Developing Core Values

“A People Process Culture”

2010 Mission, Vision, Purpose Statements

Cabinet Retreat – Part I

December 15, 2009

Narendra H. Patel, Director
Office of Planning, Assessment & Research
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Clark Atlanta University (CAU), formed in 1988 as a result of the consolidation of two independent historically black institutions — Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), is a United Methodist Church-related, private, coeducational, residential, and comprehensive urban research university. The University offers undergraduate, graduate and professional, and non-degree certificate programs.

MISSION

- Clark Atlanta University is an institution of high research activity characterized by a focus on the intellectual and personal development of each student. Its purpose is to prepare a diverse community of learners to excel in their chosen endeavors and to become responsible, productive and innovative citizen leaders, locally and globally. This outcome is accomplished by the provision of access to and excellence in teaching, research, service and creative activities through continuous engagement in an enriched, challenging, and nurturing environment.

Revised, approved by the Board of Trustees, October 15, 2009
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Clark Atlanta University (CAU), formed in 1988 as a result of the consolidation of two independent historically black institutions — Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), is a United Methodist Church-related, private, coeducational, residential, and comprehensive urban research university. The University offers undergraduate, graduate and professional, and non-degree certificate programs.

VISION

Clark Atlanta University will further extend its national prominence and international presence for its distinctive capacity and commitment to provide a personally transformative learning environment, characterized by excellence in teaching, rigorous and innovative academic programs, dedication to the nurturing and development of its students, and the conduct of research addressing critical local, national, and global issues. Its students and faculty will gather from all parts of the world to discover and apply solutions to many of society’s most pressing problems. Clark Atlanta University graduates will demonstrate finely honed intellectual capability, innovative ideas and practices, inclusiveness, a disposition to serve, and a distinct appreciation for diversity in people, place, and opportunity.
PURPOSE
Clark Atlanta University is dedicated to preserving and disseminating the heritage of peoples of African descent. Our growth and survival are predicated upon self-knowledge and self-respect, both of which are rooted in a knowledge of history. In pursuit of its mission, Clark Atlanta University accepts the mandate of its parent institutions: Atlanta University’s motto, “I’ll Find a Way or Make One,” and Clark College’s motto, “Culture for Service.” Rooted in its African American heritage, impacted by present and projected trends, destined to shape the future, the purposes of Clark Atlanta University are:

1. To maintain a repository of knowledge and an environment which fosters maximum intellectual, social, and cultural development of students, faculty, administrators, and staff.

2. To engage in the exploration of innovative ideas through research and teaching, new programs and educational experiments, both within and across disciplinary lines, so that the University shall be on the leading edge of American education and so that its graduates shall be informed, visionary, culturally sensitive, politically engaged, and socially responsible individuals with an understanding of their heritage and a strong commitment to advancing social justice.

3. To provide, through experimentation, research, and social and cultural analysis, new solutions to the physical and social problems of humankind.

4. To provide excellent education for those students who have proven they are high achievers and for those students who have the capacity for achieving excellence despite previous adverse circumstances.

5. To provide an increasingly diverse population with competent teachers and role models at all levels of education.

6. To promote artistic and creative expressions and to emphasize their importance in shaping intellect, values, and culture.

7. To provide members of the larger community with opportunities for continuing education which are consistent with the overall mission of the University.