

Investiture Ceremony of

INGRID N. THOMPSON-SELLERS, PH.D.

Fifth President of Atlanta Metropolitan State College

Friday, February 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Atlanta Metropolitan State College, an access institution of the University System of Georgia, educates students from diverse backgrounds by providing affordable, career-focused bachelor's and associate degree programs. The College offers student-centered instruction, civic/community engagement, and quality services that lead to the success of its inter-generational 21st century graduates.

VISION STATEMENT

To build a **strong community** focused on providing **high quality** educational opportunities and **positive experiences** for everyone who comes to us, while being **fully engaged** in the communities that we serve.

Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers



Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers has more than 30 years of experience in higher education with almost her entire career spent in service with the University System of Georgia (USG). The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia named Dr. Thompson-Sellers the fifth president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College, effective Feb. 1, 2023.

President Thompson-Sellers earned her bachelor's degree in physics from The University of the West Indies (Mona Campus, Jamaica), a master's degree in telecommunications from Iona University, and a doctoral degree in instructional technology from Georgia State University. She also holds a graduate certificate in analytics from Johns Hopkins University.

Prior to joining the **Trailblazer** family, Dr. Thompson-Sellers served as president of South Georgia State College (SGSC), where she established new initiatives to increase enrollment, reduce expenditures and enhance the college's technology infrastructure.

Over the course of her diverse professional career, President Thompson-Sellers has served in an array of roles at Georgia State University as well as the former Georgia Perimeter College, now part of Georgia State University. She previously taught at her Alma Mater, Iona University in New Rochelle, New York.

President Thompson-Sellers has received numerous awards and commendations, and is a 2024 recipient of the Paragon Award for New Presidents by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK). She recently completed her term as a board of trustee with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and currently serves on the board of trustees for Iona University, the ATL Airport Chamber, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA).

A recognized leader, President Thompson-Sellers is a champion of faculty and student success initiatives; civic engagement; and experiential learning. She always puts students first and seeks to engage in strategic partnerships to advance the mission and vision of Atlanta Metropolitan State College. She is diligently working to transform our legacy as we mark our historical significance and contributions over these past 50 years looking ahead to the future

HISTORY OF ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

In June 1965, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized a junior college for the west metropolitan area of Atlanta at an undesignated location. After a great deal of discussion, the Atlanta School Board and the Board of Regents made the decision to build the college on land under the jurisdiction of the Atlanta Board of Education.

The Atlanta School Board authorized its Superintendent in February 1971 to develop a financial plan to build the new college. On October 9, 1972, the Board of Regents reconfirmed, in principle, the construction of the college. In February 1973, the Board of Regents authorized the plans and specifications for Phase I of the construction at a projected cost of \$2 million. Construction began on the first building in 1973 and was completed in August 1974.

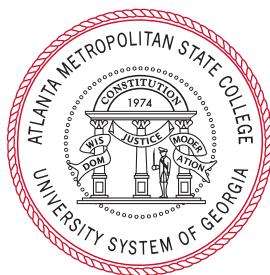
The college became the thirty-first institution of the University System of Georgia and began classes in September 1974 with an initial enrollment of 504 students. The college, Atlanta Junior College, was accredited in 1976 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). During the 1976–77 academic year, the Central Energy Plant construction was completed. In 1978–79, two multi-level academic buildings were added to the resources of the college: an Academic Classroom Building and the College Library.

The 1987–1988 academic year brought the decision to change the institution's name from Atlanta Junior College to Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC), with the permanent transition becoming effective July 1, 1988. A new Health and Physical Education Complex was completed and occupied during the 1991–92 academic year, and a new Student Center was completed during the Fall 2000 semester.

On May 10, 2011, the Board of Regents approved a substantive and mission change for Atlanta Metropolitan College to offer the bachelor's degree. In December 2011, the SACS-COC approved AMC for a status change from a Level I to Level II institution to offer the bachelor's degree. The name of the institution was changed to Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) on May 8, 2012, and the new Elridge W. McMillan Academic Sciences Building opened in August of 2012.

