CAU’S WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY OCT. 8-9

ATLANTA (Sept. 23, 2010) – Clark Atlanta University’s Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work, the first historically black School of Social Work to be accredited in the world and the first School of Social Work to be accredited in the state, will celebrate its 90th anniversary with various events and forums on Oct 8-9, 2010.

The mission of the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work is to prepare social work professionals, practitioners and leaders with knowledge, skills and abilities to address culturally diverse human and social issues locally, nationally and internationally. The School has more than 250 students, pursuing the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

(more)
At the 80th anniversary celebration of the School of Social Work, it was named the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work, in honor of the legendary civil rights leader, activist and former dean. Young, a native of Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, and a 1941 graduate of Kentucky State University, dedicated his life to the concepts of cooperation over conflict. In 1954, Young accepted the position as dean of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, until he joined the National Urban League as executive director, where he served from 1961 until his death in 1971. He helped to bring corporate America into the civil rights movement, choosing a career in race relations over his interest in medicine.

Under the theme, “Sustaining Our Roots, Building Our Future,” celebration highlights on Oct. 8 will include the participation of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed; an address by the Honorable Otis S. Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Ga.; and an evening jazz reception. The Oct. 9 events include an address by Nancy F. Johnson, CEO of the Atlanta Urban League; a tour of the School; and a black-tie dinner and awards program, with keynote speaker the Reverend Dr. Barbara Lewis King, founder of Hillside International Chapel and Truth Center in Atlanta.

Clark Atlanta University President Carlton E. Brown, Ph.D., said, “We take great pride in the Whitney M. Young Jr. School of Social Work’s many stellar accomplishments. Today, huge challenges persist to the health, welfare and freedom of families and communities, especially communities of color. Therefore, our mission is as pertinent today as it was in 1920.”

(more)
The dean of the School of Social Work, Vimala Pillari, Ph.D., said, “The most exciting component of this celebration is to see the return of alumni from different generations, including program participants the Rev. Barbara King and Mayor Otis Johnson. To see alumni come back to uphold the School and its leadership and to celebrate publicly that we are 90 years old is a spectacular moment in the School’s history.” She adds, “Social work is a profession that is constantly changing because of the changing needs of society. For example, with an increase in homelessness, especially among women and children, our effort to establish a Families and Children Research Center speaks directly to this need.”

The public is invited to attend the anniversary gala. Registration for all activities is $125; $55 for the formal dinner only. Call Mrs. Claudette Rivers-King at 404-880-8578 for information and details.

###