

Edwin A. Thompson, Sr.
Student Activity Center

AMSC
45 *Triumphant
Years*
1974-2019
**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

**A T L A N T A
METROPOLITAN
STATE COLLEGE**

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

University System of Georgia

THE MCGAHA LEGACY:

Achievement, Impact, & Open Doors

After 12 years at the helm of the college, President Gary A. McGaha announced he would retire effective June 30, 2019. As the news hit the community, countless stories emerged about the lasting difference he made in so many lives; the unprecedented growth and distinction achieved under his watch; and the remarkable caring shown to every person who walked through his open door.

Before being named president in 2007, McGaha was appointed interim president. At that time the college's future was in serious doubt. But he arrived with a far-reaching, optimistic vision to transform the fledgling institution. And that he did.



President and Mrs. McGaha, February 2019. President McGaha received the John R. Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award from Gideon's Promise at the national organization's annual gala.

WHAT'S NEXT

USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley tapped Georgia Southern Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Georj Lewis as interim president effective July 1, 2019. A national search for President McGaha's replacement will be launched at a later date.

"President McGaha has led Atlanta Metropolitan State College with passion and distinction," said Wrigley. "During his tenure, he oversaw an expansion of degree programs and an increase in associate degree graduation rates. His constant presence and unwavering devotion to AMSC's students, faculty, and staff have made him a beloved figure to students, faculty and staff, alumni, and within the metro Atlanta community. On behalf of the Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia, I wish his family and him all the best on his well-deserved retirement. I'm also confident Dr. Lewis will provide strong and capable leadership to AMSC as interim president. I look forward to the continued success of this important Atlanta institution and its students." – USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley

The McGaha Presidency | 2007-2019

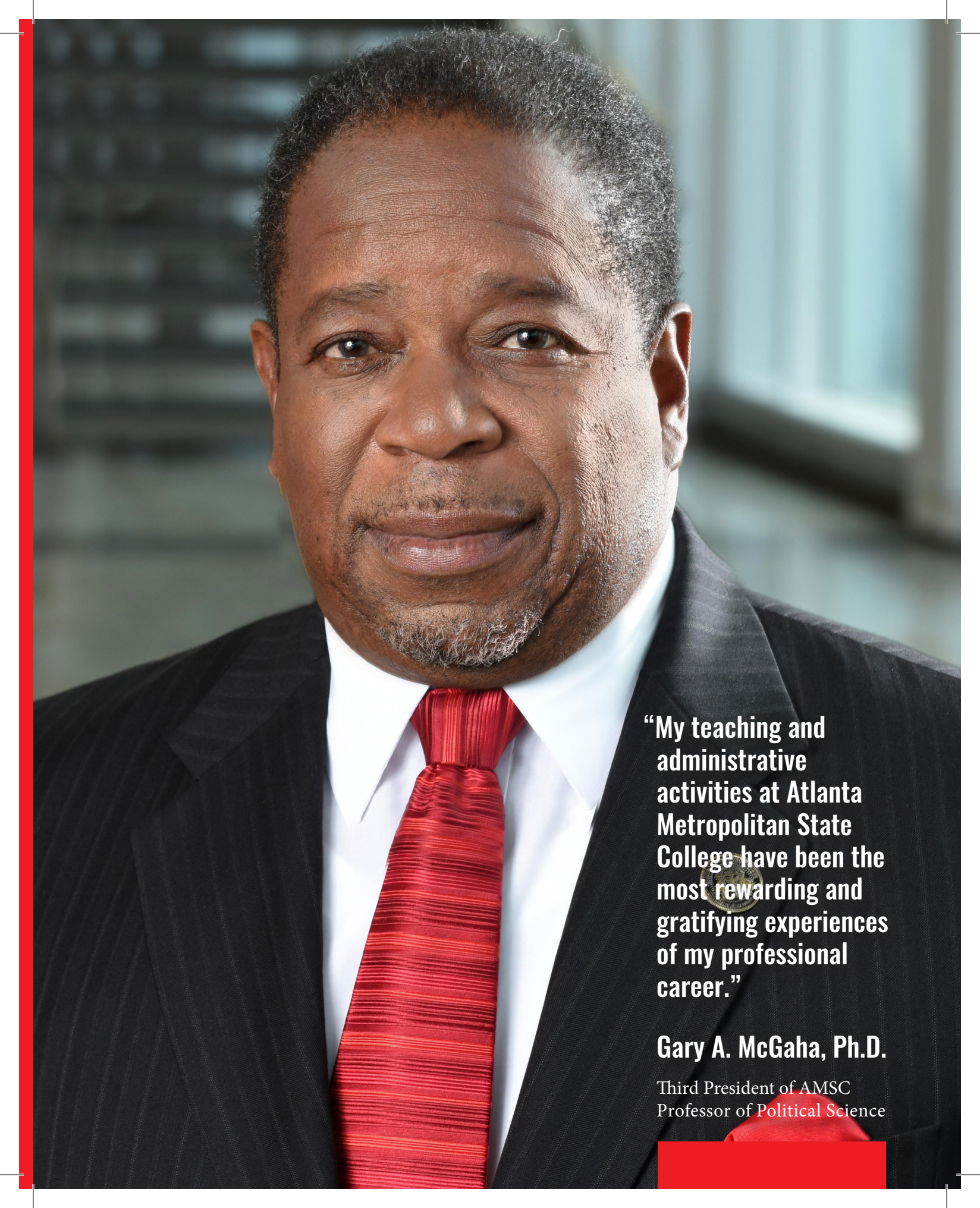
- \$45 million in new construction, campus infrastructure improvements, and a host of other major repairs and renovations
- Increased enrollment by 30%
- Earned approval from the University System of Georgia's (USG) Board of Regents to offer bachelor's degrees in 2011 and in 2012
- Oversaw the institution's name change from Atlanta Metropolitan College to Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- Increased baccalaureate degree programs offered
- Gained ground such that AMSC had the highest graduation rate in the USG for the associate degree in 2018 and 2019
- Established an impressive array of relationships with Atlanta community stakeholders and educational, corporate, governmental, bridge programs, faith-based organizations, and private partnerships
- Enhanced the campus with the addition of the Elridge W. McMillan Academic Sciences Building; renovated the Science Lecture Building; expanded the Edwin A. Thompson Sr. Student Center; and constructed a Student Services and Success Center
- Increased fundraising to record levels year after year. In 2018, more than \$400,000 was raised. As a result, 400 students were "saved" from having to drop out.
- Implemented a Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy to protect the quality of academic programs
- Reduced the financial aid default rate as well as the percentage of students receiving loans
- Created a branded slogan for the college: *"Believe, Begin, Become."*
- Changed the mascot from the Red Eyed Panthers to the Trailblazers

