25 Years of Progress!

The AUC Consortium, through its member institutions, promotes leadership, service, and civic responsibility within our surrounding and broader communities.

AUCC Member Institutions

Clark Atlanta University
Morehouse College
Morehouse School of Medicine
Spelman College

The Atlanta University Center (AUC) Consortium is the world’s oldest and largest association of historically Black colleges and universities. Together, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College have made significant strides in addressing complex social problems and improving the quality of life for children and families within local, national and global contexts. Anchored in West Atlanta, the campuses are leading the comprehensive revitalization efforts of its neighboring communities.

The AUC Consortium members also promote a culture of civic engagement and social responsibility by encouraging students to make a difference in the world through community outreach, service learning courses, volunteerism and activism.
Deeply Anchored in Our Community

Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College, all of which comprise the Atlanta University Center Consortium, are deeply anchored in the west Atlanta community in which they are located. The campuses have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of life by contributing their resources, including students, faculty and staff, to a comprehensive community revitalization campaign. AUC member institutions’ tradition of service dates back as far as 1897 when W.E.B. DuBois led faculty and students from the various campuses to apply their scholarship to the uplift of the human condition. More than 100 years ago, our shared vision was to dedicate the wealth of intellectual resources on AUC campuses to ameliorating the most pressing societal ills. That vision continues today.

Our Strategic Priorities

- Educational Transformation
- Community Health & Wellness
- Community & Economic Development
- Community Safety and Security
- Housing & Public Infrastructure
- Community Resource Development
- Community-Oriented Learning

Realizing Our Collective Vision

“The AUC neighborhood, through strategic partnerships, investments and coordinated efforts, can be transformed into a wonderful ‘College Town’ area, which will rival the great college towns across the country, with wonderful gateways, great amenities, first class retail and great neighborhood public schools. The AUC neighborhood could and should become a great center of intellectual discourse and a dynamic laboratory for ‘applied learning.’ This transformation will enable the AUC schools to position themselves individually and collectively as world class, globally competitive colleges and universities.”
1980s

1988
Clark Atlanta University
The Boards of Clark College and of Atlanta University vote to consolidate the two schools, creating Clark Atlanta University (CAU).

CAU charters the University Community Development Corporation (UCDC) as a non-profit organization to revitalize the neighborhoods surrounding the Atlanta University Center into safe and sustainable communities.

1990s

1996
Atlanta University Center Trustees authorize AUC Administrative Council to recommend a new structure for AUC, Inc.

Dr. Walter Massey becomes President of Morehouse College.

1997
Dr. Audrey Forbes Manley becomes President of Spelman College.

1999
UCDC is re-established to create sustainable communities through economic and social development initiatives and

NPU-T under the leadership of Tacuma Brown creates a partnership with the AUCC schools through Morehouse College, which later receives grants from HUD and Fannie Mae to create a Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force.

Morehouse School of Medicine, Morehouse College, and Spelman College formed College Partners Inc. (CPI) to swap land with Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA).

UCDC commissions the Greater Atlanta University Center Community Assessment (GAUCCA), a road map for NPU-T neighborhood revitalization still used today.

UCDC-Renovated House at 503 Atwood

2002 News Release

UCDC RENOVATES FORMER DRUG HOUSE FOR ATLANTA POLICE OFFICER

The University Community Development Corporation (UCDC) has transformed a former drug house into a new home for an Atlanta Police Officer in partnership with the Fulton County District Attorney’s “Neighborhood Fresh Start” initiative. UCDC acquires, rehabilitates, constructs and facilitates the development of affordable housing for moderate and low-income families in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Atlanta University Center.

The home at 503 Atwood Street was seized in January 2000 by the D.A.’s Office through the Community Prosecution Program, which works by first forfeiting the property and then by moving a police officer into the home to live rent-free for one year. The house will later be sold to a low to moderate-income family. The program’s goal is to approach the problem of illegal drug activity systemically rather than by simply repeatedly arresting offenders. UCDC joined the D.A.’s Office in making the house habitable and the community safer. This is the first of several homes that UCDC will be renovating under the “Neighborhood Fresh Start” initiative.

