

**ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE  
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT**





*Believe. Begin. Become*

*Believe • Begin • Become*

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## About AMSC

Originally established as Atlanta Junior College in 1974, the college became the thirty-first institution of the University System of Georgia with an initial enrollment of 504 students. The institution's name was officially changed to Atlanta Metropolitan College during the 1987-1988 academic year. Atlanta Metropolitan State College offers a unique campus environment for its students. The college is located within the city of Atlanta, which boasts an urban population of approximately 3.4 million, a thriving economy, and an international outlook with all the cultural resources of a thriving metropolitan area.

## Mission

Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) is a four-year unit of the University System of Georgia, offering day, evening, weekend, and online courses. The college is located in the southwest area of the city of Atlanta, and is positioned on an expansive beautifully landscaped campus. It is also conveniently accessible via MARTA (Atlanta's public transportation system). Atlanta Metropolitan State College provides a unique campus atmosphere for its students, offering degree programs in more than 46 areas of study.

AMSC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It also has a rich history that is tied to the city of Atlanta for which it is named. The academic programs and services offered by the college are high in quality, comprehensive and unique. Associate of Science and Associate of Arts transfer programs are available along with a Joint Enrollment Program and an Honors Program. The courses and programs at AMSC are accessible, affordable and available seven days a week. In addition to traditional college courses, we also offer classes through a Morning, Evening and Weekend College.

Students find their niche participating in dozens of approved honorary, professional and social student clubs and organizations, including Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, College Choir, the International Students Organization and the student newspaper, The Student Times. In addition, Atlanta Metropolitan State College has a strong record in intercollegiate athletics and holds four championships in the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association Conference for men's basketball.



# Letter From The President



Dear AMSC Family and Friends,

This year marks Atlanta Metropolitan State College's 40<sup>th</sup> year as an institution of higher education. AMSC remains in a unique group of outstanding colleges that have been leaders in higher education. Our strong academic programs, together with distinguished faculty members, going back to our founding, brings a valuable resource to this community. Our growing academic programs are critical and appropriate in promoting broad and deep learning.

This past academic year marks another exciting year of accomplishments and acclaim for Atlanta Metropolitan State College as a vital member of this community to improve the life we live. Our students' accomplishments are truly inspirational. They make an imprint on the world through their scholarship, their standout performances in athletics, their generous contributions to public engagement, and their academic pursuits in more than 40 areas of study including a Baccalaureate Program in Biological Science, Applied Mathematics, Criminal Justice, and Digital Media and Entertainment Design. The creative, groundbreaking work of our faculty and staff makes significant advances in the discovery of knowledge and provides solutions to pressing issues and needs in our local community, our state, our nation, and our world.

Our staff consistently demonstrates a commitment and dedication to the success and advancement of AMSC. Our alumni are leaders in business, education, science and more. They are contributing to improving and enhancing their communities in often quiet, unassuming ways. The College today is full of positive energy, momentum, progress, and pride. The collective impact of Atlanta Metropolitan State College is consequential.

This year we launch the 5th Annual Report that highlights the academic year 2013-2014. This Annual Report offers a limited but expanding view of just some of the milestones and achievements from the academic year. My hope is that this report gives you a clear idea of the College's many achievements, including the addition of several new academic programs.

Our May commencement was a time to come together around our educational mission and a reminder of the strong bonds and distinction that characterize the Atlanta Metropolitan State College community. With your continued support for AMSC, working together and supporting each other, the future is bright for Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

With Appreciation and Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary A. McGaha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D.

President



# Atlanta Metropolitan State College HONOR ROLL OF DONORS



On behalf of Atlanta Metropolitan State College President Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D., the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc., the students that attend this great institution, the administrative cabinet, the outstanding faculty, and staff, "Thank You" for your support for AMSC this past academic year. Your investment is greatly appreciated. As a result of your financial support, this vital institution of higher learning continues to reach new levels of success in enrollment, academic programs, student support services, and community partnerships.

The Honor Roll of Donors consists of all contributors who made donations to Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) and/or the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc., from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. Every effort has been made to include all gifts and donors to the College or the AMC Foundation, Inc. during this period. However, if your name is not listed, we sincerely apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions that may have occurred.

Thanks again for your continued financial support and vote of confidence in our work on behalf of the deserving students that attend this institution.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larion M. Williams".

Larion Michael Williams  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement &  
Executive Director, AMC Foundation, Inc.



## ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS

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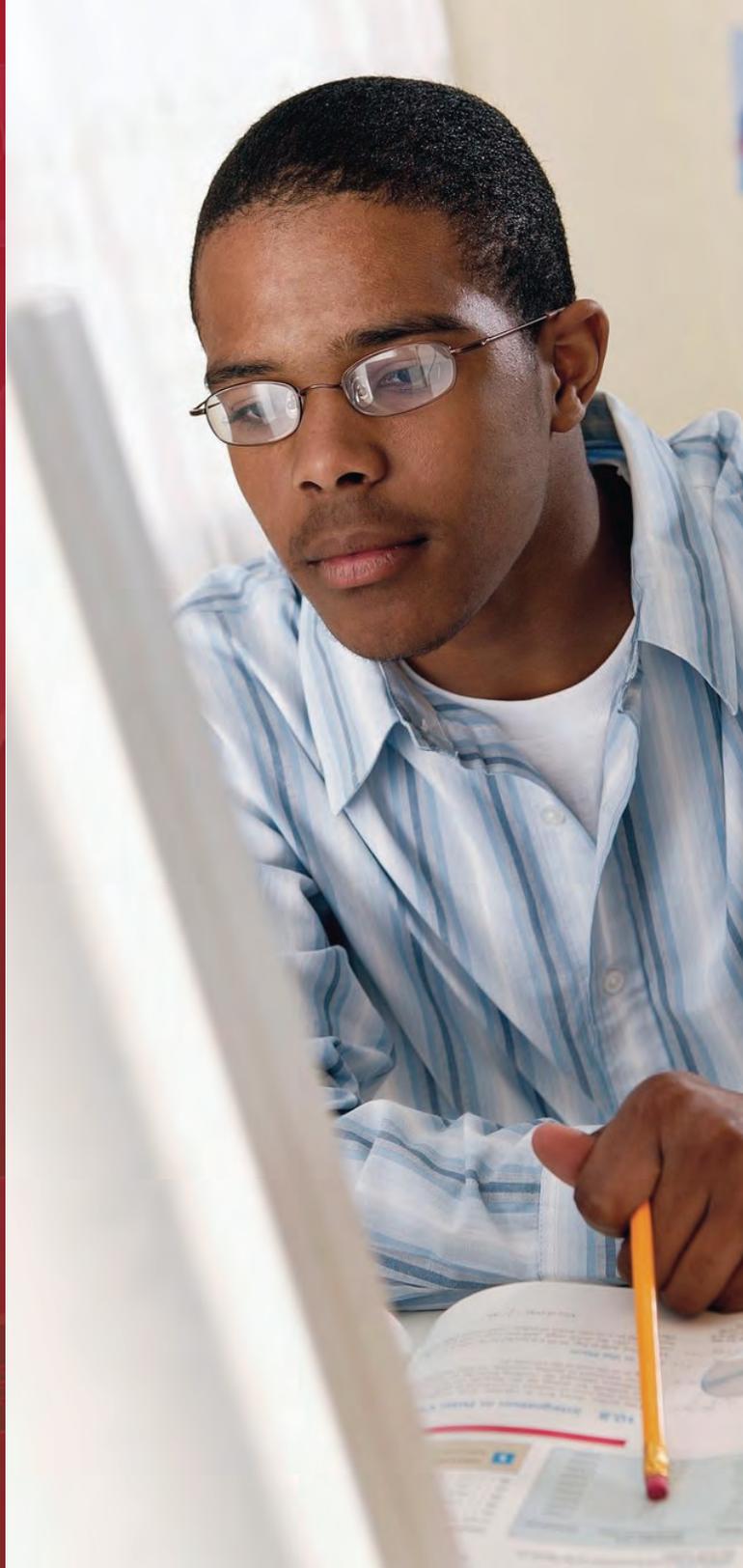
Online Giving is available through our website [www.atlm.edu](http://www.atlm.edu) or please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (404) 756-4666.

Giving online has many benefits such as:

- Simple
- Quick
- Secure
- Reduces Cost
- Attracts more donors
- Creates awareness for AMSC
- No need to worry about checks lost in the mail.

