

2015-2016 Annual Report

# **Working Together to Make Our Members and Community Stronger**





## Table of Contents

Dear Friends of the Consortium .....	Page 3
AUCC Inc.'s Numbers .....	Page 4
CommUniversity .....	Page 5
Career Fairs .....	Page 7
DDEP .....	Page 10
How We Make It Happen .....	Page 15



Dear Friends of the Consortium,

The past year has been an active one for the AUC Consortium Inc. Founded in 1929, AUCC is the world's oldest association of historically black colleges and universities in the world. Comprised of its four member institutions — Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College — AUCC represents an intellectual community with a storied tradition of rich culture, scholarship, service and community engagement.

A nonprofit organization that operates on behalf of its members to advance each institution's mission and strategic goals, our mission is to foster collaboration, manage centerwide initiatives, and offer services that leverage shared resources of the community and of member institutions to maximize opportunities for our students and community to live, learn, work and play.

The statistics and photos we have offered in this annual report will provide you with an introduction to the organization, its work and the value we place on our critical partnerships with our member institutions, donors, businesses and corporations, students and the community.

Our board, the Council of Presidents, has continued its strategic planning process which focuses AUC institutions on generating meaningful and successful outcomes, improving external relations and community outreach.

This renewed strength will allow AUCC to be uniquely positioned to address a myriad of concerns facing our college campuses and larger community with greater flexibility, laser-sharp focus on our strategic direction and sustainable partnerships.

As we close this fiscal year, we are pleased with the accomplishments in our signature programs, CommUniversity, Academic and Career Planning Services, and the Dual Degree Engineering Program. As we look forward, we are excited and thankful for our ability to serve and impact the lives of our students and community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Atlanta University Center Consortium and making our work possible.

Yours in Service,

Tamala Fortson  
Associate Director/Business Manager



## AUCC Inc.'s Numbers

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Current Revenue Breakdown



### Revenue Sources

Memberships (Affiliated Institutional Support).....	<b>76%</b>
Registration Fees (Fairs and Events) .....	<b>21%</b>
Other Support (Endowment and Investments) .....	<b>3%</b>



### Dual Degree Engineering Program

- **94** collaborative partners supported events
- **Seven** area businesses received business tools to promote business success



- **51** residents received financial planning wealth-building training certificates
- **74** residents received homebuyer down-payment assistance

- **\$200,000** in scholarships awarded at 2016 awards ceremony
- **225** students registered in DDEP
- **32** students transferred to engineering partner institutions
- **10** students graduated from engineering partner institution

- Hosted **five** career and recruitment fairs
- **1,985** alumni and student participation in 2015/2016 fairs
- **536** corporate and institutional recruiters for 2015/2016 fairs



### Career Planning and Placement Services





# RESILIENCY:

## Helping West Atlanta Bounce Back

In less than two years, CommUniversity, the community outreach arm of the Atlanta University Center Consortium Inc., has served more than 500 residents of nearby communities around the Atlanta University Center. Through its five pilot programs, Community Leadership Development, Common Cents, Home Buying 101, Know Your Rights: Legal Information Forum, and Small Business Development ARC, CommUniversity has delivered customized trainings, capacity-building, and provided educational opportunities for residents and organizations to collaborate on a shared vision for Atlanta's west side communities.

"Our goal through CommUniversity is to provide an opportunity for local residents to foster personal growth and development within their families and community," said Anthony Otey, CommUniversity Project Coordinator. "The harder you throw a rubber ball down, the higher it bounces. That's resiliency. Just like a rubber ball, we help people bounce back."

Along with member institutions Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse

School of Medicine, and Spelman College, CommUniversity has worked with 94 collaborative partners to support various events, including Regions Bank, Metro Fair Housing Services Inc., Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, and Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

*"CommUniversity's programs are holistic in nature and provide community members with important resources and information..."*

*– Tiffany Kirk,  
Regions Bank*

"It is important for Regions to support programs like those under the CommUniversity umbrella because they align with our values as a company to 'put people first' for the customers we serve and the communities in which we do business," said Cecilia Bailey, Community Education Administrator, Regions Financial Education Institute Regions Bank.

"Programs such as Common Cents, Home Buying, and Small Business ARC Tank provide resources and tools to strengthen people and businesses in the community."

A \$100,000 grant from Regions Bank helped sponsor the Small Business Development ARC, Community Leadership Development Certificate Program, Home Buying 101, and the Common Cents Financial Empowerment Series.

