

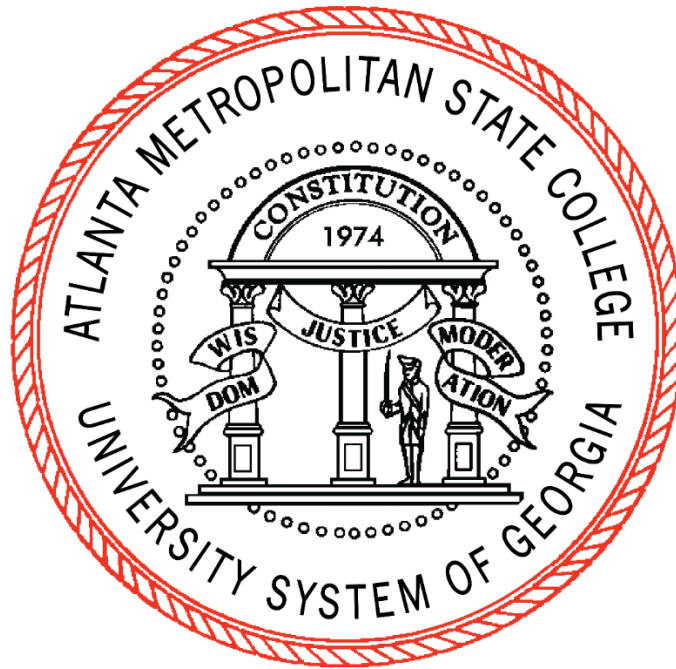
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SPRING  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

*Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Physical Education Complex  
Friday, May 3, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.





## *Mission Statement*

Atlanta Metropolitan State College, an access institution of the University System of Georgia, educates students from diverse backgrounds by providing affordable, career-focused bachelor's and associate degree programs. The College offers student-centered instruction, civic/community engagement, and quality services that lead to the success of its inter-generational 21<sup>st</sup> century graduates.

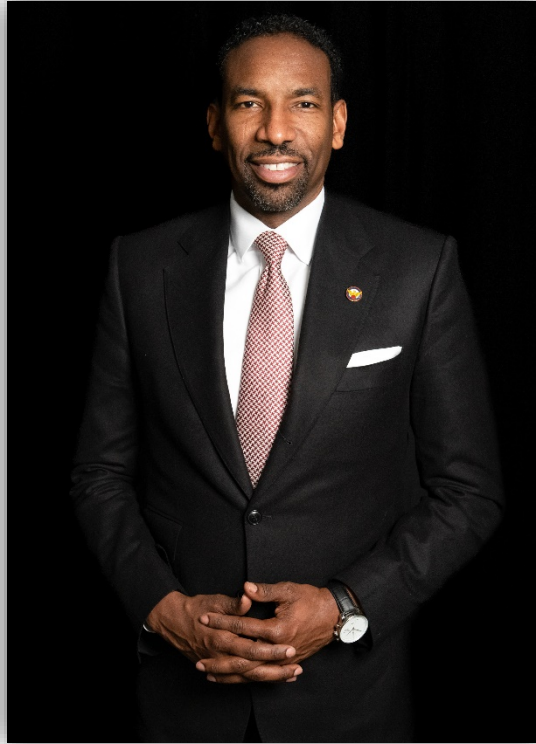
## *Vision Statement*

To build a **strong community** focused on providing **high quality** educational opportunities and **positive experiences** for everyone who comes to us, while being **fully engaged** in the communities we serve.

# *2024 Commencement Speaker*

*Mayor Andre Dickens*

61<sup>st</sup> Mayor of the City of Atlanta



Andre Dickens is the 61<sup>st</sup> Mayor of Atlanta. A proud native of Atlanta and a product of Atlanta Public Schools, Mayor Dickens is focused on bringing opportunity and equity to the city that he loves.