AREAS TO SUPPORT WITH YOUR DONATIONS ARE:

1. Annual Giving Program: Giving to the annual fund is unrestricted resources that permit AMSC to direct funds to the greatest needs at the College.
2. AMSC Scholarship Fund: Critical to supporting students who just don't have the financial resources to attend AMSC.
3. Endowed Scholarship Fund: Establishing an ongoing funding source to provide needed scholarships to deserving students attending AMSC today, tomorrow, and well into the future.
4. Friends of Athletics: Help support the athletic programs established at AMSC by providing resources for building a culturally rich environment for our student athletics and the community we serve.
5. Golfing for Scholarships – To support the Student Scholarship Program.
6. Celebration of Leadership – To raise money for scholarships by honoring Trailblazers in the community.



*Thank You  
for Caring  
About Atlanta  
Metropolitan  
State College*



# Alumni Spotlight



IN THE NEWS . . .

## Law Enforcement Program Named for Chief Moses Ector

*by Asia Ashley  
Thomastontimes.com*

An Atlanta college has renamed its law enforcement program after Hogansville Police Chief Moses Ector.

Atlanta Metropolitan State College President, Gary McGaha, renamed the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (LELA) last month after alumnus Moses Ector to the Moses Ector Law Enforcement Leadership Academy, a program designed to prepare individuals for promotion and leadership responsibility in a criminal justice organization.

“He (Ector) has had a productive career in law enforcement with the GBI, Dekalb Police Department, a professor at AMSC for 20 years and now chief of police for Hogansville,” said Sheila Tenney, director of media relations for AMSC. “It is indeed an honor for us to name the program after Chief Ector.”

Ector graduated from AMSC, then Atlanta Junior College, in 1979 with an associate degree in criminal justice. He said he then made the commitment to himself to teach criminal justice after he obtained his master’s degree. He obtained his master’s degree from Troy University and began teaching at AMSC. Over time, he and McGaha developed a plan to start a law enforcement leadership program.



CHIEF MOSES ECTOR AND WIFE CLARETHA

“I thought it was a good idea that we should do all we could to educate law enforcement supervisors,” said Ector.

The first class in the LELA started July 8, and seven students from agencies including, Atlanta, Fulton, Hogansville, and Riverdale completed the session, according to Tenney. Courses are taught by current and former leaders in law enforcement. Students who complete the seven week program will earn a certificate in law enforcement leadership from LELA and 21 hours of college credit toward an associate degree in criminal justice at AMSC.

Ector will be teaching homeland security in the next round of classes.

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The Hogansville Police Department recently named the Public Safety Center after Hogansville Police Chief Moses Ector.

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# ECONOMIC IMPACT

## Atlanta Metropolitan State College Impacts Local Economy by \$100 Million

Believe • B

Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) continues to be a major economic engine in the city of Atlanta, pumping \$100 million into the Atlanta metropolitan economy during Fiscal Year 2013, according to a study conducted by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. The \$100 million represents a 1.20% increase for AMSC since the FY 2012 report.

In addition to the \$100 million in total economic impact generated by AMSC during FY 2013, the study determined that Atlanta Metropolitan State College is responsible for 984 full-and part-time jobs. From among these positions, 277, or 28 percent, are on-campus jobs while 72 percent, are private or public sector jobs.

The report quantifies the economic benefits that AMSC conveys to metropolitan Atlanta and Fulton County. The \$100 million represents the economic impact of spending by AMSC, its faculty and staff, and students who attended the institution in FY 2013.

"Atlanta Metropolitan State College remains an educational and economic asset to the metropolitan area," said Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D., president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College. "The report emphasizes the consistent growth, and financial stability that AMSC brings to the region during this challenging period of economic recovery."

## Economic Highlights

Total economic impact: **\$100 million.**

Employment Impact: **984 jobs.** On avg. \$1 million in initial spending creates 15 jobs.

Labor income generated: **\$43 million.**

### JOB SUPPORT:

faculty/staff spending supports 389 jobs;  
students' spending supports 466 jobs.

Lifetime earnings, Class of 2013: **\$431 million, or \$153 million more than without a college degree.**

Established in 1974 as a unit of the University System of Georgia, Atlanta Metropolitan State College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).