On May 20, 2013, an official ceremony was held to rename the newly expanded and renovated AMSC Student Center to the Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Student Activity Center in honor of Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., the founding president of the college. The new Student Services and Success Center opened in Spring 2018 to further meet the needs of students via a One-Stop-Shop experience. The first Commencement for graduates of Atlanta Metropolitan State College was held on May 3, 2013, and the first bachelor degrees were awarded May 9, 2014.

In addition to Associate Degree Programs, Baccalaureate Degree Programs can now be completed in Business Administration, Digital Media and Entertainment, Biological Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership. The college also offers a 2+2 partnership in Teacher Education in collaboration with both Clayton State University and Kennesaw State University.



CELEBRATING

50 Years

1974-2024

Investiture Ceremony of Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.

THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Processional* | “New Cotillions, Yorktown”
Composed by Francis Johnson

Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance
Atlanta Police Department Honor Guard

National Anthem* | “The Star-Spangled Banner”
Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, Composed by John Stafford Smith

Welcome | James McGee, III, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Student Success

Invocation & Greetings on behalf of the Students | Juliette Seymour
*Phi Theta Kappa / Beta Beta Tau Chapter President — 2023–2024
and Georgia Regional Officer*

Greetings on behalf of the Faculty | Babatunde Onabanjo, Ph.D.
Chair, AMSC Faculty Senate

Musical Selection | “Alma Mater”
Lyrics by Ojeda Penn
Rearrangement by Val Parker, *Lecturer of Music, Accompanist*
Dr. Brian Crawford, *Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology, Trumpeter*
Tocarro Combs, *Director, Student Life & Leadership, Soloist*
Alexandria Powers, *Student Government Association (SGA) Secretary, Soloist*

Greetings on behalf of the Staff | Dakiesha Pickett
Assistant Vice President of Business Services

Greetings from Around the Globe
Regent Harold Reynolds
Chair, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

The Honorable Nan Orrock
Georgia State Senator, District 36

The Honorable Andre Dickens
61st Mayor of the City of Atlanta

Dr. John M. Fuchko, III
President, Dalton State College



THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The Honorable Antonio Lewis
Atlanta City Council, District 12

Skip Vaughan
Chairman, AMC Foundation Board of Directors

Leisa Stafford
President, AMSC Alumni Association

K. Joy Peters
Convener, AMSC Retiree Association



The DIVAs: Graduate Studies Colleagues:
Dana Smith Bryant, Ph.D.
Valora Richardson, Ph.D.
Anissa Lokey Vega, Ph.D.

Danielle Haik & Torrence Sellers
Daughter & Son of Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers

50th Year Recognition | Carolyn Harmon
Library Assistant III

Investiture Ceremony and Medallion Presentation | Dr. Sonny Perdue
Chancellor, University System of Georgia

Investiture Address | Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.
President, Atlanta Metropolitan State College

Benediction | Reverend Dr. Leland L. Jones, Sr.
Senior Pastor, Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church

Recessional* | “Philadelphia Gray’s Quickstep”
Composed by Francis Johnson

**The audience is requested to stand.*

Please join us for a luncheon reception following the ceremony.





PRESIDENTIAL REGALIA

Presidential regalia are unique among academic vestments in that they symbolize the president's rank and authority as the chief official of the institution – rather than reflecting the individual's academic credentials. There are four velvet bars, known as chevrons, on the sleeve of presidential regalia. Standard robes have only three. College and university presidents wear their distinctive regalia when participating in official college/university ceremonies and convocations. The presidential robe is also worn when representing the institution in official academic occasions at other universities.

The presidential regalia is in the Atlanta Metropolitan State College colors of red and black and features three-inch embroidered metallic silver panels with the college seal.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The Atlanta Metropolitan State College Presidential Medallion is one of the grand traditions of higher education symbolizing the eminence, authority and responsibilities of the Office of the President. The medallion, bearing the college seal is presented during the inauguration of the President. It is worn by the President when she wears academic regalia for formal ceremonies.

Created by Medalcraft Mint, Inc., the design for the medallion features an engraving of the college seal. The three-inch medallion is cast in antique nickel metal with a red enamel inlay. The medallion is suspended from a nickel oval chain and bears the names of the college's past presidents.