Mayor Dickens' agenda is rooted in Moving Atlanta Forward, through improving public safety, increasing opportunities for the city's young people, empowering neighborhoods, and investing in housing and combatting homelessness, all while fostering a culture of integrity in the City. As he shared in his first State of the City address, his vision for Atlanta is:

*One city with one bright future. A city of safe, healthy, connected neighborhoods with an expansive culture of equity, empowering upward mobility and full participation for all residents, embracing youth development, and an innovative, dependable government moving Atlanta forward, together.*

Mayor Dickens was sworn in as Mayor in January 2022. Early accomplishments include making the City's first-ever investment in early childhood education; the establishment of the Nightlife Division to address establishments with a history of high crime; the reestablishment of the Pothole Posse to rapidly respond to residents' reports; and leading the successful coalition to keep Atlanta whole in opposition to a de-annexation effort.

Prior to his election as Mayor, Dickens served eight years as an at-large City Council member. He was an entrepreneur for over a decade in both the private and nonprofit sectors and a leader in Atlanta's tech sector. Mayor Dickens is a graduate of Mays High School and holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology as well as a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University.

As the Post 3 At-Large City Council member from 2014 to 2021, Andre Dickens was a vocal legislative leader on public safety, transportation, affordable housing, workforce development, educational opportunities for Atlanta Public Schools students, and seasoned citizens programming. He served as the chairman of the Transportation Committee, providing oversight to city streets, bridges, sidewalks, paths, and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest airport.

Some of his legislative highlights include: creating the Department of Transportation, sponsoring legislation increasing annual salaries for Senior Patrol Officers, implementing a \$15 per hour minimum wage for city employees, establishing BeltLine Inclusionary Zoning for affordable housing, establishing the Atlanta Youth Commission, setting aside a \$40 million Housing Opportunity Bond, creating a joint commission between City Council and APS board, and establishing a BeltLine senior housing rehab program. In 2017, he sponsored and helped launch the Teen "Midnight" Basketball League, a program which includes workshops that help young men develop life skills and further their education.

Mayor Dickens previously served as the Chief Development Officer for TechBridge, a nonprofit that drives community impact by bringing affordable technology and business expertise to other nonprofit organizations. In 2018, he co-founded the Technology Career Program, a free program designed to prepare unemployed and individuals experiencing disadvantage in the work field for a career in the growing technology job market. The program teaches high demand technology skills while helping participants land jobs in IT departments across Atlanta.

Mayor Dickens also previously served as the Assistant Director of Outreach Initiatives for Georgia Tech's Office of Institute Diversity. He spearheaded Tech's African-American Male Institute, which resulted in a significant increase in the GPA and graduation rate among Black males. He also managed the Focus graduate school recruitment program and the Challenge Program that helped hundreds of students successfully transition into college life each year.

Early in his career, Mayor Dickens worked as a sales engineer for DSM Engineering Plastics and became the youngest and first Black salesman of the year. At the age of 28, he co-founded City Living Home Furnishings, which grew into a multi-million-dollar retail business with two locations. Mayor Dickens ran the company for nine years until 2011.

Mayor Dickens has been a member of the Georgia Tech Alumni Board of Directors and is an alumnus of Leadership Atlanta, Diversity Leadership Atlanta, United Way VIP, and Regional Leadership Institute. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc.; deacon of New Horizon Baptist Church and has served on the boards of the Atlanta BeltLine, Invest Atlanta, TechBridge and the Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Mayor Dickens enjoys spending time with his daughter, experiencing live music, attending church services, and traveling the world. He is an avid supporter of all of Atlanta's sports teams.

# *History of Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

In June 1965, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized a junior college for the west metropolitan area of Atlanta at an undesignated location. After a great deal of discussion, the Atlanta School Board and the Board of Regents made the decision to build the college on land under the jurisdiction of the Atlanta Board of Education.

The Atlanta School Board authorized its Superintendent in February 1971 to develop a financial plan to build the new college. On October 9, 1972, the Board of Regents reconfirmed, in principle, the construction of the college. In February 1973, the Board of Regents authorized the plans and specifications for Phase I of the construction at a projected cost of \$2 million. Construction began on the first building in 1973 and was completed in August 1974.

