CAU President Carlton E. Brown Receives First UMass Amherst Norma Jean Anderson Award for Leadership for Diversity on May 4

ATLANTA (April 29, 2009) – Dr. Carlton E. Brown, president of CAU, has been named the first recipient of the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Norma Jean Anderson Award for Leadership for Diversity. The award presentation and a lecture by Brown will take place May 4 in the Massachusetts Room in the Mullins Center at the university, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

An alumnus of the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), Brown (Ed.D. 1979) was named Clark Atlanta University’s third president in August 2008 after having served as executive vice president and provost. Also, he received a bachelor’s degree in English and American Studies from UMass in 1971. Prior to joining to Clark Atlanta, Brown was appointed by Georgia Board of Regents Chancellor Errol Davis to assist in the implementation of system-wide educational initiatives.

“This is indeed an honor,” said Brown. “My experiences at UMass and the initiatives many of us helped to research and formulate to encourage diversity in education came early in these academic discussions on educational changes. Now, 30 years later, we can see accomplishments made in educational systems across the country that support social justice and equal opportunity. Though, there remains a great distance to travel.”

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Brown, who was a member of the faculty of the School of Education at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, was later an executive with the institution. He also served as the dean of the School of Education and School of Liberal Arts and Education, as vice president for planning, and dean of the Graduate College at Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia.

During his nine-year tenure as president of Savannah State University, the university experienced a 48 percent increase in enrollment, major increases in grants and contracts, improved student retention and increases in the number of minorities pursuing graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Norma Jean Anderson Lecture and Award for Leadership for Diversity was established in 2004 on the occasion of Anderson’s receipt of the inaugural UMass Amherst Distinguished Achievement Award. For more than 30 years, Anderson served the campus as a faculty member of the School of Education, administrator, mentor and volunteer. Her work was characterized by creating access and eliminating barriers to education; building a more culturally, racially and educationally diverse campus community; raising awareness of institutional racism; and instilling the values of social justice in her students, colleagues and members of the many communities in which she served. She passed away in 2006 at age 64.

The Norma Jean Anderson Lecture and Award for Leadership for Diversity was created as a means to perpetuate the university’s recognition of Anderson’s values and work. The award acknowledges the recipient’s leadership in promoting diversity in education through research, practice or policy.

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Formed in 1988 by the consolidation of two historic institutions, Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), Clark Atlanta University is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions with an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students. Clark Atlanta University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone 404-679-4501) to award the Bachelor’s, Master’s, Specialist and Doctor’s degrees. The Carnegie Classification lists CAU as a Research University – High Research Activity. CAU is listed as one of the best southeastern colleges by *The Princeton Review* and has been selected to the *Washington Monthly*’s 2008 list of best colleges and universities. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education.

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