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P R E S I D E N T

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Dear Clark Atlanta University Community:

Clark Atlanta University is a Drug-Free Zone. As such, this letter serves to clarify the University's position on the use of illegal substances, marijuana in particular, and to clearly articulate the consequences that can result from transgressing the University's Code of Conduct and Georgia State Law.

While some states now permit the use and sale of marijuana, it is illegal to do so in the State of Georgia and at Clark Atlanta University. The State of Georgia and Clark Atlanta University strictly forbid the possession, use, purchase or sale of marijuana on the University's campus or properties, at University activities or at University-sponsored events. A breach of the law and the University's Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion and, in the legal realm, arrest and criminal prosecution.

Marijuana is Illegal

Georgia State Law classifies marijuana as a controlled substance and, for sentencing purposes, does not differentiate between possession for personal use and manufacture or sale. When a violation involves less than 10 pounds, the offender is guilty of a felony that is punishable between one to 10 years in prison (Ga. Code § 16-30-13). Additional penalties apply--including sentences of up to 20 years and fines up to \$20,000, or both, for first convictions--if the violation involves a minor younger than 17 years old, or if the offense occurs in a school or other drug-free zone (in addition to penalties applicable to the underlying crime). Furthermore, it is illegal in the State of Georgia to knowingly sell or bring 10 pounds of marijuana into the State. This act is considered "trafficking" and possession of between 10 to 2,000 pounds carries a fine of \$100,000 and a prison sentence of five to 30 years. Finally, it is illegal in Georgia to use, possess or sell drug paraphernalia, including all drug-related objects, including those used to plant, harvest, process, store, transport or use marijuana.

Clark Atlanta University is a Drug-Free Zone

Again, Clark Atlanta University is a drug-free University and, by now, you may have noticed signage throughout the campus to underscore that point, as well as taken note of a video in which your peers encourage you to abide by this law. The possession, use, storage or sale of marijuana on the campus transgresses the University's Code of Conduct and Georgia State Law. Our mission is to prepare citizen leaders to be problem-solvers through innovative learning programs, supportive interactions, exemplary scholarship and meaningful service. The use of marijuana impedes and prevents each of these objectives, and is contrary to the pursuit and realization of a

rewarding and successful university experience. A decision to become involved in the use, possession or sale of marijuana, or even to associate with someone who is, constitutes taking an unnecessary chance with your future, whether that includes traditional employment, entrepreneurship, or graduate or professional schools. The risk is simply not worth the consequences: If you violate the Code of Conduct, disciplinary actions will ensue. If you are found in violation of the law, you will be arrested.

Don't Get Stuck, CAU

Many of you may be familiar with the popular social media trend, the "Mannequin Challenge." Everyone involved engages in some specific action, as if accomplishing a particular purpose. Then, suddenly, everyone freezes, as if stuck in place. No one moves another step; each purpose is "frozen" and unfulfilled. While the Mannequin Challenge is a game, it mirrors the real-life setbacks associated with marijuana. Marijuana use may seem harmless initially, but this illicit activity affects an individual's ability to study and meet academic responsibilities and deadlines, as well as a person's social behaviors, physical and mental health and even one's reputation. What if University life continued all around you, but you were just "stuck?" Over the course of this semester, we will launch a "Don't Get STUCK--Students Taking Unnecessary Chances" kickoff campaign. In the interim, please be aware that the University does not condone, nor will it tolerate, the use of marijuana or other illegal and/or controlled substances by students, faculty and staff, or visitors and guests. We expect model citizenship and full respect of the law, the University's Core Values, the University's Cultural Creed and the University's Code of Conduct from all members of and guests to CAU.

Please make every effort to ensure that you "Don't Get STUCK":

- Make the decision to avoid the use, possession or sale of marijuana and other illegal substances.
- Avoid contact with individuals and travel in areas you suspect may be associated with the use or sale of marijuana or other illegal substances.
- Contact the University's confidential tip line (404-880-8900) to anonymously report incidents of actual or suspected marijuana use (or the use of other illegal substances).
- Request a confidential support session in the University's Counseling Center (404-880-8044) should you, or someone you know, need assistance addressing issues associated with illegal substance abuse, marijuana in particular.

Sincerely,


Ronald A. Johnson, Ph.D.
President