The college became the thirty-first institution of the University System of Georgia and began classes in September 1974 with an initial enrollment of 504 students. The college, Atlanta Junior College, was accredited in 1976 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). During the 1976-77 academic year, the Central Energy Plant construction was completed. In 1978-79, two multi-level academic buildings were added to the resources of the college: an Academic Classroom Building and the College Library.

The 1987-1988 academic year brought the decision to change the institution's name from Atlanta Junior College to Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC), with the permanent transition becoming effective July 1, 1988. A new Health and Physical Education Complex was completed and occupied during the 1991-92 academic year, and a new Student Center was completed during the Fall 2000 semester.

On May 10, 2011, the Board of Regents approved a substantive and mission change for Atlanta Metropolitan College to offer the bachelor's degree. In December 2011, the SACS-COC approved AMC for a status change from a Level I to Level II institution to offer the bachelor's degree. The name of the institution was changed to Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) on May 8, 2012, and the new Elridge W. McMillan Academic Sciences Building opened in August of 2012.

On May 20, 2013, an official ceremony was held to rename the newly expanded and renovated AMSC Student Center to the Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Student Activity Center in honor of Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., the founding president of the college. The new Student Services and Success Center opened in Spring 2018 to further meet the needs of students via a One-Stop-Shop experience. The first Commencement for graduates of Atlanta Metropolitan State College was held on May 3, 2013, and the first bachelor degrees were awarded May 9, 2014.

In addition to Associate Degree Programs, Baccalaureate Degree Programs can now be completed in Business Administration, Digital Media and Entertainment, Biological Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership. The college also offers a 2+2 partnership in Teacher Education in collaboration with both Clayton State University and Kennesaw State University.

# Order of Exercises

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D., President  
Presiding

Processional* .....	<b>“Highland Cathedral”</b> .....	Composed by Ulrich Roeber Arranged by Michael Korb Wayne Coleman, <i>Bagpiper</i>
Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance* .....	Atlanta Police Department Honor Guard	
National Anthem* .....	<b>“The Star-Spangled Banner”</b> .....	Lyrics by Francis Scott Key Composed by John Stafford Smith
Welcome & 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition .....	President Thompson-Sellers	
Invocation .....	Reverend Dr. Leland L. Jones, Sr. <i>Senior Pastor, Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church</i>	
Greetings on behalf of the <b>Trailblazer</b> Student Body .....	Juliette Seymour <i>Phi Theta Kappa   Beta Beta Tau Chapter President, 2023-2024 and Georgia Regional Officer</i>	
Introduction of Speaker .....	President Thompson-Sellers	
Commencement Address .....	The Honorable Andre Dickens <i>61<sup>st</sup> Mayor, City of Atlanta</i>	
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees .....	Dr. James McGee, III <i>Provost and Vice President for Student Success and AMSC School Deans</i>	
Conferral of Degrees .....	President Thompson-Sellers	
Musical Selection .....	<b>“Alma Mater”</b> .....	Written by Lafayette Summers Lyrics by Ojeda Penn Rearrangement by Val Parker, <i>Accompanist</i> Dr. Brian Crawford, <i>Trumpeter</i>
Induction to the Alumni Association .....	Leisa Stafford <i>President, AMSC Alumni Association</i>	
Musical Selection* .....	<b>“Lift Every Voice and Sing”</b> .....	By James Weldon Johnson Val Parker, <i>Accompanist</i> Dr. Brian Crawford, <i>Trumpeter</i>
Closing Remarks .....	President Thompson-Sellers	
Benediction .....	Reverend Dr. Frank Johnson <i>Senior Pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church Retired Dean, Atlanta Metropolitan State College</i>	
Recessional* .....	<b>“Ode to Joy”</b> .....	Poem by Fredrich Schiller Arranged by Ludwig van Beethoven, Ninth Symphony Wayne Coleman, <i>Bagpiper</i>

\*The audience is requested to stand.



