ATLANTA (April 27, 2010) — In what will be his first university commencement address since his inauguration on January 4, 2010, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed will speak to Clark Atlanta University’s graduating class of 2010 Monday, May 17, at 10 a.m., in the Georgia World Congress Center.

Clark Atlanta President Carlton E. Brown said that Reed is the perfect choice for the occasion. “Already Mayor Reed has set an extremely high standard for accountable and responsive leadership. Our students are focused on his example and deeply respect his capacity for visionary, strategic management.” Brown also noted “Mayor Reed’s credibility among our students also stems from his own experiences as a college student. In him, the young men and women of Clark Atlanta have a model of how student activism can and must grow seamlessly into real-world change agency.”

Educated in the public schools of Atlanta, Reed earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. While serving as Undergraduate Trustee during his senior year, he created “The Independence Initiative,” a plan under which students voluntarily agreed to a per-semester student fee increase of $15. To date, this initiative has contributed more than $10 million to the University’s endowment. He continues to serve as Howard’s youngest General Trustee.
MAYOR KASIM REED speaks to CAU Grads - 2

After completing his law degree, Reed returned to Georgia and, over the next 11 years, established a sterling record in the Georgia State Legislature. Elected as a State Representative in 1998 to represent District 52 in the General Assembly, he served two terms as a member of the House Judiciary, Education, and Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment committees. From 2002 to 2009 he served in the State Senate, where he was a member of the Judiciary, Higher Education, Ethics, Transportation and State and Local Government Operations committees. He also served as a Vice Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus. A former partner at the international law firm Holland and Knight, LLP, Reed also served as campaign manager for former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin’s first and second campaigns, as well as co-chair of her November 2001 transition team. His civic leadership and service have been nationally recognized in publications including the Washington Post and the New York Times, as well as Black Enterprise, Ebony and Georgia Trend magazines.

“I am honored to deliver the commencement address at Clark Atlanta University,” said Mayor Reed. “Even more, I always welcome the opportunity to connect with young leaders. The future of our city and our nation is contingent upon their success. Inspiring these graduates to greatness—and to service—is more than an opportunity, it is an obligation to which every leader must seriously commit.”

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 4,000 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. The Carnegie Classification lists CAU as a Research University – High Research Activity. CAU is listed as one of the best southeastern colleges by The Princeton Review and has been selected to the Washington Monthly’s 2008 list of best colleges and universities. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education.

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