TRAILBLAZER PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY

Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., Ed.D. (1974–1994)

Harold E. Wade, Ph.D. (1994–2006)

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D. (2007–2019)

Georj L. Lewis, Ed.D. (2019–2023)

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D. (2023–Present)



ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The academic attire worn by faculty and graduates is the official and traditional dress for graduation ceremonies throughout the United States and in many other countries of the world. Its history may be traced to Europe's 12th century, when scholars found it necessary to wear gowns and hoods for warmth in the unheated buildings where they worked. Today, the academic regalia identifies each member of the academic community by degree, academic field, and awarding institution.

The gowns, which may be worn open or closed, have front facings of velvet. The velvet trim indicates the field of study. Doctors wear silk hoods four feet in length with a silk lining and a five-inch velvet binding; the color of the silk lining indicates the field of study. The cap for the doctor's degree is a black velvet mortar-board with a gold tassel.

Gowns for masters are silk, wool, or similar material. The master's gown, which is worn closed, has full-length, oblong sleeves with a crescent-shaped piece hanging from the sleeve base. These sleeves were originally used as a combination pocket and purse. The master wears hoods three-and-one-half feet long with three-inch velvet bindings. The color symbolism of the lining and velvet is the same as for the doctoral hood.

Baccalaureate and associate degree gowns are made of cotton or worsted with long, pointed sleeves and a single button at the neck. They are worn closed. Women may wear white collars. Caps for masters, bachelors, and associates are in the form of mortar-boards and are cotton poplin or similar material. The tassels are generally black, although tassels for masters and bachelors may be in the color of the academic discipline.

Black is the official color for all gowns; however, some institutions have adopted doctoral gowns in the color of the awarding institution.

The ornamental braid draped over the shoulder of some of the graduates is called a fourragère. Derived from French military tradition, it is used by Atlanta Metropolitan State College to give special recognition to those students graduating with honors.





ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic dress worn for ceremonies originated during the Middle Ages when university classrooms were unheated, and the gown and hood kept scholars warm. It became a distinctive symbol of academic pursuit, setting apart the academic community. The gown became standardized in 1894 when the American Intercollegiate Commission determined that all robes would be black. The master’s degree robe is characterized by long, closed sleeves, while the gown for the doctoral degree features a facing of velvet from the hem to the neck and back, with three velvet bands around each sleeve above the elbow. The traditional hood, also black, is the most distinctive feature of academic attire. The hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution granting the academic degree and is trimmed in velvet in a color representing the field of study.

**AS PRESCRIBED BY THE REVISED AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE CODE,
THE COLOR ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Maize.....	Agriculture	Gold.....	Mathematics
Blue Violet	Architecture	Kelly Green	Medicine
White.....	Arts and Letters	Pink.....	Music
Drab.....	Business	Apricot.....	Nursing
Midnight Blue.....	Criminal Justice	Silver Gray	Oratory
Lilac.....	Dentistry	Olive Green.....	Pharmacy
Brown	Digital Media and	Royal Blue.....	Philosophy
	Entertainment Design	Sage Green.....	Physical Education
Copper.....	Economics	Peacock Blue.....	Public Administration
Light Blue.....	Education	Salmon Pink.....	Public Health
Orange.....	Engineering	Golden Yellow	Science
White.....	History	Citron.....	Social Work
Maroon.....	Journalism	Scarlet	Theology
Purple	Law	Gray	Veterinary Science
Lemon.....	Library Science		





THE MACE

The mace had its origin in Medieval times when it was a club-like weapon used by knights and kings of Feudal Empires. Used as an instrument to communicate and designate authority, it has evolved over the centuries into a ceremonial instrument, symbolic of the Office of the President of academic institutions.

Traditionally, colleges and universities design and craft maces which symbolize and capture a theme or message central to their existence. A mace is used each year for academic processions and recessions to lead institutional presidents into and away from commencement and convocation exercises. It is normally carried by a faculty member selected by the president.

The Atlanta Metropolitan College Mace, which was donated by the Student Government Association, was designed and hand-carved from mahogany wood by Sabiha Mujtaba, a local woodworker, during the 1995 Fall Quarter. The silver detailing was done by a Russian silversmith named Gia. The current mace was first used in November 1995 during the inauguration of Dr. Harold E. Wade, the second president of Atlanta Metropolitan College, now Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

The mace is constructed from ebony wood imported from Africa. It is forty-one inches in circumference. The top forms the shape of the College logo. The center is covered with a sterling silver sleeve on which the names of the presidents of the college are engraved. The large and small circular carvings are visible even when the mace is stationed in its custom design.