# Phi Theta Kappa Achieves National Recognition

Picture from left to right:  
Nickolas Vaz, Richelle  
Isaac, Martins Iyoha,  
Janet Walker,  
Michelle Geisert  
Not pictured:  
Robin Mosby



Atlanta Metropolitan State College's chapter, Beta Beta Tau, was well represented at the 2014 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Orlando, Florida. During the Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening, it was announced that Beta Beta Tau Chapter had placed in the following categories  
-Honors in Action: Issue One, Distinguished Honors

in Action Project, Distinguished Chapter Award, Five-Star Chapter, and Top 100 Chapters. Ms. Robin Mosby, alumnus of our chapter, received a Phi Theta Kappa International Alumni Appreciation Award that same night. It was an amazing night for the Atlanta Metropolitan State College Trailblazers.



## Beta Beta Tau Chapter Making A Difference

PTK Vice President Samuel Yeomans and Social Sciences Senior Secretary Geri Lamar joined with National Action Network (NAN) to bring Voter Registration to Atlanta Metropolitan State College. Over 200 new voters were registered during the event!

## Awards Received at the Georgia Regional Convention:

### Chapter Awards

Honors in Action, Theme 1: It's All in your Mind  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Distinguished Honors in Action Project  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Distinguished Chapter Award  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Distinguished Chapter Officer Team  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

### Member, Officer, and Advisor Awards

Distinguished Chapter Member Lolita Koteah  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

### Regional Awards

Georgia Distinguished Administrator  
Mr. Freddie Johnson,  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Georgia Distinguished Alumnus  
Ms. Robin Mosby,  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Georgia Hall of Honor  
Ehiremen Martins Iyoha,  
*Beta Beta Tau, Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

The chapter also received two scholarships to the 2014 Honors Academy at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

# Beta Beta Tau Chapter Receives Georgia Recognition

## Regional Service Project



For a chapter to become and remain strong, we need the help from the college community. We are thrilled to share the news that Freddie Johnson, VPFA, received the Outstanding Administrator Award and Robin Mosby, PTK and AMSC alumnus, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. They were recognized for their service and dedication to Phi Theta Kappa, Atlanta Metropolitan State College and the community.



## Honors Institute Changes Lives in Many Ways

In the months leading up to the 2014 Honors Institute, first-time Faculty Scholar Kari Kahler, who serves as Michigan Regional Coordinator, wondered how she would create a meaningful experience for her seminar group, composed of regional officers from around the world. As it turned out, an unplanned experience would change the lives of the members of Seminar Group 9, and they would learn valuable lessons far beyond the campus of Washington University.

“My biggest take-away from Honors Institute 2014 was to experience the incredible passion of Phi Theta Kappa members honoring one of their own with genuine compassion, incredible leadership and thoughtful action,” Kahler said. “Sometimes, even seasoned leaders learn to step back and let events unfold.”

Those events began to unfold on Wednesday, June 18, as part of an Honors Institute outing in St. Louis. Phi Theta Kappa had organized a riverboat ride along the Mississippi with Gateway Cruises. The students had learned about the history of the riverfront, including the courthouse made famous by the Dred Scott decision and the landmark Gateway Arch. As the buses filled

with Honors Institute participants arrived for the cruise, they were re-directed due to construction on the riverfront in front of the riverboat entrance.

Janet Walker, a Georgia Regional Officer who uses a walker, and Denise Keller, Indiana Regional President who uses a cane, found themselves dropped off several blocks away from the dock with the rest of their seminar group.

Sarah Schutt, Greater Northwest Regional Vice President for District III, searched for a safe route to the riverboat, but unfortunately the only way down was a steep, unshaded staircase. Keller was able to make it, but Walker was struggling to descend the crumbling steps with the help of Indiana Regional Public Relations Officer Denise Lynch. Due to the 94-degree heat, the mile-long walk and the numerous steps, Walker and Lynch missed the 1:30 p.m. cruise.

Schutt had agreed to go ahead to request that a wheelchair be brought to help Walker get to the dock in time for the next scheduled cruise at 3 p.m. She texted back to Lynch that a wheelchair was on the way.

“I am so amazed by the strength of character that Janet and the two Denises showed,” Schutt said. “They are amazing women, and I am so happy to know them.”

A riverboat cruise employee returned shortly with the wheelchair and, according to Lynch, was very helpful, professional and courteous in helping Walker get to the

cruise. However, she added that the wheelchair provided was unstable, leaving Walker very nervous that she would tip over.

“The wheelchair almost got away from him three times although I was bracing it on the downslope side,” Lynch explained.

After arriving at the boat, Lynch insisted upon giving the riverboat employee a \$20 tip, although he said they owed him nothing. At first he refused, but she encouraged him to donate the money to charity if he wasn't allowed to keep it.