"CommUniversity's programs are holistic in nature and provide community members with important resources and information regarding legal rights, financial education, leadership, small business development assistance and homebuyer education," said Tiffany Kirk, Community Affairs Manager – GA/SC – Regions Bank. "These programs provide critical resources that equip community members with the personal and business skills that result in a stronger community. This program serves as a catalyst for positive change in the communities surrounding the AUC Consortium."

For Vanessa Emerson, receiving free legal advice was priceless for her. Emerson, who was homeless when she attended the December 2015 Know Your Rights: Legal Information Forum, spoke with a representative from Legal Aid. Upon meeting with the representative, Emerson was given successful steps in how to handle a lawsuit she was pursuing.

"Before that legal clinic, I had been trying to find help for more than a year," she said. "I had a lot of legal questions, and the representative I spoke to helped me put priorities in order before continuing my lawsuit, one of which was to settle into my own place. It helped me."



# alac Career Fairs





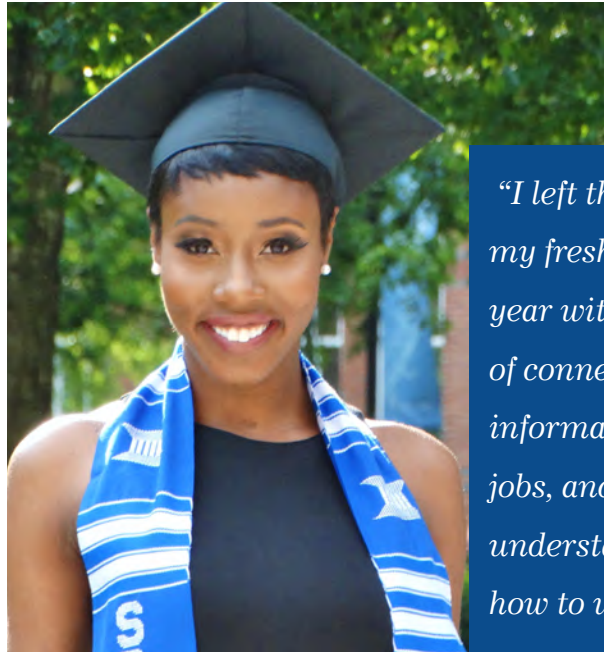
# AUCC CAREER FAIRS:

## A Land of Jobs and Money

As a Spelman College freshman, Kendra Goodson attended her first career fair in the fall of 2012. Made aware of the fair through an email from the Career Planning and Placement office, Goodson has attended every fall fair throughout her matriculation.

“I was looking to see if there were any opportunities or internships for me to take advantage of for the summer,” said Goodson, a May 2016 graduate. “I wanted to get a feel of what a career fair was really like and speak to possible employers about working with them the next year. I left the career fair my freshman year with a multitude of connections, information about jobs, and a better understanding of how to work through a career fair.”

Annually, the Atlanta University Center Consortium holds five recruitment fairs, each focused on providing student job seekers access to prospective employers and employment resources, all from a centralized forum. Each year, the AUCC’s Career Fair, Grad Fair, Virtual Fair, Law School Fair, and the Educator Teacher Fair successfully connects over 500 recruiters with access to over 9,000 students from the four member institutions – Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College.



“Through the collaborative efforts of the AUCC, individual corporations and partnering institutions, the nation’s top minority students have the opportunity to network with our database of 1,400 companies, including corporate, government and educational partners,” said Carolyn Rhodes, Recruiting and Special Project Coordinator for AUCC.

Goodson said she has always received positive feedback from attending the career fair.

Not only has she gained information about companies, Goodson was able to hone her communications skills with recruiters; skillsets that become better with practice.

*“I left the career fair my freshman year with a multitude of connections, information about jobs, and a better understanding of how to work through a career fair.”*

According to Andre McKinney, today’s students should seek out employment opportunities as soon as they become college students. “Students are encouraged to participate in career fairs as early as their freshman year,” said McKinney, director of Career and Professional Development at Clark Atlanta University. “It’s important to remember that employers are impressed by the efforts of students to engage and learn more about their organizations.”

This fall, Goodson, a computer science graduate, will start her career path with Accenture, a global professional services company of 373,000 employees that provides a range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Goodson will work as an analyst in Accenture Digital, where 28,000 digital experts whose skills range from engineers to artists.



“I was offered similar consulting positions at IBM and Accenture,” said Goodson, a 21-year-old Fairfield, California, native, who found her job through the career fair. “I chose Accenture for a multitude of reasons, the main one being that at Accenture, I feel like I can really be in control of my career path and growth within the company.”