The McGaha Legacy Scholarship Fund

This fund has been established to honor President McGaha through the provision of need-based scholarships for deserving AMSC students. Please consider a gift today.

Ways to Donate

- Mail a check, made payable to AMC Foundation and with the word "McGaha" in the memo line, to:
AMC Foundation
1630 Metropolitan Parkway, SW
Atlanta, GA 30310
- By phone by calling 404.756.4666
- Give online by going to atlm.edu and clicking on the "GIVE" tab at the top right corner of the page.

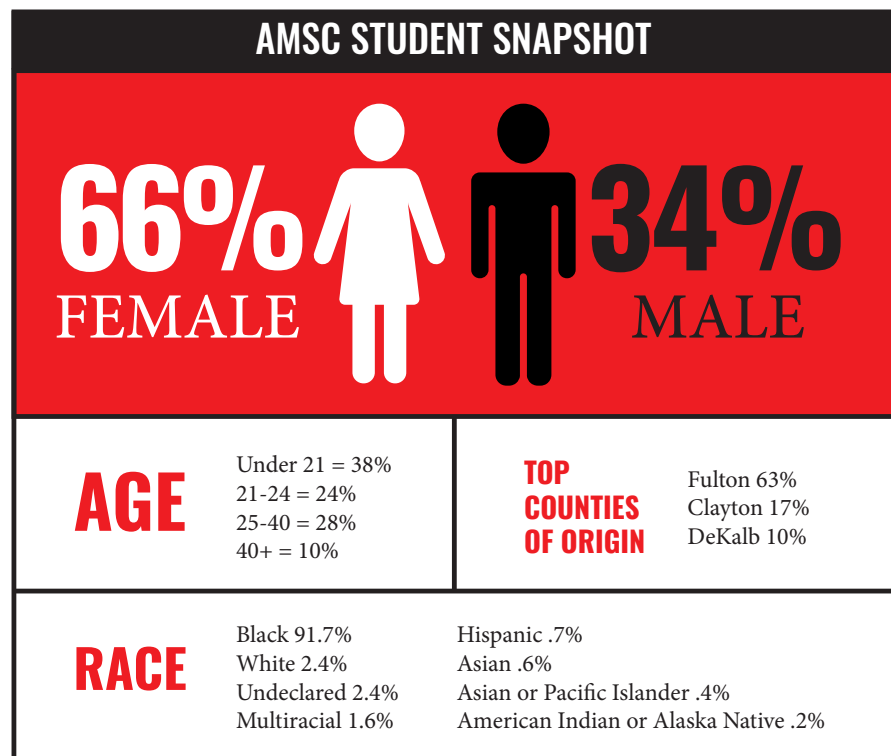
A portrait of Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D., an older Black man with short, graying hair and a goatee. He is wearing a dark pinstripe suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through. A red vertical bar is on the left edge of the image.