“One of the primary goals of UCDC is to clean-up neighborhoods and return a sense of safety to the community around the Atlanta University Center by taking a property such as this, renovating it and turning it into a high-quality affordable home,” says Pete Hayley, UCDC executive director. “This is one of several houses we have acquired and redeveloped over the last 12 years and is representative of our ongoing renovation and new housing construction.”
News Release  Monday, Sept. 16, 2002

Bush Administration Awards $10.7 Million in Community Development Grants to 22 Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Morehouse College, located in Atlanta, will receive a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program grant in the amount of $526,414. Morehouse will work with the City of Atlanta Department of Planning, Development, and Neighborhood Conservation, the University Community Development Corporation, the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, and Clark Atlanta University’s Office of Continuing Education to revitalize the Neighborhood Planning Unit T (NPU-T).

This neighborhood of 25,000 inhabitants is predominantly African-American, with the majority being low to moderate-income, female-headed households. The Morehouse College and NPU-T Collaboration and Revitalization Initiative will rehabilitate 14 homes owned by elderly persons, construct six affordable houses on vacant lots, increase homeownership opportunities for 60 low and moderate-income persons through educational workshops, train 15 student interns in Geographic Information Systems Technology, train an additional 30 student interns as community planning assistants, and train 11 neighborhood organizations in community development principles and assist them in becoming 501(c)3 community development organizations.
2006-2009

2006
AHA and CPI complete land swap near Harris Homes, thus enabling AHA to redevelop public housing and surrounding community.

Dr. John Maupin becomes President of Morehouse School of Medicine.

2007
Dr. Robert Franklin becomes President of Morehouse College.

UCDC and Morehouse Revitalization Task Force receive HUD grant to build 6 houses in NPU-T.

AUCC holds first stakeholder meeting with community advocates and representatives from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, AHA and UCDC, resulting in a joint vision for community revitalization.

Atlanta University Center Neighborhood Association (AUCNA) is formed as a partnership among residents, merchants and colleges to improve quality of community life.

Dr. Carlton Brown becomes President of Clark Atlanta University.

Annie E. Casey Foundation provides funding to include residential stakeholders in conversations leading to collaboration.

AUCC Council of Presidents initiates partnership with AHA to revitalize University Homes, one of Atlanta’s largest public housing tracts surrounding the AUC.

AUCC Council of Presidents adopts recommendations of the completed community economic development study.

Residents from six neighborhoods participate in focus groups and identify community needs and concerns.

MSM partners with Westside Health and Wellness Project.

2008
AUCNA is officially recognized by NPU-T as a neighborhood association.

Spelman College Sophomore Jasmine Lynn shot and killed by stray bullet while on the campus of CAU.

AUCC Council of Campus Outreach Officers established to pool program services to strengthen the community.

UCDC receives funding to commission a Business Incubator feasibility study and collaborates with West End Merchants to establish a Community Improvement District (CID). Because of its success, the Martin Luther King Merchants Association was revived with plans to work towards a CID.

Local delegation visits Jackson State Univ. to discuss the creation of effective college/community alliances.

Community Leadership Collaborative is formed to identify priorities and work with community leaders on key issues.

2009

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006
Press Release

HUD SECRETARY ANNOUNCES LAND SWAP BETWEEN ATLANTA HOUSING AUTHORITY & COLLEGE PARTNERS, INC.

Colleges exchange land with AHA in order to expand campuses

ATLANTA - Today, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced a land transfer between the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) and three of the city’s historically black colleges.

AHA and College Partners Inc. (CPI), a joint venture of Spelman College, Morehouse College and the Morehouse School of Medicine, will swap land near the Harris Homes public housing development. The exchange will facilitate campus expansion and provide AHA additional land for the redevelopment of public housing and the surrounding community.

"Today everyone goes home a winner," said Jackson. "AHA and these institutions for higher learning are aggressively moving forward to revitalize College Town. I applaud their efforts to leverage resources and create a thriving community for the students and the citizens of Georgia."