Goodson is one of 18 graduates who received an offer from Accenture, a regular exhibitor at the AUCC Fall Career Fair. “Honestly, the AUCC Fall Career Fair is the largest fair I attended out of the four [historically black college and university fairs] we attended this past fall,” said Glenn Newman, Diversity Campus Recruiting Lead for Accenture, who also attended fairs at Howard University, Hampton University and Prairie View A&M University. “We had more than 130 students stop by the Accenture booth to learn more about Accenture, consulting and career opportunities.”

Of the 18 Accenture offers made, 15 in consulting, one in strategy, and two in digital, there were 16 accepts and two declines. Ten were made to Spelman students, five to Morehouse, and three to CAU. In addition to the full-time offers to recent grads, Accenture extended four internship offers, which were all accepted. These students are interning in Accenture’s Atlanta, Charlotte and Philadelphia offices this summer.

The AUCC career fairs are pathways to viable professional careers and operate as networking opportunities for both the job seeker and

recruiter. “Regardless of major or classification, the goal for students at career fairs should focus on learning about various career opportunities within organizations and industry,” said McKinney.

“Students should expect to create paths and connections that can ultimately lead to real life experiences that will enable them to properly transition into their chosen career paths.”







# DDEP:

## Building Tomorrow's Future



For years, the top-producing baccalaureate engineering degrees for African-Americans have come from two AUCC dual-degree program feeder institutions – North Carolina A&T State University and Georgia Tech. We believe part of their success has to do with DDEP serving as a pipeline providing a steady flow of science, technology, engineering and mathematics-seeking minority students to their engineering doors.

Created to increase the number of minorities entering engineering and technology, the program was first established in 1969 when

Morehouse College entered a dual-degree relationship with Georgia Tech. The following year in 1970, Clark College, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College entered the agreement, which became known as the Atlanta University Center-Georgia Tech Dual Degree Program in Engineering. Currently, the program is comprised of AUC Consortium institutions, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College.

Today, approximately 2,700 engineering students have graduated through AUC DDEP's 3+2

curriculum (three years matriculation at an Atlanta University Center institution and two years at a partnering engineering institution). The partnership has expanded from Georgia Tech to include Auburn University, Clarkson University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Missouri University of Science and Technology, North Carolina A&T State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of Florida, University of Michigan, and University of Notre Dame.



Meet a few of our more than 200 current and recently graduated DDEP students.



## CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

### Mykala Jones

As a scholar-athlete and civil engineering and computer science major, Mykala Jones knows what hard work means. The 3.64 GPA Clark Atlanta student is currently attending Georgia Tech.

A basketball standout, Jones received an athletic scholarship to CAU and just finished her semiprofessional season with the Georgia Stampede. At CAU, she belonged to several student organizations including Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, National Society of Black Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, and Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society.

Upon completion of her engineering degree from Georgia Tech, Jones wants to study abroad while attending graduate school to study architecture and play overseas professional basketball.

“Clark Atlanta paved the way for me to attend my dream school, Georgia Tech,” she said. “The dual degree program helped me to become a standout prospect and phenomenal student athlete.”

### Jeremy Robinson

Since age 9, Jeremy Robinson has been a tinkerer – taking apart and putting back together the family computer and his Nintendo game system. By the time he reached ninth-grade, he was encouraged to enroll in a STEM program.

“We would visit engineering schools like Auburn and Georgia Tech,” said the rising CAU junior. “I realized that since I liked technology, what better field to enter than engineering.”

A Fort Valley, Georgia, native, Robinson’s high school counselor advised him about CAU and its dual degree program. Accepted, he made a visit to the campus where he felt right at home.

“I fell in love with CAU and the 3+5-year engineering program that allows me the opportunity to attend two universities and be able to earn two degrees,” said Robinson who plans to work for NASA as a Timeline Change



Officer after graduating from his engineering institution – Auburn or Georgia Tech. “DDEP has helped me in the interviewing process with companies and provided me with scholarships. I really love what the program has helped me accomplish.”

## MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

### Darian Nwankwo

If Morehouse was the school for a great man like Martin Luther King Jr., then it was definitely the place for Darian Nwankwo. Although he had his mind set on going into the military like his mother, it was his father who encouraged him to apply to Morehouse.

“I visited [Morehouse] during Admitted Students Day and was overwhelmed by the number of young black males pursuing higher education and knew this would be an environment conducive for learning,” said Nwankwo, a rising junior whose major is computer science and electrical engineering. “In addition to that experience, once I learned this was the school Martin Luther King Jr. attended, I knew I would be destined for greatness if I could attend.”