“My teaching and administrative activities at Atlanta Metropolitan State College have been the most rewarding and gratifying experiences of my professional career.”

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D.

Third President of AMSC
Professor of Political Science

TOP GRADUATION RATE IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE



TALKING POINTS

- Fall Enrollment 2172
- Highest graduation rate in the University System of Georgia for the associate degree
- 16:1 Student to Teacher Ratio
- 58% first-generation college students
- Second-largest new freshman class in college history
- Top graduation rate in Georgia for African-American males (among state colleges)
- Largest number of students from Clayton County in history of the institution
- Most affordable Atlanta college in the University System of Georgia

- AMSC is the only four-year public access college in the City of Atlanta.

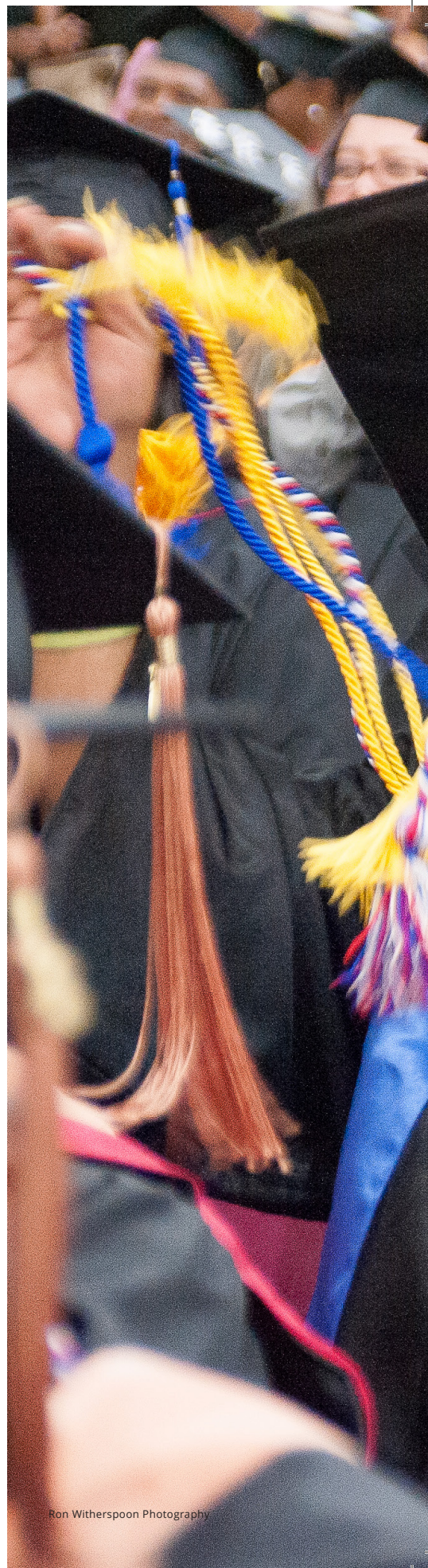
- 6 Bachelor Degree Programs
- 30+ Associate Degree Programs, Pathways, & Certificates

Top 5 Programs

1. Business
 2. General Studies
 3. Health Sciences
 4. Nursing
 5. Criminal Justice
- Annual Cost of Attendance = \$4,004
 - AMSC Budget = \$30,782,754

Accreditation

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)





NOW WHAT?