In 1999, AHA was awarded a $35 million HOPE VI Revitalization Grant from HUD to revitalize the Harris Homes public housing development in College Town. This 10.2-acre parcel of land is one of a number of parcels owned by the housing authority adjacent to the college. The AHA proposed to deed the 10.2 acres to CPI in exchange for the approximate 12-acre site adjacent to Harris.

The revised master plan for College Town will be the catalyst for the restoration of the surrounding neighborhood, creating a mixed-income community totaling 808 units. The main residential development will be comprised of 662 affordable and market rate rental units and 74 homeownership units. The economic anchor of the community will be a town square, with mid-rise residential buildings with retail space on the ground floor to complete the community.

Signing Land Swap Agreement

Morehouse President
Dr. Walter Massey,
City Council President
Lisa Borders, HUD Secretary
Alphonso Jackson, Spelman President
Dr. Beverly Tatum,
Morehouse School of Medicine
President Dr. David Satcher, AHA CEO
Renee Glover and College Partners Inc. Chairman Dr. Louis Sullivan
News Release
March 2, 2012
West End, Atlanta University Join Forces In Community Revitalization
A West End revitalization effort includes the Atlanta University community.

The Atlanta University Center Consortium Council of Presidents has joined forces with the West End Merchants Coalition (WEMC) to revitalize the community.

On Monday night, a reception was held to raise money to support a West End Community Improvement District (WE-CID). The event was held at the residence of Dr. Robert Franklin, president of Morehouse College.

WEMC is an organization of commercial property owners and community organizers that has been working to form the WE-CID. This past January, the Atlanta University Center Presidents announced their support of WEMC in forming a CID and have donated more than $75,000.

The proposed WE-CID, representing the Historic West End, would be a self-taxing district that will use additional property taxes from commercial and industrial property owners to augment local, state, and federal dollars for projects.

News Release
Sept. 22, 2010
Morehouse School of Medicine/United Way Awarded $500,000 Grant to Launch Atlanta Promise Neighborhood

ATLANTA – A coalition of Atlanta community leaders and partners led by Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta (UWMA) has been awarded a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to plan the “Atlanta Promise Neighborhood” (APN) in a 1.7-mile radius “wellness zone” west of Downtown Atlanta.

The partnership is one of only 21 organizations nationwide that received Promise Neighborhoods planning grants. With the one-year grant, APN partners will create a strategic plan to provide “cradle-to-college-to-career” services that improve the educational achievement and healthy development of children.

“MSM and United Way have forged a unique partnership,” explained MSM president John E. Maupin, Jr. “APN is a long-term, holistic initiative focused on providing a safe, nurturing environment to improve educational, health and social outcomes for children and families living on Atlanta’s west side.”

The initiative is modeled on the Harlem Children’s Zone and other programs designed to improve outcomes of children in distressed communities.

During the planning year, APN partners will focus on a comprehensive needs assessment that includes reviews of residents’ primary issues and needs.

2010-2013

2010
Stakeholders address crime at a local gas station and protest the opening of a neighborhood pawnshop that would sell guns.

Campus police departments join forces with APD to promote safety.

AUCC facilitates community safety assessment and offers public safety initiatives such as Neighborhood Watch training.

MSM, on behalf of AUCC, and United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta receive Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant.

Business Incubator Feasibility study completed and market confirmed.

CAU partners with the HUD Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office to infuse the principles of Fair Housing into its curriculum and community service opportunities.

2011
Dr. Sherry Turner becomes Executive Director of AUC Consortium, Inc.

Spelman launches Project Impact to transform the community by engaging students in service learning.

2012
AUC Consortium provides executive-level staff to support the development of the West End Community Improvement District.

AUC Consortium Presidents host donor reception to garner resources for the West End Community Improvement District.

2013
Dr. John S. Wilson becomes President of Morehouse College.

AUC Consortium launches Communiversity and its inaugural Community Leadership Development Program. Twenty-six participants complete the program.