*School of Business and Technology*  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
*Candidates for Degree*

Zi’Neshia Shaquawn Ajuzie  
Amir Babiker  
Trinity Omega Bain\*\*  
Russell Lamar Barnett, Jr.  
Mekhi Damon Beverly  
Nitin Boindala  
Jay-Jay Botha  
Jasmine Monet Browner  
Evie Burton  
Tamika Calhoun  
Cherline Cherisma  
Haley Curry  
Shyya Curtis\*  
Keisha DeLaney  
Laveion S. Dillard  
Seynabou Ali Diop  
Christen Dixon  
Trenton Carlile Drury\*  
Kierra Nicole Dunlap  
Kiara Finney

Tayonia Monchel Gilmore  
Jatez Travone-Morrow Jackson  
Rahsheed De’Jour Leonard-Higgs  
Terquita Chantee' Nesmith  
Dornella L. Offord  
Jazzmyn Parker  
Keenan Rashaad Parker  
Kroscha Denise Price  
Courtney C. Reed  
De’Andrea Shauntia Rittman  
Malikah N. Ross\*  
Drake Braddford Rucker  
Omer Siddiqui  
Pamela Rene' Sullivan  
Jada Taylor\*  
Michael D. Trammell  
Cire Traore  
Abhyuday Vyas  
James L. Wiggins, Jr.  
Chasen Dior Williams

*Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.*

\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\*Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20





*School of Business and Technology*  
Associate of Science  
*Candidates for Degrees*

Bankole Qudus Akolade  
Georgia Zhane' Anderson  
David Augustinvil  
Amir Babiker  
Fatoumata D. Barry  
Cleopatra Raheesa Boswell  
DeArius Chemar Boykin  
Cheyenne Brown\*\*  
Christina Rose Nakia Colley\*  
Talia Amaris Cooper  
Coilean J. Dansby  
Jade Trinity Davis  
Keisha Jetaun Delaney  
Muhammed Drammeh  
Monique Epps  
Crystal S. Flowers\*\*  
Kayla Alise Hill  
Teiana Howard  
Stephanie Chisom Imebuogu\*  
Mark Johnson  
Selena Nicole King  
Renita Holliday Kirkland\*\*

Mario Lee McIntosh\*  
Alecia Mikell  
Sunny Ogbu Onuoha\*  
Alex H. Pelt, Sr.\*\*  
Darlene Michelle Poole  
Alexandria Powers  
Stephanie Puckett-Garner  
Raequan Jaylen Reed\*\*  
Eleysia Marie Reynolds  
Kendall A. Roberts\*  
Jeriah Deshon Shepperd-Smith  
Darius M. Smith  
Jamari Smith  
Keona M. Turner  
Searra Turner  
Peter St. Pierre, Jr.  
Nnanna Udumah  
Tanya V. Wellmaker  
Briana Renae Whitfield  
Jasmine S. Williams  
Aniyah Word\*  
Sayyidah N. Wright

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\*\*\* Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\* High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Honors 3.49 - 3.20



## *School of Business and Technology*

### Certificate in Business Management

#### *Candidates for Certificates*

Edward Antoine  
Jennifer Botello  
Candace Deanun Boykin  
Jailyn Brooks  
Gideon Burras  
Zyan Dontreal Campbell  
Smita Chaudhary  
Zhaire Dalton  
William Duval  
Isaac Essien  
Luwam Tsegai Ftau  
Robert L. Hardy  
Anthony Harris  
Shukayla Renee Harrison  
Cailin Henry  
Jhameria Hooks  
Yoseph Kassa  
Ophelia J. Kent  
Christopher Killings  
Kristy Leotto  
Marcelo Lopez  
Nyah Luck

Betelehem F. Menkir  
Ebonie Milliner  
Chinh Quang Ngo  
Tram T. Nguyen  
Thinabakho Young Nkanini  
Vitus Olumba, Jr.  
Williams Oru  
Prince Osei  
Tiatyanna Coryae Robertson  
Christa Ragine Scott  
Amari J. Simmons  
Ahmaad-tejan Marquette Spence  
Miya J. Stallings  
Rameen Talha  
Melanie Tavy Tang  
Tirhas Tewolday  
Ashton Alexandria Tweh  
Janée V. Vu-Hines  
Lucie Tomika Wandiga  
Sabine Warrington  
Luis Mauricio Mora Zavala