Mission

Atlanta Metropolitan State College, a unit of the University System of Georgia, focuses on excellence, where outstanding faculty members and committed staff teach and facilitate the successful academic matriculation and holistic development of students. The college offers an affordable liberal arts education and prepares students from a diverse urban community to function in a global society.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

- AMSC launched the **Criminal Justice and Police Sciences Institute** to better prepare law enforcement to deal with emerging challenges in policing. Response from Metro Atlanta police agencies has been overwhelming.
- A **Multi-Purpose Athletic Field** is under construction on the southwest side of campus. Students will soon be able to enjoy sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis.
- The steep cost of textbooks can be a barrier to student success. AMSC faculty members have made tremendous strides in reducing or eliminating that barrier. In one academic division, the cost of instructional materials has decreased such that students have seen a \$252,000 cost savings over the past three years. In another division, faculty received two **Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants** that enabled them to implement dramatic cost reductions for hundreds of students.
- **Momentum Year** is a suite of strategies designed to support students in their crucial first year at AMSC. With leadership from Academic Affairs, these strategies provide a starting point that helps students find their path, get on that path, and build velocity in the direction of their goals.
- Another key focus in Academic Affairs is the **Chancellor's Learning Scholars** (CLSs). The scholars, who are AMSC faculty, facilitate Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) that give small groups of faculty the opportunity to engage in sustained, meaningful conversations about teaching and learning. The goal of this program is to ignite ongoing innovation in teaching.
- The **National Science Foundation** awarded AMSC with a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation grant for another five years. This program's goal is to diversify the nation's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce.
- AMSC is a partner with the **Emory University School of Medicine** and its National Health Career Opportunity Academy. The academy at Emory will create a comprehensive continuum of learning, mentoring, college/health career readiness, and health profession exposure activities for AMSC students. AMSC is one of several educational partners in this program.
- The **Upward Bound Fulton** and **Upward Bound Thomason** programs at AMSC were each awarded \$40,000 mini-grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The funding provides internships, Space Camp opportunities, and digital media activities for students. Upward Bound is part of the Federal TRIO Programs.
- The **Georgia Space Grant Consortium** awarded AMSC a grant to connect with the community through unmanned aerial vehicles.
- Thanks to a financial literacy initiative called **Project Success**, AMSC students are taking advantage of financial coaching, financial education, and loan default management. Project Success is a partnership among AMSC, the Trellis Company, and the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Federal Student Aid.
- The **African-American Male Initiative** at AMSC was again awarded funds by the University System of Georgia to provide academic support for students.
- Funded by the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**, the **Trailblazer Student Institute** is a year-long program for high school graduates that prepares them for college success and completion. The Annie E. Casey Foundation also awarded a grant to provide a staff person to support **Achieve Atlanta** students on campus. Achieve Atlanta is an initiative of the Atlanta Public Schools.
- The **Trailblazer Food Bank** distributed thousands of pounds of produce, meat, and other items to students throughout the year.
- The **Counseling & Disabilities** office saw 1,220 office visits in 2018. Over 400 of those visits were counseling sessions.
- The **Strategic Marketing & Advancement** department again captured national awards for AMSC marketing productions. The department also garnered record media coverage for the college.

**INTRAMURALS
ARE COMING
FALL 2019!**



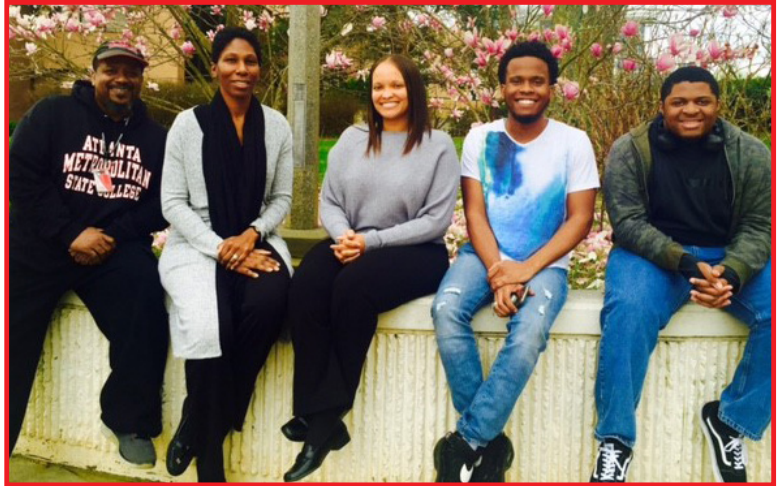
CLASS OF 2018: WHERE DID THEY GO F

In one academic division alone...4 To Pharmacy School • 3 To Medical School • 1 To Dental School



FROM HERE?

| School • 1 To Graduate School



Six Students Earn Assistance League of Atlanta Scholarships IN RECOGNITION OF EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERISM & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Left to right: Pierre Perkins, Sonora Cost, Nekia Washington, Jamaan Parker, & Community Service Superhero Samuel Hudgens. Students received scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Not pictured: Shemia Dillard.



