



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

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

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMSC Will Honor Former AMSC President Dr. Gary McGaha During AMSC's 45th Year Celebration

Atlanta (Sept. 11) – Gary McGaha, Ph.D., former president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC), will be honored during the College's annual Celebration of Leadership Awards. The COL Awards is an awards dinner with program held during Homecoming Week, Sept. 23-27, 2019. This year marks the institution's 45th year since its founding.

The annual Celebration of Leadership (COL) Awards is AMSC's signature fundraising event to support scholarships and financial assistance for Atlanta Metropolitan State College students. Students receiving funds raised at COL are typically those within a semester or two of graduating and in need financial assistance to continue their education.



In Nov. 2007, McGaha was made permanent president of then named Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) after serving as interim president since Jan. 2007. He served Atlanta Metro as president for 12 years before announcing his retirement in March 2019.

Prior to being named interim president, McGaha served as AMC's vice president for academic affairs. Preceding his appointment as vice president, he served as dean of academic services for the Dunwoody campus of Georgia Perimeter College from 2002-2006.

Though his tenure as president of AMSC was long, his affiliation with the college dates back to 1993 when he was appointed professor and chair of the Social Sciences Division. In 1996, McGaha was appointed as the site coordinator for the Post-Secondary Readiness Enrichment Program (PREP) for University System of Georgia institutions in metropolitan Atlanta: Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Georgia Perimeter, and Atlanta Metropolitan.

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 23 programs of study, including business, computer science, humanities and fine arts; and natural 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.



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From 1983-1993, McGaha served as assistant to the president and assistant professor of community health and preventive medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in Atlanta, Georgia. Before joining MSM, he served in several roles at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, including associate vice president for academic affairs, chair of the Department of History and Political Science, assistant professor of political science, and administrative assistant to the president.

In 1976, McGaha was the first African-American to earn a doctor of philosophy degree in political science from the University of Mississippi. He also holds a master's degree in political science from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a bachelor's degree in political science from Mississippi Valley State University.

In February 2019, McGaha received the John R. Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award from Gideon's Promise. He is also the recipient of the 2017 Educator of the Year Award by the Georgia Minority Business Awards.

McGaha is active in his church and in the community. He is a deacon at Greenforest Community Baptist Church and a graduate of the 2017 Leadership Atlanta class.

The COL awards dinner will be held on Sept. 26 at 7:15 pm in the Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Student Center Charles F. Easley Pavilion. For more information, call AMSC Strategic Marketing & Advancement at 404.756.4666 or email Keel Rickenbacker at krickenbacker@atlm.edu.

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