building an endowment, and in addressing the academic priorities of the institution, while understanding and supporting AMSC’s mission, goals, and priorities.

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: atm.edu.



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Special recognitions were given to State Farm Agency Owner Veronica Adadevoh '80 and Clayton County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Morcease Beasley for their dedication to education.



AMSC President Gary McGaha receiving AMSC's largest financial gift in its history from Edwin A. Thompson, Jr., son of Founding President Edwin A. Thompson, Sr.
Pictured (l to r): Skip Vaughan, AMC Foundation board chair; Edwin A. Thompson, Jr., Dr. Gary McGaha.

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The Thompson Family with AMSC President Gary McGaha.

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