Atlanta (June 15) – “Today, I helped my first person (on campus) all by myself. And that was awesome. It’s rewarding. I feel really good about myself,” said Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) sophomore biological sciences student Awa Mbojd. She went on to say how becoming an ambassador was about getting out of her comfort zone and doing something bigger than just doing something for herself, but also bettering someone else’s college experience.

Mbojd is one of twelve newly trained Trailblazer ambassadors. The official name of the group is Trailblazer Orientation Ambassadors (TOA). TOA are a part of the Office of Student Life and Leadership and work closely with the Office of Student Outreach & Access to guide summer and fall orientation services, lead tours, and assist with Trailblazer Week for new, transfer, and international students. However, they focus on much more than just helping with new student orientation.

AMSC depends on the leadership of TOA to assist with high school recruitment, give campus tours, provide customer service to campus visitors, and assist new students with the transition into a successful college experience. Trailblazer Orientation Ambassadors are hired on a yearly basis to not only assist fellow students but to build upon their leadership and professional skills. The opportunity to assist new students transition was especially important for Trailblazer Ambassador Aylin Estrada Palma, a sophomore foreign language major.

“When I got here, I didn’t want to talk to anyone. I didn’t know we had ambassadors. I didn’t know all of these services (we offer) existed,” said Estrada Palma. “If I had spoken out my freshman year,
it wouldn’t have been a mess. I was so confused. So now I look for people who might be lost. I want to help people.”

To ensure TOA are prepared to serve in their vital roles assisting with the student college experience at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, ambassadors attended a week of training and team building. Ambassadors heard presentations from AMSC President Gary McGaha and various departments in the college; met senior administration; learned what it means to be an aspiring AMSC professional, a good AMSC citizen, and what it means to be an AMSC scholar. Small teambuilding exercises were held throughout the training and the week ended with a teambuilding exercise at Historic Banning Mills.


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.