FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark Atlanta University Women’s Sports Teams Participate in Sports Program at Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy

ATLANTA (May 11, 2010) – On Tuesday, May 11 Clark Atlanta University's (CAU) women’s sports teams participated in the first annual Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy (CSKYWLA) Sports Program. The program, coordinated by CAU Alumna and Athletic Director for the City of Atlanta, Billette Owens Ashford, CSKYWLA Dean of Academics, April Patton and

The program, which took place on CSKYWLA’s new campus, was an opportunity for young women interested in playing sports in high school to learn basic skills needed to play sports, as well as balance academics. CAU Director of Athletics, Dr. Tamica Smith Jones, set the tone for the day by encouraging the young women to FOCUS, an acronym for Fun, Opportunity, Character, U (you) and Sports can equal Success. A few young women received an autographed copy of Jones’ autobiography A Ball and a Dream for correctly answering questions Jones asked.

After being motivated by Jones to FOCUS, the young women were split into groups and led through a series of thirty-minute sports clinics. Head Coach Vanessa Moore and Jonae Prince-Coleman (Basketball), Ashley Brooks and Kynesha Gibson (Softball), Tyronda Starks (Tennis) and Krysta McGowan (Volleyball) guided the girls through fundamental skills in their respective sports. After lunch and the last rotation through the basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball clinics, all of the students and clinicians gathered at the track where Pamela Page, head coach for both men’s and women’s cross country and men’s and women’s track and field, along with former CAU track athlete Jalia Moody, Breanna Pleasant and Loneia Powell directed the young women in a series of track and field events.

When asked about the value of the first annual sports program, Patton stated, “The CAU players provided valuable insight, from a woman's perspective, about being a balanced collegiate student. It was even more exciting for the girls to actually workout with Coach Moore from the Lady Panther’s basketball team and with Coach Page from the Lady Panther's track team. Many of the CSKYWLA students recognized and were appreciative of the coaches coming to CSKYWLA to show them how to be a better player and how athletics can be one of the ways to earn college scholarships.”

The CSKYWLA students bonded with the Lady Panthers and were learned it is hard work being not only an athlete, but a team player and solid student. All of the girls asked," When are they coming back?".

“We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the CSKYWLA students,” stated Coach Page. “This program allowed us to, not only share our lives and inspire young women to be great, but we, in turn, gained insight on how much giving back means. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with CSKYWLA.”