After he completes his three-year stint at Morehouse, Nwankwo plans on attending USC Viterbi School of Engineering, Columbia Engineering or Georgia Tech. After receiving his engineering degree, he will pursue a graduate degree from MIT. Nwankwo’s ultimate goals are ambitious. “I am interested in entrepreneurship, innovation, and science,” he said. “I will most likely become an entrepreneur and scientist.”

### Steven Ragland

It was the best of both worlds for Steven Ragland. Through DDEP he would benefit from the rich culture of a historically black college and then gain technical training at a top-notch engineering institution.

“I knew at Morehouse I would be set up to succeed, and I have known I wanted to do engineering since I was about 10,” said Ragland, who also enjoyed solving puzzles and building with Legos. “When I learned there were careers that sort of combined all of these, my heart became set on engineering.”

An applied physics and aerospace engineering major, the newly acclimated Morehouse Man will enter Georgia Tech this fall.

“I chose Tech for four main reasons,” he said. “First, it’s one of the top-rated engineering schools in the nation; second, I received substantial financial aid to attend; third, the transition of moving down the street from the AUC would ease the social burden of



transferring to a new school; and fourth, there will be a lot of AUC transfers to Tech, so we can re-establish a supportive AUC network.”



## SPELMAN COLLEGE

### Saleigh Derico

Saleigh Derico was sold on going to Spelman because many of her friends were in DDEP, and a visit to “A Day in Your Life at Spelman” enabled her to envision life at the historically black college. Derico has engineering in her blood. Both her parents are electrical engineers who worked at Lockheed Martin.

“I was introduced to many engineering camps and even became a camp counselor of one I participated in,” said the Atlanta native who majors in mathematics and industrial engineering at Spelman. “Considering that math is my favorite subject and my love for solving problems within and around my community is my No. 1 goal in life, what better field than engineering?”



By age 35, Derico plans on becoming a millionaire. The 20-year-old wants to franchise all of the places she frequents – Dollar Tree, Chick-fil-A, Nike, and Bath & Body Works. She will graduate spring 2018 with her Spelman classmates, but this fall Derico will transfer to Auburn University, Georgia Tech, or North Carolina A&T to begin her engineering program.

“Not everyone can handle the pressure of being in DDEP. Yes, it’s hard; yes, it’s tiring” said Derico. “But, if you truly love being in STEM and want to be an engineer, none of that matters. DDEP will provide you with a support system, and you will be successful.”

### Nacarri Murphy

For Nacarri Murphy it has been a family tradition to attend Spelman. Her grandmother, aunt, and cousin are alumnae. A student with an inkling for math had everyone telling her she should be a doctor.

“But, after taking AP biology, I swore against ever taking another biology course in my life,” said the Chicago native who decided to major in math at Spelman. “As a math major, I ran into Dual Degree majors all the time.”

It was during these constant run-ins that Murphy decided in her sophomore year to change her major to mathematics and mechanical engineering. In the fall she will be transferring to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

In addition to receiving her engineering degree from IUPUI, Murphy wants to receive both her master’s and doctorate from the engineering institution. “After visiting and staying in constant communication with the dual degree students who go there, I know IUPUI is the transfer school for me,” said Murphy who will also be close to her father who lives in Indiana. “They have a wonderful community that makes AUC students feel right at home.”





## Our Members

Clark Atlanta University  
Morehouse College  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Spelman College

## Our Partners

Atlanta Housing Authority, University Choice Neighborhood  
Atlanta University Center Neighborhood Association  
Atlanta Public Schools' Hollis Innovation Academy Center  
National Society of Black Engineers  
Neighborhood Planning Units T, L and K  
Westside Promise Zone  
Westside Education Collaborative

## Our Partnering Engineering Institutions

Auburn University  
Clarkson University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
Missouri University of Science & Technology  
North Carolina A&T State University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
University of Notre Dame

## Our Staff

Tamala Fortson, *Associate Director/Business Manager*  
Angela Yarbrough, *Executive Assistant*  
Anthony Otey, *CommUniversity Program Coordinator*  
Carolyn Rhodes, *Recruiting and Special Projects Coordinator*  
Letia Wyatt, *Interim Program Manager*  
Christabel Antwi, *Accounting Specialist*  
Maria Dennis, *Administrative Assistant*  
Renita Mathis, *Director of Communications*

## Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

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## Ways to Get Involved

### Alumni Participation

For more information, contact **Letia Wyatt** at [lw Wyatt@aucenter.edu](mailto:lw Wyatt@aucenter.edu)

### Corporate Partner

For more information, contact **Carolyn Rhodes** at [crhodes@aucenter.edu](mailto:crhodes@aucenter.edu)

### Individual Giving

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