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## *School of Business and Technology*

### Certificate in Cyber Security

#### *Candidates for Certificates*

Trevon Brown  
Akeem Campbell  
Miles Carter  
Devin M. Cropper  
Ethan Ferguson  
Cameron Hishaw  
Nicholas Heeter  
Caleb Hepburn  
Khia Greaves  
Ted Kanya  
Tsega Lemma  
Kaydia Matthias

Taylor Marie Moore  
Tailor Morgan  
Brendy Ndungu  
Catherine Ndungu  
Joelle Milolo Ngalamulume  
Andy E. Pecina  
Cameron Taylor  
Shamar Rayhan Thomas  
Alana M. Russell  
Steve Ugbo, Jr.  
Amber Walton  
Cecelia Williams

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### Certificate in Information Technology

#### *Candidates for Certificates*

Giovanni Anekwe  
Jose Bibiano-Juarez  
Joshua Cheong  
Jaylen Colbert  
Zaria Crawford  
David Doun  
Bryson Fortson  
Jai-Li Greene

John D. Hawkins, IV  
Fenix McKinney  
Landon Morris Northcut  
Chidozie Okoro  
Treana Oliver  
Daniel Otoki  
Dante Ricketts

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## *School of Arts and Sciences*

### Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Entertainment Design

#### *Candidates for Degrees*

Kristin Davis

Jeriah Deshon Sheperd-Smith\*

### Bachelor of Arts in Film and Entertainment Studies

#### *Candidates for Degrees*

Kellis R. Bond

### Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

#### *Candidates for Degrees*

Diamond Alexcia-Preshonta Carter  
Destiny Kay Hall  
Malaysia Long

Nichelle Tianna Sadler  
Katelynn Luna Vazquez

### Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

#### *Candidates for Degrees*

Tiffany LaShawn Camp\*  
Tyrann Carter  
Sonia Sarah Elaine Gray  
Anjeane P. Rouse  
Rhonnae Johnson\*  
Chassidy Thomas\*  
Anthony Thuman\*\*\*

Danielle Cone Yancey  
Corey Hightower  
Xavier Kenyon Morris  
Marnita Travis\*\*\*  
Quintario Markeze Williams  
Elijah Kevison Wofford

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\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\*Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20



## *School of Arts and Sciences*

### Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership

#### *Candidates for Degrees*

Dwight Russ Bailey, Jr.  
Keywana Brown  
Lakeysha Coleman  
Olivia Lashell Gordon  
Sheltry C. Gray  
Shan Haugabrook  
Morgan Alyssa Head  
Charity N. Jackson  
LaQuasha K. Landrum  
Shaesha Shantel Meadows Robinson  
Britavis S. Parker\*

Missy Phillips  
Arianna Manasseh Starr\*\*  
Calvin Julius Sylvester  
Alexis Jordyn Williams

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\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\*Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20



## *School of Arts and Sciences*

### Associate of Arts

### *Candidates for Degrees*

Zainab Eniola Bankole  
Trevon Benton  
Kellis Bond  
Samantha C. Bowers  
Tiffina L. Davis  
Charda'e Star Evans  
Zi-Mya Nikita Gates  
Leon Gober, II

Kaya Hampton  
Oshi Leigh  
David O. Martins  
Michelle Neel\*  
Felicity Diana Nelson  
Jeriah Deshon Shepperd-Smith\*  
Braxton White

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\*\*\* Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\* High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Honors 3.49 - 3.20



## *School of Arts and Sciences*

### Associate of Science

### *Candidates for Degrees*

Salmat Abdulfatai – Ogunniyi\*\*\*

Nakeshia Deborah Allen\*\*

Kim Arnold

Emanuel J. Askew

Dwight Russ Bailey, Jr.