GONFALONS

Academic gonfalons — banners suspended on a crossbar — are another piece of medieval history that have been incorporated into academic tradition that reflect a timeless style, incorporate the college's colors and represent the School of Business and Technology and the School of Arts and Sciences.



DELEGATES

- 1785

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Juanita Hicks, Ed.D.
*Senior Associate Vice President and
Chief Human Resources Officer*
- 1828

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Neil J. MacKinnon, Ph.D.
*Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost*
- 1852

GORDON STATE COLLEGE

Donald J. Green, Ed.D.
President
- 1884

MIDDLE GEORGIA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Christopher Blake, Ph.D.
President
- 1889

GEORGIA COLLEGE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY

Veronica Womack, Ph.D.
*Executive Director, Rural
Studies Institute*
- 1890

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

Cynthia Robinson Alexander, J.D.
Interim President
- 1895

FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Paul Jones, Ph.D.
President
- 1903

ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY

Marion Ross Fedrick, Ed.D.
President
- 1906

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Ryan D. Schroeder, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Behavioral
and Social Sciences*
- 1906

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Neal Weaver, Ph.D.
President
- 1906

SOUTH GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

Jimmy Harper, DScIT
*Vice President of Enrollment
Management and Information
Technology*
- 1906

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Ralitsa Akins, MD, Ph.D.
Vice Provost
- 1908

ABRAHAM BALDWIN
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Tracy Brundage, Ph.D.
President
- 1929

THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
CENTER CONSORTIUM

Said Sewell, Ph.D.
*Director, Academic, Research, and
Student Success*
- 1958

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Stuart Rayfield, Ed.D.
President
- 1961

COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA

Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D.
President
- 1963

DALTON STATE COLLEGE

John Fuchko, III, Ed.D.
President
- 1963

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Sheb True, Ph.D.
*Associate Vice Provost for Global
Engagement, Strategic Initiatives,
and Enrollment Services*
- 1967

ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Victoria Seals, Ed.D.
President
- 1969

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Georj L. Lewis, Ed.D.
President
- 1970

GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE

Mike Hobbs, Ph.D.
President
- 1973

EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

David L. Schechter, Ph.D.
President
- 2006

GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE

Mei Miranda Zhang, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Faculty

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Program Coordinator, Film & Entertainment Studies

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of President Thompson-Sellers and the entire **Trailblazer** Family, please accept our sincere thank you for joining us today — as we establish our bright legacy and mark our 50th anniversary of providing access to affordable, quality education in metro Atlanta.



ALMA MATER

Written by Lafayette Summers

Lyrics by Ojeda Penn

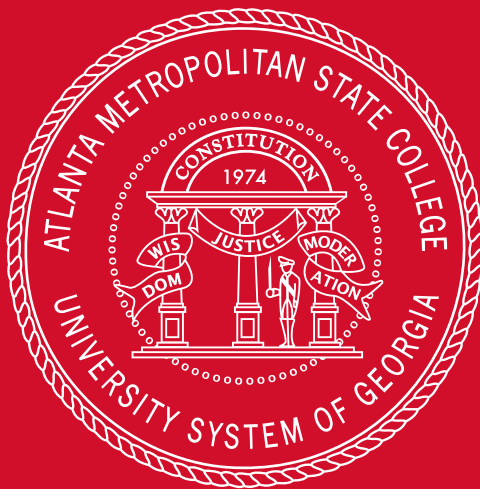
Rearrangement by Val Parker

We come here searching for our inner selves.
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain:
The fountain of knowledge,
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

We will long remember the smiling faces we met here.
We thank the Lord above for classmates
And those who guide us onward to our goals.

We come here searching for our inner selves.
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain;
The fountain of knowledge,
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan [State] College.

We hail our Alma Mater, Atlanta Metropolitan [State] College.



Celebrating 50 Years
1974–2024

Atlanta Metropolitan State College

1630 Metropolitan Pkwy, SW · Atlanta, Georgia 30310

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