Georgia City Renames Road in Honor of Clark College Alumnus
Haskell Sears Ward

ATLANTA (June 5, 2009) – Clark College alumnus (1963) Haskell Sears Ward was recently honored by the City of Griffin (Georgia) when the road he grew up on was renamed Haskell Ward Drive during a ceremony in the city on Sunday, May 24, 2009.

City officials chose to rename Pool Road to Haskell Ward Drive to pay tribute to the Griffin native for his many professional accomplishments and civic contributions to the City of Griffin, the nation and the world. Ward is an executive and expert on development and international affairs who has also held high-ranking positions in public service.

Ward and his family moved from another street in Griffin to a housing project on Pool Road while he was still a child. The street from which the family moved had few basic conveniences such as indoor plumbing, central heat and air conditioning. Ward described the tremendous pride that his family experienced upon moving to Pool Road and says that he still cherishes the memories that he holds dear of those years in the housing project.

“I attended an elementary school that was at the lowest socioeconomic level in Georgia and so, for me, this tribute symbolizes the recognition that one is not destined or required to live a life of poverty,” said Ward of the honor. “People sometimes stereotype children who grow up in impoverished conditions but the possibilities to achieve great things do exist regardless of a person’s position or station in life. I hope my accomplishments can serve as an inspiration to others.”

Ward, who founded Clark College’s first debate team, the Clark College Forum and Forensic Society, currently serves as Senior Vice President, Government Relations for the Seacom Corporation. He has more than 40 years of experience in public affairs and international affairs.

-more-
Ward began his career in 1962 as a volunteer in Kenya with Operation Crossroads Africa, a summer work camp program for college students. He became interested in development issues and joined the Peace Corp one year later in 1963, where he was a member of one of the first groups of Peace Corps volunteers posted to Ethiopia.

He has worked for the Ford Foundation in New York City and in Nigeria, where he specialized in economic development programs and strategies for the Middle East and Africa. Ward was the first African American on the Policy Planning Staff of the State Department during the Carter Administration and served as Deputy Mayor for Human Services for the City of New York.

Ward has extensive experience and expertise on development in Africa and has been a highly sought after speaker on topics related to economic development, municipal management and U.S. relations with Africa.

In addition to his many career accomplishments, he has used his extensive expertise on development in Africa to author the book, “African Development Reconsidered: New Perspectives from the Continent,” and was a member of the Trilateral Commission.

Ward lives in Atlanta with his wife, the Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Clark College in 1963 and was among the first graduate students to earn a master’s degree from the African Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Media Contacts: Jennifer Jiles
404-880-8357
jjiles@cau.edu