Sydney Barklow

Saoudatou Barry\*

Gabriela S. Bernardez

Adrienne DeOnna Bond

Cara Nicholette Caldwell

Lakeysha Coleman

Kendra Cochran\*\*

Aeleesia Debrann Copeland

Toni Tennille Couch

Monica Nicole Daniels\*\*\*

Brianna Dennis

Amari Ductan

Angelina Edochie

Ian Davonte Evans\*

Giovanni Antonio Famularo

Jessica Jacinda Foreman

La'Quasia Sha'Quell Franklin

Jennifer Roslind Frazier

Keiona Shanai Gadson

Janeria Grayson

Jashan Alexander Griffin\*

Jada Ruthmila Gumbs

Kalen Shanechia Hand

Aaron De'Shan Henderson

Shilenda Brasheda Hines

Kimberly Janel Jackson

Marieya Amara Jawara

Markeida A. Jenkins

Alexis Janae Johnson

Elizabeth Rochelle Johnson

Ashontis Jones

Na'Kesha Jordan

Keinosha' S. Keaton\*

Isa G. Kijera\*

Kenisha King\*

Sheldon Dewitt King

Angel Lewis

Kimberly L. Mabry

Hannah Marshall

Izabella Martinez

Chanel Keyshia McDowell

Pricilla Roxanne McGrue

Aleisha Lee King–McMichael\*\*

Michael McLarty\*\*\*

Mya Angelica McMann\*

Myraia I'esha Mitchell

Micah Moore

Wanda Denise Morgan\*

Asia Miracle Moton

Nnedi Paul\*\*

Nnenna Paul\*

Hermajesty Powell

Jayselynn Erica Peeples

Lateef Pyles

Brenay Genevia Michelle Reeves

Surrayah Thema Ahnjee Morgan

Rasheeda Laton Ramos\*\*

Corneshea Rice

Porcha Robinson

Francisco H. Romero\*\*

Yeisha LaShawn Royal

MBA KADDY SANYANG

Sokhna Magatte Seck\*\*



*School of Arts and Sciences*

Associate of Science *cont'd*

*Candidates for Degrees*

Jordan Shields  
Wesley Jameal Washington  
Sariyah L. West  
Chavonne Arniece White\*\*  
Yusef Jaleel White  
Anthony Lennell Williams, Jr.  
Glendalyn Natalie Williams  
Sharonda Williams  
Vincent Willis

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\*\*\* Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

\*\* High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

\*Honors 3.49 - 3.20





*School of Arts and Sciences*  
Certificate in Film & Television Production  
*Candidates for Certificates*

Nitin Boindala

Certificate in Religious Studies  
*Candidates for Certificates*

Perry Thomas Barrett  
Antonio Lamont Forte  
Lester Goff, III

Carolyn P. Harmon  
David O. Martins  
James Devine Smith

*Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.*

## *Presidential Regalia*

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Presidential regalia are unique among academic vestments in that they symbolize the president's rank and authority as the chief official of the institution—rather than reflecting the individual's academic credentials. There are four velvet bars, known as chevrons, on the sleeve of presidential regalia. Standard robes have only three. College and university presidents wear their distinctive regalia when participating in official college/university ceremonies and convocations. The presidential robe is also worn when representing the institution in official academic occasions at other universities.

The presidential regalia is in the Atlanta Metropolitan State College colors of red and black and features three-inch embroidered metallic silver panels with the college seal.

## *Presidential Medallion*

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The Atlanta Metropolitan State College Presidential Medallion is one of the grand traditions of higher education symbolizing the eminence, authority and responsibilities of the Office of the President. The medallion, bearing the college seal is presented during the inauguration of the President. It is worn by the President when she wears academic regalia for formal ceremonies.

Created by Medalcraft Mint, Inc., the design for the medallion features an engraving of the college seal. The three-inch medallion is cast in antique nickel metal with a red enamel inlay. The medallion is suspended from a nickel oval chain and bears the names of the college's past presidents.

## *Trailblazer Presidential Legacy*

Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. (1974 – 1994)

Harold E. Wade, Ph.D. (1994 – 2006)

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D. (2007 – 2019)

Georj L. Lewis, Ed.D. (2019 – 2023)

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D. (2023 – *Present*)

# *Academic Attire*

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The academic attire worn by faculty and graduates is the official and traditional dress for graduation ceremonies throughout the United States and in many other countries of the world. Its history may be traced to Europe's 12th century, when scholars found it necessary to wear gowns and hoods for warmth in the unheated buildings where they worked. Today, the academic regalia identifies each member of the academic community by degree, academic field, and awarding institution.

