



News Release

Office of Marketing and Communications



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LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF TO SERVE AS FALL CONVOCATION SPEAKER AT CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ON SEPTEMBER 12

ATLANTA – The first female president of an African nation, Her Excellency Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, will deliver the keynote address at Clark Atlanta University's Fall Convocation on September 12 at 9 a.m. on the Trevor Arnett Quadrangle on campus. Her Excellency will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. The public is invited.

“We are excited to host such a leader who is an important catalyst for change for the face of Africa and the world,” said CAU President Walter “The Transformer” Broadnax. “Along with the CAU family, a host of local dignitaries and corporate executives will join us to welcome Her Excellency.”

(more)

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A Harvard-trained economist, Johnson-Sirleaf was inaugurated on January 16, 2006. Her life of public service spans nearly four decades. Attached are her biography and photo.

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 4,500 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. CAU is the only private, historically black college or university classified as a Research University. National business and consumer publications rank CAU high among the best buys in American higher education.

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Bio of
Her Excellency
President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

Her Excellency Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is the first democratically elected Female President of Liberia and Africa. Prior to her inauguration into office as President of Liberia on January 16 2006, Her Excellency has led a most distinguished life spanning nearly 4 decades in local and international public life.

She most recently served as the Chairperson of the Governance Reform Commission of the National Transitional Government of Liberia.

She has been Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau of Africa of the United Nations Development Program with the rank of Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

A Harvard trained economist, Mrs. Sirleaf has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Modern Africa Growth and Investment Company, a member of the Hong Kong Bank Group, a Vice President of CITICORP Africa Regional Office and a Senior Loan Officer at the World Bank. Mrs. Sirleaf was a member of the Initial Group of World Bank's Council of African Advisors, and a founding member of the International Institute for Women in Political Leadership.

She has served in her home country as Minister of Finance and President of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment. She is a founder of Komah Development and Investment Corporation, a financial management advisory consultancy firm and a founder and key supporter of Measuagoon, a community development NGO. She was a Unity Party Presidential Candidate in the controversial 1997 Liberia general elections, where the official results placed her second in a field of thirteen. She remains the leader of the Unity Party.

In a professional life that has spanned over forty (40) years, Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf has served as Governor of Liberia for several financial institutions including the International Monetary Funds, The African Development Bank and the World Bank. In the later capacity, she was chair and spokesperson of the 1979 Annual Meetings.

Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf has served on several advisory boards and committees in her home country and abroad. Notably among these are: The International Crisis Group (USA), Songhai Financial Holdings Ltd. (Ghana); Center for Africa's International Relations, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), and Women Waging Peace (USA). She has written several published and numerous unpublished articles on finance and development and is widely sought for speaking engagements.

Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf is the recipient of several special honors, including the Commander de l'Ordre du Mono of Togo (1996), the Ralph Bunche International Leadership Award of the United States (1995), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom of Speech Award of the United States (1988) and the Grand Commander of the Star of Africa Redemption of Liberia (1980)

She was one of the seven international eminent persons designated in 1999 by the Organization of African Unity to investigate the Rwanda genocide, one of the five Commission Chairs for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (2002) and one of the two international experts selected by UNIFEM to investigate and report (2002) on the effect of conflict on women and women's role in peace building. She served as the initial Chairperson (2000-2003) of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, (OSIWA), a member of the Soros Foundation Network and a visiting Professor of Governance at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).