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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, AND SPELMAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCE VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

#### *Morehouse School of Medicine's Hybrid Model of In-Person and Remote Learning Remains Unchanged*

ATLANTA, Georgia, July 20, 2020 – The presidents of three Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC) institutions — Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College — today announced a move to virtual instruction for all students during the Fall 2020 semester. Morehouse School of Medicine will move forward with a previously announced hybrid model of in-person and virtual instruction given the institution's role in healthcare delivery and the training of public health and medical professionals. This difficult but necessary decision is due to the current surge of COVID-19 cases and was made with the guidance of medical experts. Specifically, it responds to current rates of infection, hospitalizations, and deaths in the Atlanta area as well as in many geographies from which our students would need to travel to get to our campuses. Given that the AUCC is comprised of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), today's announcement also takes into account current data on the disproportionately negative impact of COVID-19 on Black populations as well as the increased spread of the virus within young adult populations.

"The AUCC's vibrant and interconnected community has a long tradition of collaboration, community and shared resources," said Clark Atlanta University President George French, Ph.D, chair of the AUCC Council of Presidents. "We announce this decision with a heavy heart. We know how vital the in-person connection and bonds formed throughout the AUCC are to our students. We wish the situation were different, but we must do our part to help support the health and safety of our community and we are committed to being part of the solution as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19."

Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College are all well-positioned to provide excellent virtual educational and student life experiences, and faculty and administrators are committed to interactive and holistic approaches to both equip and inspire AUCC students. All schools are poised to provide an engaging online Fall 2020 semester enhanced by summer faculty training on optimizing online course delivery; additional recent investments in technology, learning platforms, and collaboration tools; and dynamic new programming and planned activities consistent with HBCU culture and traditions. AUCC

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students will also have access to online services provided by the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library to further supplement the virtual learning experience. Contingent upon improvements in health data, we hope to resume in-person instruction for the Spring 2021 semester.

“The health and safety of AUCC students, faculty, and staff was at the heart of this deeply disappointing decision,” said Todd Greene, executive director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium. “Through real-time monitoring of the distressing COVID-19 trends both in Atlanta and across the United States, it is now clear that the surges in COVID-19 cases in Georgia and in the home states of our students makes it impossible to safely resume in-person learning this fall. The AUCC looks forward to welcoming students back to campus when it is safe to do so.”

Specific plans and polices will differ for each AUCC member institution, and each has issued guidance for its students and other constituencies. Please visit the website of each institution for specific information, and visit <http://www.aucenter.edu> for updates.

Related announcements by AUCC member institutions and the AUCC:

Clark Atlanta University:

[CAU President Fall 2020 Re-Opening Letter](#)

Morehouse College:

[Message from the President](#)

Spelman College:

[An Announcement from the Office of the President](#)

Morehouse School of Medicine:

[MSM’s Fall Plans Unchanged amid AUC Institutions’ Decision](#)

Atlanta University Center Consortium

[Letter from AUCC Executive Director Todd Greene Regarding Announcement of Fall 2020 Semester Virtual Instruction at Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College](#)

### ***About the Atlanta University Center Consortium, Inc.***

*Founded in 1929, the AUC Consortium is the nation’s oldest and largest contiguous formal collaboration of historically black colleges and universities. Comprised of its four-member institutions – Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College – AUCC represents a social justice-oriented intellectual community with a tradition of scholarship, service, and community engagement. AUCC forges collaborative opportunities for its members in several areas including research, academics, business operations, community and economic development, and community engagement.*

*For more information, visit [aucenter.edu](http://aucenter.edu).*

# AUCC#