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**Clark Atlanta University and Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority  
Hold Atlanta University Center Community Conversation on Campus Safety**  
*National Experts, Campuses and Community Gather to Discuss Local Solutions to National Issue*

**NEWS**

**ATLANTA (JAN. 13, 2016)** — Clark Atlanta University (CAU) President Ronald A. Johnson and The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority (FDHA) Chairman Thomas W. Dortch Jr., also a CAU trustee, will co-host a Community Conversation on Campus Safety Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 6pm in CAU's Henderson Student Center, 223 James P. Brawley Drive, S.W. While the primary focus of the conversation will center upon issues specific to the Atlanta University Center (AUC), representatives from nearby Atlanta universities, including Georgia State, Georgia Tech and Emory universities also will participate in the free public event.

During the forum, experts will frame the issue, local campus police chiefs will share front-line perspectives on solutions for safe campuses, and local leaders will discuss the issue from a broader, community perspective. Time also will be allotted for audience questions.

"Our goal in staging this conversation is two-fold," Johnson says. "First, we understand that the issue of campus safety is national in scope and cannot be resolved in a vacuum. It requires community collaboration. Second," he noted, "Atlanta's colleges, universities are a key constituent group, an important voting block and a major economic driver in the region. Our ability to safeguard their interests is tantamount to safeguarding our area's economic viability and progress."

Dortch and FDHA CEO Lisa Smith Flagg concur, while offering another perspective on the issue. "Violence is a critical community health issue across the nation, increasing at epidemic proportions. As a primary healthcare advocate, educator and a guardian of the community's health, as well as the owner of Grady Health System, the FDHA is compelled to address this issue. Efforts to assure a healthier metro-Atlanta community are incomplete without this discussion," Flagg noted. She and her team addressed the issue of violence during their fourth annual community health summit in October 2015 and will continue to address the issue in forums and community meetings throughout 2016.

Dortch added that he is especially enthusiastic about hosting a meeting for this segment of the region's demographic. "I believe that by connecting emerging leaders with those presently on the front lines, we engender an important conversation that ultimately results in workable, progressive, out-of-the box solutions that benefit everyone in the community."

The conversation, to be moderated by Penny Brown Reynolds, J.D., and Radio Personality Ryan Cameron, has attracted leaders from across the City. Confirmed panelists include: Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell; Atlanta Police Chief George N. Turner; and Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard. Also participating are Derrick A. Pope, J.D., chief of staff to Fulton County Board of Commissioners Chairman John Eaves; and Dawn Fowler, Ph.D., CDC Division of Violence Prevention; AUC student leaders also will share their perspectives and ideas on campus safety.

For more information, call 404-880-8337 or 347-882-0995.

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*Clark Atlanta University is a private, coeducational four-year university located in the historic heart of Atlanta. It is designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Doctoral Research University. Our 3,661 students are engaged in 38 areas of study in our four schools: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education and the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best institutions in American higher education. Clark Atlanta University is accredited to award the Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist and Doctoral degrees by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone 404-679-4501).*

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