Alumnus Named to Hall of Fame

Veronica Adadevoh '80 has captured a 2019 Regents' Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award from the University System of Georgia Foundation. This accolade recognizes her longtime, game-changing support of AMSC. Adadevoh also serves as a member of the college foundation board. She is pictured with Board of Regents Chair Don L. Waters.

Faculty Excellence

AMSC faculty members continue to serve with distinction. What have they been up to lately? They've published dozens of national articles and given many talks locally, regionally, and across the country. They have had their work exhibited at Columbia University and earned an Emmy nomination. They have continued their professional development through certifications and additional academic credentials. But most of all, they have given their all to each and every student.

LARGEST GIFT RECEIVED IN HISTORY OF COLLEGE

Founding President's Family Gives \$125,000 for Scholarships



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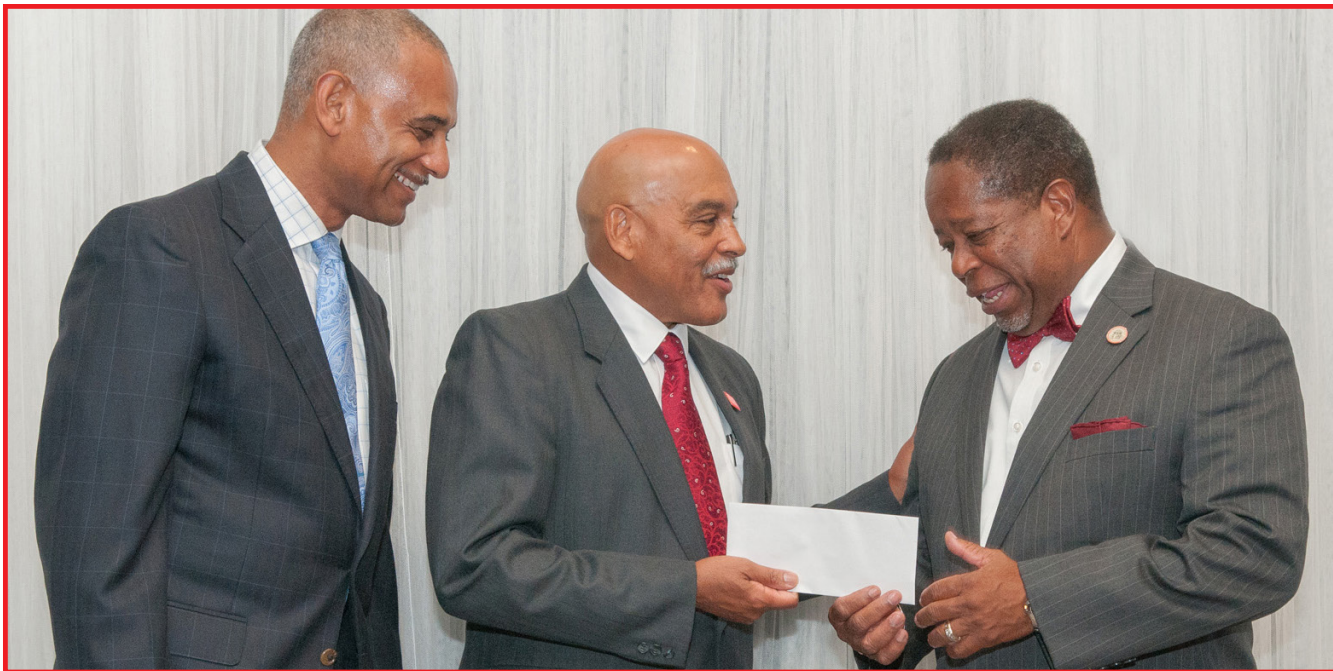
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Dianne Wisner
Community & Civic Leader

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Attorney/CEO
Sage Works, LLC



President Gary A. McGaha (right) accepts the largest financial gift in the college's history from Edwin A. Thompson, Jr., son of founding President Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Skip Vaughan, chair of the AMC Foundation, looks on.



History was made at AMSC's Celebration of Leadership Awards on September 27, 2018. During the annual fundraising gala, the college received a gift of \$125,000 from Ernestine Thompson, the founding first lady of the college. Thompson is the widow of Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., president of the institution from 1975 to 1995.

"How fitting that this donation comes from the college's founding family," said President Gary A. McGaha. "This gift is the premier example of the impact and opportunity for which this college is renowned."

The gift, which has been placed in an endowment fund, will be used to fund scholarships for many years to come.



The Thompson Family with President McGaha. The AMSC Archives are named in honor of Founding First Lady Ernestine Thompson (seated).



Celebration of Leadership Award Honorees From left to right: Dr. Morcease Beasley, Vernon Keenan, Erika Shields, President Gary A. McGaha, Veronica Adadevoh '80, Rev. Kenneth Alexander, and Willie A. Watkins. Not pictured: Regent Emeritus Elridge McMillan.

2018 CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Annual Scholarship Gala Raises a Record \$400,000

For the second consecutive year, the AMC Foundation shattered previous fundraising records at its 2018 Celebration of Leadership Awards. The fundraiser, in its seventh year, salutes community trailblazers and highlights student success.

Award recipients were Rev. Kenneth Alexander, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North; former GBI Director Vernon Keenan; Regent Emeritus Elridge McMillan, scholar-in-residence at AMSC; Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields; and Willie A. Watkins, chief executive officer of Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home and AMC Foundation board member.

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

"I am extremely proud of the work of the AMC Foundation board members," said Board Chair Skip Vaughan. "The efforts of all involved have ensured that we can help even more students at AMSC fulfill their educational goals."

The \$400,000 is the largest amount the foundation has ever raised in the award ceremony's history. It includes a \$125,000 donation from Ernestine Thompson, founding first lady of the college. Due to the success of the fundraiser, 400 students received scholarships that enabled them to continue their studies.



AMC Foundation Board Member Willie A. Watkins established the Mother Hattie Guinn Watkins Scholarship Fund in memory of his mother.

2018 CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP SPONSORS

Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., Founding President's Scholarship \$100,000

Mrs. Ernestine Y. Thompson Teacher Education Scholarship \$25,000

Believe Sponsor | \$25,000

Delta Air Lines, Inc.
PepsiCo
University System of Georgia Foundation, Inc.
Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home, Inc.

Begin Sponsor | \$15,000

Chick-fil-A Foundation

Become Sponsor | \$10,000

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Red and Black Sponsor | \$5,000

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Table Sponsor | \$1,500

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Eta Omega Chapter)
President and Mrs. Gary A. McGaha
Regent Emeritus Elridge W. McMillan
Salem Bible Church
Shirley A. Langley, CPA
Sparlin Health Care/New Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
The Family of Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr.
The Family of Pastor Kenneth L. Alexander
The Home Depot
Townes & Davis Law Firm
Veronica Adadevoh Insurance Agency
We Fund Funerals

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

This list reflects those who have contributed during the 2018 calendar year. On behalf of the entire AMSC family, we thank you!

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McMillan Royalty

\$1-\$1000

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Foundations \$30,001-\$100,000

Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., Founding President's Scholarship

\$15,001-\$30,000

Mrs. Ernestine Y. Thompson Teacher Education Scholarship
Donald Murphy
USG Foundation, Inc.
Veronica Adadevoh Endowment Scholarship

\$2001-\$15,000

Frank & Velyna Johnson Family Fund
Southern Education Foundation
Tulsa Community Foundation

\$150-\$2000

Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Investing in People Foundation
The Erroll & Elaine Davis Charitable Gift Foundation

Contributors \$5001-\$10,000

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\$2000-\$5000

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Skip Vaughan
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\$1000-\$1999

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\$500-\$999

Langston and Charlotte Atkins
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Lisa Mallory
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Vera Whatley
Noel Wheelchel
Letitia Woods



**“We are different
because we care.”**

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D.
President, AMSC



**SOUND THE
TRUMPET!**

AMSC

45 *Triumphant
Years*
1974-2019

**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

Atlanta Metropolitan State College

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Ron Witherspoon Photography

Dr. Brian Crawford, assistant professor of
molecular biology and trumpeter extraordinaire