



# ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

Office of Communications • 1630 Metropolitan Parkway, SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30310

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2018

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### Trailblazer Ambassadors Aim to Make the New Student Experience Smoother

**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 Mbodj. 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.

Mbodj 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,

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University System of Georgia

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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.



AMSC Trailblazer Orientation Ambassadors during team building exercises at Historic Banning Mills. Pictured: Khadijah Adams, Brandon Butler, Aylin Estrada Palma, Faryal Khan, Awa Mbodj, L. Cornell Pearson, Kelton Reid, Sean Rogers, Maliyah Smith, Linda Washington, Andrew Williams, and Aiesha Willingham.

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