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CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY APPOINTS
HENRY W. TAYLOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY
RELATIONS

Leader to elevate university’s advancement efforts

ATLANTA (August 14, 2012) – Clark Atlanta University (CAU) President Carlton E. Brown announced today that Henry W. Taylor, previously chief development officer for the Level Playing Field Institute (LPFI), an education focused non-profit in Oakland, Calif., is the university’s newly appointed vice president for institutional advancement and university relations.

CAU, with the assistance of Atlanta University alumnus Dwain Celistan, executive vice president for the global search firm DHR International, selected Taylor for the position from a national pool of finalists. Taylor brings almost 20 years of development experience to CAU from some of the nation’s most prestigious institutions. His significant experience in higher education and demonstrated fundraising success are strengths that he brings to Clark Atlanta and inform his approach to leading the university’s communications, alumni relations and fundraising efforts.
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Prior to his work at LPFI, Taylor served as the director of individual giving at the KIPP Foundation. He also held significant fundraising roles at Stanford University, serving as the director of major gifts-national team and director of major gifts for diverse communities. There he was involved in the planning and execution of the recently completed Stanford Challenge campaign, which raised more than $5 billion. During his time at his alma mater, Claremont McKenna College, in addition to his role as the director of major gifts, he supported the president in reorganizing the development office’s systems and infrastructure in anticipation of a comprehensive campaign. As associate director of leadership gifts at Princeton University, Taylor was responsible for fundraising in the Western and Southwestern United States and solicited alumni, parents and friends for significant investments in university priorities. He also worked closely with the president and other campus leaders to secure multiple six and seven-figure gifts that addressed academic, student life and athletic opportunities. Moreover, he has extensive experience as a fundraising consultant and is an active presenter at conferences on “the power of philanthropy to create meaningful impact and strategic influence.”

President Brown noted, “Mr. Taylor’s vision and energy align well with the strategic thrust of Clark Atlanta University as we prepare to launch major initiatives that will create new, stronger foundations for the university’s future. Beyond the fact that he is an individual of impeccable character and integrity, his ability to generate tangible momentum and create success from a strategic framework bode well for us as we look ahead to the next 25 years.”

Coca-Cola Senior Vice President for Global Community Connections and Chair of the Coca-Cola Foundation Ingrid Saunders Jones, a Clark Atlanta University trustee, said that “Taylor’s focus and ability to hone in on strategic priorities, in addition to his keen ability to identify and prioritize strengths and opportunities, made him the exceptional candidate for this job. I look forward to working with him to address the needs of this institution, its academic enterprise and outreach into the global realm.”

(more)
Taylor, who is charged with preparing the university’s advancement unit to mount a major fundraising campaign, said that he admires “the proud legacy and tremendous potential” of Clark Atlanta University. “While the recession and slow recovery are continuing challenges for the nation’s colleges and universities, my experience at Princeton and Stanford confirmed for me the importance of seeking investments rather than donations because of a compelling vision for tomorrow, built on the legacy of yesterday and the persistence of today.” He continues, “As Clark Atlanta’s 25th year approaches, the partnership with alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff and trustees is even more critical as the future of this institution will be brightest because of the contributions of each of us. I am truly excited to join Dr. Brown as a partner in securing the resources needed to extend the great legacy of this university.”

Taylor received a bachelor's degree in government from Claremont McKenna College and earned a master’s degree in leadership at St. Mary’s College. He and his wife Stefanie have two children, son William and daughter Avery.

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