



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

# CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

February 29, 2008

Dear CAU Students and Parents:

The members of the Clark Atlanta Board of Trustees voted on February 15, 2008, to increase tuition for the academic year 2008- 2009 by 5 percent and board by 3.5 percent. Undergraduate tuition will increase by \$778 from \$15,550 to \$16,328. Graduate tuition will increase by \$32 per credit hour, from \$648 to \$680. Average board meal plan annual rates will increase by \$87 from \$2,487 to \$2,574. In addition, a Library Capital Improvement Assessment will go into effect next year at \$80 per student per term or \$160 per academic year. All other fee rates (student activity, student health, technology and student center) remain the same.

Making the decision to increase tuition was not taken lightly by the Board of Trustees and the Administration of CAU. The University has considered the needs of its primary customers and is well aware of the financial challenges students face in the pursuit of higher education, as well as what it costs to provide a quality education at Clark Atlanta.

Tuition revenue is our primary funding source for annual operations, as it is at most private institutions. The additional revenue will allow the university to accelerate several strategic plan priorities that will directly benefit the delivery of a quality education to students. These priorities include strengthening academic support and programs, decreasing deferred maintenance backlog, reducing financial risk, and increasing the opportunity for growth.

The combined rate of the increases is below the national average for tuition and board rate increases for private universities based on data reported by the College Board, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. *Much of this increase is attributable to price level increases in the costs of goods and services in our society.* All facts, including affordability and access, were considered carefully before going forward with the increase.



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We know that financial aid for our students has not kept pace with the costs of tuition and that the university needs to increase its pool of scholarship dollars. Despite these factors, the University is committed to controlling costs without compromising the quality. Moreover, we are constantly identifying strategies that will be more cost-effective for students and their families, and efforts are under way to increase the number of available scholarships for our students.

All of us should be proud of what we have accomplished, and I ask that you join me in being excited about what the future holds for the university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter D. Broadnax".

Walter D. Broadnax  
President