The gowns, which may be worn open or closed, have front facings of velvet. The velvet trim indicates the field of study. Doctors wear silk hoods four feet in length with a silk lining and a five-inch velvet binding; the color of the silk lining indicates the field of study. The cap for the doctor's degree is a black velvet mortar-board with a gold tassel.

Gowns for masters are silk, wool, or similar material. The master's gown, which is worn closed, has full-length, oblong sleeves with a crescent-shaped piece hanging from the sleeve base. These sleeves were originally used as a combination pocket and purse. The master wears hoods three-and-one-half feet long with three-inch velvet bindings. The color symbolism of the lining and velvet is the same as for the doctoral hood.

Baccalaureate and associate degree gowns are made of cotton or worsted with long, pointed sleeves and a single button at the neck. They are worn closed. Women may wear white collars. Caps for masters, bachelors, and associates are in the form of mortar-boards and are cotton poplin or similar material. The tassels are generally black, although tassels for masters and bachelors may be in the color of the academic discipline.

Black is the official color for all gowns; however, some institutions have adopted doctoral gowns in the color of the awarding institution.

The ornamental braid draped over the shoulder of some of the graduates is called a *fouregère*. Derived from French military tradition, it is used by Atlanta Metropolitan State College to give special recognition to those students graduating with honors.

# Academic Regalia

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The academic dress worn for ceremonies originated during the Middle Ages when university classrooms were unheated, and the gown and hood kept scholars warm. It became a distinctive symbol of academic pursuit, setting apart the academic community. The gown became standardized in 1894 when the American Intercollegiate Commission determined that all robes would be black. The master's degree robe is characterized by long, closed sleeves, while the gown for the doctoral degree features a facing of velvet from the hem to the neck and back, with three velvet bands around each sleeve above the elbow. The traditional hood, also black, is the most distinctive feature of academic attire. The hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution granting the academic degree and is trimmed in velvet in a color representing the field of study.

*As prescribed by the revised American Intercollegiate Code, the color associated with the academic discipline is as follows:*

Maize.....	Agriculture	Science Gold.....	Mathematics
White.....	Arts and Letters	Kelly Green.....	Medicine
Blue Violet.....	Architecture	Pink.....	Music
Drab.....	Business	Apricot.....	Nursing
Midnight Blue.....	Criminal Justice	Silver Gray.....	Oratory
Lilac.....	Dentistry	Olive Green.....	Pharmacy
Brown.....	Digital Media and Entertainment Design	Royal Blue.....	Philosophy
Copper.....	Economics	Sage Green.....	Physical Education
Light Blue.....	Education	Peacock Blue.....	Public Administration
Orange.....	Engineering	Salmon Pink.....	Public Health
White.....	History	Golden Yellow.....	Science
Maroon.....	Journalism	Citron.....	Social Work
Purple.....	Law	Scarlet.....	Theology
Lemon.....	Library Science	Gray.....	Veterinary Science

## *The Mace*

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The mace had its origin in Medieval times when it was a club-like weapon used by knights and kings of Feudal Empires. Used as an instrument to communicate and designate authority, it has evolved over the centuries into a ceremonial instrument, symbolic of the Office of the President of academic institutions.

Traditionally, colleges and universities design and craft maces which symbolize and capture a theme or message central to their existence. A mace is used each year for academic processions and recessions to lead institutional presidents into and away from commencement and convocation exercises. It is normally carried by a faculty member selected by the president. Today, *Ms. Gyuheui Choi, Associate Professor of Mathematics*, has been chosen for this honor.

