



# 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

### **Summer Bridge Program Prepares New Trailblazers for a Successful College Start**

**Atlanta (June 28)** – Low college graduation rates can be partly attributed to the number of students who are not prepared academically and socially to succeed in college.\* Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) addresses this by preparing students academically and socially to succeed at AMSC through its Trailblazer Institute (TSI).

TSI provides a holistic, intrusive, and proactive approach from enrollment to graduation through five strategic areas: summer bridge program, thematic learning communities, academic support, peer mentoring, and service learning opportunities. It helps first-time, full-time students, specifically men of color, adjust academically and socially to college life by removing the barrier of learning support courses and providing year-long peer mentors and academic support to students as they matriculate through college.

“Recent high school graduates are able to gain a realistic understanding of what it really means to be a college student,” said Sharon Duhart, director of the TSI and the Center for Academic Advising and Success. “Students in TSI are able to take valuable academic and social skills, from learning how to navigate the college process to activities and workshops that allow them to boost their confidence and self-esteem and ultimately graduate from college.”

TSI increases the number of students of color at AMSC who successfully complete college-level English and mathematics and avoid remedial coursework which has been shown to increase the amount of time to degree attainment and amount spent to pay for a college degree. TSI currently has four cohorts with an overall retention rate of 67 percent and a graduation rate of 33 percent.

***About the Annie E. Casey Foundation:***

*The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solution to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).*

***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: [atlm.edu](http://atlm.edu).*



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TSI has been identified as a proponent of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's (AECF) mission to increase access to quality education and has been the primary funding partner since 2015.

This year's TSI summer bridge program started June 11<sup>th</sup> and ends July 13, 2018.

*\*The Impact of Developmental Summer Bridge Programs on Students' Success* by Heather Wathington Joshua Pretlow Claire Mitchell



AMSC 2018 TSI participants and leaders on the first day of the summer bridge program.

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