Walker and Lynch then enjoyed the riverboat ride and located Phi Theta Kappa staff members, who helped make arrangements to assist Walker back to the buses. The two members spent the rest of the afternoon exchanging ideas about their chapters.

“I picked her brain and got two pages of notes filled with great ideas to promote Phi Theta Kappa, increase membership and member involvement,” Lynch said.

“I told Janet that it turned out to be a blessing to spend the afternoon with her, since she was a really nice person and had many great ideas.”

That evening as Seminar Group 9 shared their experiences of the day, Walker took her turn to speak and told fellow members about her day.

“Because of my experience, I wanted to pay it forward by getting the riverboat landing a better wheelchair to assist others who are disabled,” she said. As the group became somewhat angry as she told of her experience, Walker said, “I told the group it did nothing to get mad or frustrated, but I could help find a way to help others in the future.”

“Our seminar group was overwhelmed with her thoughtfulness and how she chose to create a better experience for others rather than blame the company or wallow in self-pity about her afternoon,” Kahler said. “They reached into their pockets and shared with Janet everything they had.”

Kahler explained that Brandi Husch, Regional Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa’s Southern District of Illinois, was so moved that she inspired many attending the Honors Institute to join in the cause and was instrumental in the amount of money collected.

Walker promised to research wheelchair prices and report to the group at Friday’s seminar meeting. By Friday evening the group had collected more than \$755.

“Janet Walker is an extremely amazing individual who has forever changed how I look at certain situations in my life,” Husch said. “The whole story represents why I love Phi Theta Kappa so much, and I am honored and humbled to be a part of it.”



*Seminar Group 9 is pictured with Dr. Rieves.*

As the group debriefed during the Friday evening seminar session, they were joined by Dr. Nancy Rieves, CEO of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, and turned the money over to her.



*Janet Walker and Brandi Husch share their experiences with Foundation CEO Dr. Nancy Rieves.*

Upon returning from Honors Institute, Rieves contacted Gateway Cruises and explained what had transpired. Karen Bolinger, Director of Sales and Marketing responded. "Please accept our apologies for the challenges students faced in getting around the riverfront," she said. "Second, what a neat bunch of students – rallying around their friend!"

Based on this experience, Bolinger shared that Gateway Cruises will internally review their equipment and protocols to ensure they are able to provide better assistance for this type of scenario in the future.

"Please redirect the funds to your organization," Bolinger said. "While the students' intent is admirable, their efforts should be directed to support your mission."

Rieves explained that the funds collected by Seminar Group 9 will now be directed to the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship and will be awarded to a member with disability needs who applies.

“This is a wonderful example of how seminar groups pull together to help one another,” said Susan Edwards, Dean of Academic Affairs and Honors Programs. “The bonding that takes place at Honors Institute represents Phi Theta Kappa fellowship at its best.”

“We hear wonderful stories about paying it forward,” Kahler added. “But for Seminar Group 9, we were able to live it!”

# TALENT SEARCH PROGRAMS

## Educational Talent Search

For the past three years the Atlanta Metropolitan State College Educational Talent Search Program has provided STEAM Educational Workshops and Trips to our students. The Talent Search's two-week Summer Enrichment Program at Gordon State College was filled with exciting experiments and visions on the future.

Students were taught that using everyday household products can create fun and functional science projects. Upson-Lee Middle Schools 6-8 grade students made salt crystals using epsom salt and hot water. Students were amazed to see that their hard boiled eggs bounced after sitting in regular white vinegar after 48 hours. Students were able to keep their homemade silly putty made using Elmer's Glue, Borax which is a powder soap, and food coloring. Another project was the construction of solar powered cars. Students used prefabricated kits and reinforced concepts of technology and engineering in the process. The cars were evaluated based on design features and performance. The culminating activity was a head to head race to test the car's speed. Science education projects like this incorporates applied math and science principles into classroom projects.

Our Social Skills instructors taught students the reason behind and the benefits in creating and updating vision boards. Students were given the opportunity to creatively think about their future educational and career goals. They researched the steps it would take to obtain their success, and used magazine, words, pictures, and decoration to bring their visions of their future to their boards. Many students passionately presented their vision boards to the class during our closing awards ceremony. Talent Search staff encouraged students to hang their vision boards somewhere that they could see it every day as a constant reminder. We also encouraged students to build on their vision boards as goals and aspirations may change.

Talent search students were invited back to the Saint Philip A.M.E. Church for their Annual Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M) Career Fair and



individuals from companies such as NASA, Clorox, Georgia Tech, Delta, Women in Technology, and many more. Our students were able to race life size robots that were built and programmed by young people and their instructor. Students were motivated to seek out STEAM Careers for their future. Talent Search realizes the benefits of using science education as well a STEAM curriculums to demonstrate STEAM concepts in real-world applications through hands-on activities. Future projects will include a broader range of activities, such as more practical experiments in engineering, aeronautics, robotics, energy, chemistry, physics, biology, and geology. The SKY is our only LIMIT!

During the Upson-Lee High School fall break, the Talent Search Program traveled to The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Our students lived the cabin life for three days.

They participated in events such as:

**HERPETOLOGY:** They had the opportunity to handle, observe, and learn about reptiles and amphibians. Characteristics and adaptations of snakes, turtles, alligators, salamanders, and more.

**LAKE ASSESSMENT:** Students were guided through the seven steps of the scientific method while taking part in a real life field study of Rock Eagle Lake. Students will have an opportunity to collect macro-invertebrates with dip nets and conduct water quality experiments to prove or disprove their hypothesis.

**CANOEING:** Our students showed off their canoeing techniques, water safety, and procedure safely wearing a life jacket at all times.

**ROCK EAGLE HIKE:** Students bravely participated in a -hour hike to Rock Eagle's namesake, the Rock Eagle Mound! Once there, students climbed a 40ft tower to peer down at the effigy and speculate upon its origins.

**CHALLENGE COURSE:** Talent Search Students showed off their leadership skills during team-building by working through a progression of initiatives and elements. These aspects may include goal setting, trust, problem solving, planning, or group cohesion. Add and you have a recipe for success. This fun team-building course was physically and mentally challenging.

**CAMPFIRE:** Who could forget the classic campfire? An hour of storytelling, songs, skits, and legends around a burning campfire and of course s'mores.

**ICHTHYOLOGY:** Students rushed to their camera phones to post photos of their Fish Dissection- Through perch dissection!

Atlanta Metropolitan State College's Talent Search Program continued serving 592 selected students attending Upson Lee High School in Upson County Georgia. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process. The goal of Talent is to increase the number of youth in completing high school and to enroll in and complete their postsecondary education. This federally funded grant was subsidized by the United States Department of Education for this past year in the amount of \$230,000.00 and this effort led to over 100% graduation rate this year.



## Educational Opportunity Center

The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the college application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

The Educational Opportunity Center of Atlanta Metropolitan State College is funded to currently serve 1000 participants in Upson, Lamar, Spalding, and Pike Counties. This has been an awesome academic year filled with many exciting cultural trips and activities that included the 100 Black Men Classic Football Game and College Fair, The Lion King play at the Fox Theater, the Georgia Aquarium, The World of Coke, and the Botanical Gardens. Together with our partners in education, we hosted a series of Financial Aid/Scholarship Awareness Workshops, Financial and Economic Literacy Seminars, and Career Readiness Workshops.

During our recruiting and selecting process, we hosted Health and Wellness Seminars, Dress for Success Classes, Etiquette Classes, Stress Management Workshops, and How to Succeed in College Preparation Courses. Our participants visited several colleges and universities in the southeastern region which included Albany State University, The College of Charleston, Savannah State University, and Clayton State University. We also participated in three college fairs and four community expos where we had the opportunity to showcase our many resources and availability to the community.

Other EOC accomplishments include but are not limited to assisting our participants with various postsecondary educational requirements such as ACT/, SAT Preparation, completing FAFSA, completing college applications, and GED/Adult Literacy Preparation. We also host career readiness services to inmates at the Griffin and Williamson Diversion Centers, Workforce Development Centers, Department of Labor, Family and Children Services, Housing Authorities, Health Departments and the Southern Crescent Technical College campuses in Upson, Lamar, Spalding, and Pike Counties.

This past summer our participants enjoyed a two-week "Summer Connection" Seminar where they were exposed to various educational and cultural community resources. Guest speakers and vendors delighted our participants as they share their expertise and inspired them to pursue their academic goals and objectives. As a result of this seminar, participants have found employment, housing, and educational access.

A major highlight of this year was our trip to historic Savannah, Georgia. Participants experienced local museums, River Street, and Savannah's many parks. We also enjoyed cruising the Savannah River on the Savannah Queen Riverboat. The cruise featured site seeing, a delicious meal, and live music. All of our participants thoroughly enjoyed this experience and this was the first time for many to visit Savannah and go on a dinner cruise.

Our staff participated in several professional development trainings hosted by our state, regional, and national professional associations. Topics covered included training where we were kept abreast of advancements in our field, such as new rules and regulations, updated policies and procedures, and the latest in technology. Other trainings included workshops on sensitivity and social media outreach.



## Student Support Services Program

Atlanta Metropolitan State's Student Support Services Program continued serving 140 selected students that were enrolled this past year. The participants received academic tutoring, advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assistance with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs – benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. This federally funded grant was subsidized by the United States Department of Education for this past year in the amount of \$213,180.00.

- 83% of participants served by SSS project met the performance level required to stay in good academic standing at Atlanta Metropolitan State College.
- 82% of all participants served by SSS project have persisted from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year or have graduated during the academic year.
- 77% of the SSS participants are low-income, first generation college students and/or students with disabilities.



## AMSC Upward Bound Program

The Upward Bound Program at AMSC has several exciting opportunities for its students. The program has received full funding again after having to reduce its budget last year due to sequestration by Congress. The Upward Bound Program has partnered with the Dual Enrollment Office (AMSC) to encourage participants to enroll into the Dual Enrollment Program; we now have five (5) students enrolled at AMSC who are attending both college and high school this fall. More Upward Bound students are preparing to enroll at AMSC during the spring semester. Also, the Upward Bound Program had sixteen (16) students to participate in its Bridge program at AMSC during the summer of 2014. The Bridge Program is sponsored by the Upward Bound Program; it pays for two college courses for seniors during the first summer after their graduation from high school. The students and parents are very excited and interested in both of these opportunities.

Upward Bound students are leaders at their high schools and in the community. Gavonté Zanders wears many hats at Riverdale High School where she is editor of the yearbook, President of the FBLA Club, a volunteer at the local hospital, and maintains an "A" average. Also, the following Upward Bound Students have been nominated for the Governor's Honors Program at their high schools: Praise Idowu, Joshua Noreiga, Peter-Gai Govers, Natasha Jackson, and Godavious Dickey. The Upward Bound Scholars' Bowl won first place in the Georgia Association of Special Program Personnel (GASPP) in 2013. Melanie Fort, honor student, sang the national anthem for AMSC at the beginning of each basketball game last season. Brandon Williams earned a full athletic scholarship to attend college at Tusculum University in Tennessee in 2014.



There are many other talented students in the program, and we salute all of them!

Atlanta Metropolitan State College's Upward Bound Program is actually a combination of three (3) separate programs known as Fulton, Clayton, and West Clayton that serve a total of 210 students who attend one of the following high schools: Morrow, Forest Park, Mount Zion, Jonesboro, Riverdale, Mundy's Mill, Banneker, Creekside, Tri-cities, and Westlake. The students receive academic assistance through counseling and tutoring, cultural enrichment, college visitations, SAT/ACT prep and other services to support the students' goal of enrolling into and persisting in a post-secondary institution to earn a bachelor's degree, which is also the primary goal of the Upward Bound Program. The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded program subsidized by the US Department of Education in the following amounts: Fulton (\$439,172); Clayton (\$250,000) and West Clayton (\$250,000). All of the programs had a 100% graduation rate in 2014.





# AMSC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Atlanta Workforce  
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B.E.S.T. Academy



City of Atlanta



Georgia Department of Corrections



Georgia State Board of  
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TSA-Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta  
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YouthBuild-Atlanta



Fulton County School System

Atlanta Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools

Dekalb County School District

# AMSC Develops New Baccalaureate Program in Digital Media and Entertainment Design

Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) announces the creation of a new academic program in Digital Media and Entertainment Design. The program, which fulfills a well-publicized need within the University System of Georgia (USG), will provide a Bachelor of Arts degree, and students can begin enrolling in the program in fall 2014.

As the use of digital media grows, so does the need for talented artists with the skills to turn artistic vision into graphics realities. "We're plugged into Digital Media whether we know it or not," says Dr. Frank Johnson, Dean of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts at AMSC. "It touches every aspect of our everyday life. Whether creating animated 3-D characters for movies, designing high-speed action sequences for Xbox; or editing for film, television, audio, and the web, Digital Media blends imagination and technical skills to create the sights and sounds that leave audiences begging for more," says Dr. Johnson.