The Atlanta Metropolitan College Mace, which was donated by the Student Government Association, was designed and hand-carved from mahogany wood by Sabiha Mujtaba, a local woodworker, during the 1995 Fall Quarter. The silver detailing was done by a Russian silversmith named Gia. The current mace was first used in November 1995 during the inauguration of Dr. Harold E. Wade, the second president of Atlanta Metropolitan College, now Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

The mace is constructed from ebony wood imported from Africa. It is forty-one inches in circumference. The top forms the shape of the College logo. The center is covered with a sterling silver sleeve on which the names of the presidents of the college are engraved. The large and small circular carvings are visible even when the mace is stationed in its custom design.

## *Gonfalons*

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Academic gonfalons -- banners suspended on a crossbar -- are another piece of medieval history that have been incorporated into academic tradition that reflect a timeless style, incorporate the college's colors and represent the School of Business and Technology and the School of Arts and Sciences.

# *Platform Party*

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**Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.**

*President*

**The Honorable Andre Dickens**

*61<sup>st</sup> Mayor, City of Atlanta*

**Dr. James McGee, III**

*Provost and Vice President for Student Success*

**Dr. Harry Akoh**

*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*

**Dr. Vincent Mangum**

*Dean, School of Business and Technology*

**MaLinda Williams**

*Registrar*

**Gyuheui Choi**

*Associate Professor & Mace Bearer*

**Juliette Seymour**

*Phi Theta Kappa Beta Beta Tau Chapter President, 2023-2024  
and Georgia Regional Officer*

*Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*

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Douglas R. Aldridge, Jr.	C. Everett Kennedy, III
Tom Bradbury	Sarah-Elizabeth Langford
Richard “Tim” Evans	Lowery Houston May
W. Allen Gudenrath	José R. Perez
Erin Hames	Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.
Bárbara Rivera Holmes	Harold Reynolds, <i>Chair</i>
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James M. Hull	Mathews Swift
Cade Joiner	Jim K. Syfan, III
Patrick C. Jones	

*Chancellor of the University System of Georgia*

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Dr. Sonny Perdue

*AMC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors*

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Skip Vaughan, <i>Chairman</i>	Reginald Moore
Pamela Cross, <i>Treasurer</i>	John O’Callaghan
Janice Andrews, <i>Secretary</i>	Leisa Stafford
Stacey Abrams	Tita Stewart
Veronica Adadevoh	Henry J. Thomas
Letty Ashworth	Michael Thurmond
Sharmen Gowens	Willie A. Watkins
Dr. LaReese Howell	Dianne Wisner

## *2024 Commencement Committee*

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Charles Beasley	Ivan McKee
Kofi Clark, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Jamila Rivers, <i>Co-Chair</i>
Tocarro Combs	Dr. Angela Starling
Sharon R. Duhart	Lt. Pamisa Scott
DeLise Hopson	Sheila Tenney
Oren Howell	Antonio Travis
Kevin Kirby	Dr. Dorothy Williams
Rebecca LaMontagne	MaLinda Williams, <i>Chair</i>
Dr. James McGee, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	

## *2024 Commencement Announcers*

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Faisal Mirza	Sokhna Seck
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## *2024 Commencement Sign Language Interpreters*

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Richard Brumberg	Donna Harvey
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## *Acknowledgements*

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*On behalf of the entire **Trailblazer** family, thank you for joining us for the 2024 Spring Commencement Exercise {Golden Graduation} as we celebrate 50 Years of Academic Excellence providing access to affordable, quality education in metro Atlanta.*



# *Alma Mater*

Written by Lafayette Summers

Lyrics by Ojeda Penn

Rearrangement by Val Parker

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We come here searching for our inner selves.  
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;  
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain:  
The fountain of knowledge,  
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

We will long remember the smiling faces we met here.  
We thank the Lord above for classmates  
And those who guide us onward to our goals.

We come here searching for our inner selves.  
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;  
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain;  
The fountain of knowledge,  
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

We hail our Alma Mater, Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

# *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

By James Wheldon Johnson

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Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on our way;  
Thou who has by thy might  
Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.



*Congratulations Golden Graduates!*

*Autographs*

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*Celebrating 50 Years*  
1974-2024



**IT ALWAYS  
MEANS  
MORE**

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE  
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION