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PRESS RELEASE

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**50th Anniversary Celebration of the Atlanta Student Movement
Highlights Historic Value of "An Appeal for Human Rights"**

Atlanta, GA., March 10, 2010 – *"We, the students of the six affiliated institutions forming the Atlanta University Center -- Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown and Spelman Colleges, Atlanta University and the Interdenominational Theological Center – here joined our hearts, minds, and bodies in the cause of gaining those rights which are inherently ours as members of the human race and as citizens of these United States."*

It was these opening words presented as "An Appeal for Human Rights" and published as a full-page advertisement in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* on March 9, 1960, that forced the City of Atlanta to take stock of its less than civil practices 50 years ago.

On Monday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m., the Atlanta Student Movement Committee will officially kick-off a week-long celebration commemorating its 50th anniversary at a press conference on the steps of Trevor Arnett Hall on the campus of Clark Atlanta University – the original location of the student's first public announcement of the movement that changed Atlanta.

"Fifty years ago, students from the Atlanta University Center began a movement for human rights, stranding up against unjust laws and segregation and risking their lives on the picket lines and in the jails of Atlanta," said **Judge Brenda H. Cole**, Fulton County State Court and Co-chair of the Atlanta Student Movement Committee. "We demanded not only the right to sit at lunch counters but to receive the rights owed to every citizen in the country. The Atlanta Student Movement changed the face of Atlanta."

Judge Cole will be joined by fellow co-chairs **Johnny E. Parham**, an original member of the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights, noted civil rights activist **Lonnie C. King**, Chair of the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights, and **Ambassador Andy Young**.

Later that same day, original members of the Atlanta Student Movement and supporters will be honored at the opening of "Voices Across the Color Line: The Atlanta Student Movement 50th Anniversary," an exhibition at the Atlanta History Center. Through photographs, documents, videos, and contemporary oral history interviews with Atlanta student leaders, "Voices Across

the Color Line” commemorates the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Atlanta Student Movement. The exhibit runs through September 25, and is free and open to the public.

“As we reflect with pride in what was accomplished, our hearts and minds are filled with how much is left to be done, “ said Lonnie C. King. “The most urgent issue is the effective education of minority and low-income students that has eluded the many good faith attempts to improve educational outcomes, “ “This look back is to remember what is possible if people can work together on a solution for today.”

A full schedule of events is available at www.atlantastudentmovement.org.

Media Instructions:

ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE MEDIA

MONDAY, MARCH 15

Parking for Press Conference available on Greensferry Street located on the back side of the Trevor Arnett hall building.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Media access allowed at

Proclamation Ceremony and Reception

Hosted by the City of Atlanta (not open to the public)

7 - 9:00 p.m.

City Hall Atrium

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Atlanta Student Movement 50th Anniversary Celebration

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 15-20, 2010

MONDAY, MARCH 15

10:00 a.m.

Press Conference

Announcing the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Atlanta Student Movement

Steps of Trevor Arnett Hall

Clark Atlanta University Campus

Parking available in the Visitor's Parking Lot

Open to the public

10:30 a.m.

Registration and Reception

Trevor Arnett Hall Art Gallery

6-9:00 p.m.

Opening Reception and Exhibition (Preview)

"Voices Across the Color Line:

The Atlanta Student Movement 50th Anniversary"

Atlanta History Center

130 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta

<http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com>

This program is free and open to the public.

Reservations are required. Please call 404-814-4150.

6:00 p.m. - Cocktail Reception and Exhibition Viewing

7:00 p.m. - **Keynote Lecture** by Dr. Winston Grady-Willis, Director of International Studies at Skidmore College and author of *Challenging U.S. Apartheid: Atlanta and the Black Struggle for Human Rights, 1960-1977*

8:00 p.m. - **Panel Discussion** featuring six participants from the **Atlanta Student Movement**. Each panelist represents one of the six schools comprising the Atlanta University Center in 1960.

Panelists:

Lonnie C. King, Chair, Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR)

James Felder, Clark College

The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., The Interdenominational Theological Center

Dr. Mary Ann Booker, Morris Brown College

Dr. David Satcher, Morehouse College
Dr. Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, Spelman College

(Con't)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

2:00 p.m.

Keynote Lecture and Panel Discussion

Cosby Auditorium, Spelman College

Keynote Address:

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder, Children's Defense Fund

Panelists:

Dr. Carlton Brown, Clark Atlanta University
Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Interdenominational Theological Center
Dr. Stanley Pritchett, Morris Brown College
Dr. Robert M. Franklin, Morehouse College
Dr. Beverly D. Tatum, Spelman College, Opening Remarks

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

10:50 a.m.

Crown Forum: A Commemoration of the Atlanta Student Movement

Speaker: Lonnie C. King, Chair, COAHR

Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College

Open to the public

View the web stream at www.morehouse.edu

2:30-3:45 p.m.

Workshop & Panel Discussion

"Looking Forward"

Moderator: Lydia Tucker Arnold

Panelists:

Dr. Herschelle Challenor, "Lessons Learned from the Atlanta Student Movement"
Danny Mitchell, "Strategies for Addressing Current Problems – A Challenge to Present Day Students"
Lonnie C. King, "1960 and 2010 Appeals"

Sponsored by the Morehouse Martin Luther King Jr. Collection
Executive Conference Center, Bank of America Auditorium, Morehouse College

Open to the public

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

10:00 a.m.

AUC Student Seminar

Sponsored by Dr. Josephine Bradley, Chair, Africana Women's Studies

Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science and Technology, Clark Atlanta University

Open to the public

The Atlanta Student Movement 50th Anniversary Committee acknowledges with gratitude the support of Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta Inquirer, Clark Atlanta University, Glennon Design Group, Interdenominational Theological Center, McDowell Photography, Morehouse College, Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, Morris Brown College, Spelman College, and Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.