While developing the Digital Media classes for AMSC, Johnson looked into what other institutions were offering. Very few offered courses that dealt with the design aspect of Digital Media, so that's where AMSC's programs fills the void. Classes offered at AMSC includes editing, digital composition, motion graphics, 3-D modeling and animation, and sound design. All these are designed to prepare students for success in the Digital Media world.

The goal of the B.A. degree in Digital Media and Entertainment Design at AMSC is to equip students to work in a variety of media-related professions, including film/television/video editing, advertising, animation, digital journalism, graphic design, marketing, photography, video gaming, and web design.

This new academic program is an important investment in majors that prepare students for the future job market



and is an essential pathway to fulfill the "Complete College Georgia" mandate of contributing to Georgia's workforce goal of producing approximately 250,000 additional graduates in the state, says AMSC's President Dr. Gary McGaha.

"In a time when the overall job market is shrinking, the rising demand for workers skilled at creating digital content is great news for AMSC students considering a college major in the media field," adds Dr. Johnson.

AMSC will be the one of only a handful of USG institutions in the metropolitan Atlanta area offering a baccalaureate degree in Digital Media and Entertainment Design. The 120-credit-hour curriculum will focus on foundations that all media have in common—technology, the information flow of media and society, creating and analyzing media content, and business, and trains students to blend sight, sound, and motion seamlessly.

AMSC has already established partnerships with private and public companies and institutions to give students internship opportunities as a capstone experience to the Digital Media and Entertainment Design program. Some of these partnerships, which offer potential employment opportunities for graduates, include prominent film, television and radio companies such as Screen Gems Studios, Turner Broadcasting, Tyler Perry Studios, EUE/Screen Gems, and Radio One.

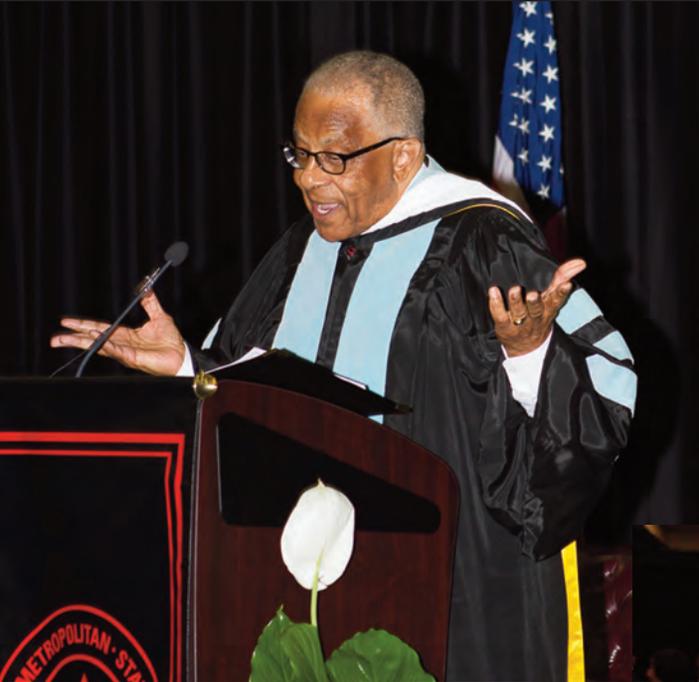
The Digital Media and Entertainment Design program will be housed under the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, located in the Academic Building (third floor) on the AMSC campus. For more information, requirements, and how to apply, please visit <http://www.atlm.edu/academics/digitalmedia.aspx>



# Atlanta Metropolitan State College



# *A Glance Through the Years . . .*



## 2013 - 2014 Men's Basketball Team



## 2013 - 2014 Women's Basketball Team



Coach Robert Pritchett  
Director of Athletics

# AMSC Sports



Started in 1992, Atlanta Metropolitan State College's athletic program is part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The College supports two intercollegiate teams \_ men's basketball and women's basketball. In their first year, the men's basketball team took second place in the NJCAA Region 17 Conference, and continues to be a strong sports team. AMSC also has a spirited cheerleading squad and dance team who cheer at the home basketball games. The team emblem is now the Trailblazers.



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