The Leading Edge of Greatness
A place in history, the chance to change it.

When the nation’s first private liberal arts college for African Americans, Clark (1869), joined with the nation’s first African-American graduate school, Atlanta University (1865), what emerged was one of the nation’s foremost institutions of higher learning, Clark Atlanta University (CAU). Rooted in more than 200 years of African-American heritage and tradition, CAU today is one of only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities designated as a Research University/High Research Activity by the Carnegie Foundation. As the largest of the nation’s 39 member UNCF institutions, CAU sets the pace for academic excellence, research and service.

Located in the heart of Atlanta, one of the world’s great international cities, CAU is the only coeducational undergraduate institution in the prestigious Atlanta University Center. Students here enjoy the caché of a private education that spans academic pursuits at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels in 38 areas of study. Once at the heart of student involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, CAU now affords students opportunities to address issues that plague a global population, from safe drinking water for South Africans to HIV/AIDS prevention in local communities, to engineering smarter nanotechnologies.

Whether you want to research cancer therapies, revolutionize the music industry, counsel youth or be the next global CEO, Clark Atlanta is where you will find your place in history. At CAU you also will learn to change it.
In today’s global society, one of few constants is the inevitability of change. Therefore, humanity’s need for change agents--individuals who can conceive, create and steward continuous improvement in the way we live and interact--is more critical than ever.

Clark Atlanta University is a uniquely special place where we not only embrace and study change, but we challenge our students to effect it in the classroom and beyond. If you want to be among the Clark Atlanta University alumni who already have made significant, paradigm-shifting change, then your place is here.

To change the world, you must first embrace decisions that change the course of your own life. You must first choose Clark Atlanta. Ours is a very special place in history. Yours is the opportunity to change history for the better.

Carlton E. Brown, Ed.D.
President of Clark Atlanta University

CAU CHANGE MAKERS

Henry O. Flipper (1869)  First African-American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Lucy Craft Laney (1869) founded her own school for African-American children, as well as one of Georgia's first Black kindergartens and nursing schools.

Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright (1876) was the first African American to head the surgical department at Harlem Hospital in New York City.

James Weldon Johnson (1904) Poet, author, attorney and statesman who wrote “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

W.E.B. DuBois (Faculty Member, 1895-1910) one of the founding faculty of the University’s Department of Social Work, now the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work.

Judge Horace T. Ward (1950) was the first African American to challenge racial segregation in higher education in the Deep South.

Horace E. Tate (1951) oversaw the merger of Georgia's black and white teachers’ associations and later served as a state senator.

Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy (1951) was a key strategist of the Civil Rights Movement, crusading alongside his friend and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marva Collins (1957) founded Chicago’s acclaimed Westside Preparatory School to refute the mislabeling of African American children as learning impaired.

Otis Johnson (1969) is the mayor of Savannah, Ga., and a nationally respected expert on community and family development issues.

Kenny Leon (1978) is an actor and director who won a 2010 Tony Award for his revival of the late August Wilson’s play “Fences.”

Pearl Cleage (1973) is an acclaimed poet, novelist and playwright.

Pernessa C. Seele (1976, 1978) is an immunologist who founded Balm in Gilead, an HIV/AIDS support and prevention organization.

Henry “Hank” Johnson (1976) represents Georgia’s Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jacque Reid (1989) is a network journalist and reality television star.

Bryan Barber (1996) directed the movie “Idlewild” by the acclaimed duo Outkast.

Clyde Anderson (1997) is a financial consultant and CNN contributing reporter whose expertise has helped millions manage their money.

Your place is here!

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