



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 28, 2019

Greetings Colleagues and Friends,

I write to let you know today that I am announcing my retirement from Clark Atlanta University, effective December 31, 2019. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have served CAU and its students in a number of leadership roles for the past 13 years. Leading this institution as the Interim President for the past eight months has been one of the great highlights of my career, and I am proud of what we have accomplished **together** in setting CAU on a strong, stable and sustainable path for the future.

With your support and collegiality during my tenure as Chief Compliance Officer, CFO, and Executive Vice President, together we accomplished so many milestones. They include:

- Establishing the Compliance and Audit function, including institutionalizing the core elements of a Compliance Program and obtained approval from the Department of Energy
- Developing the Internal Control process for the 403(b) Employee Benefits Plan Audit to ensure compliance with all regulations
- Improving the BANNER System through the Clark Atlanta University Process Renewal Initiative (CAuPRI) which allowed the University to manage its operating expenses
- Establishing the positive strength of CAU's financial position by improving liquidity, expense controls and revenue growth causing Moody's Investor Service to revise CAU's outlook to positive from stable
- Clearing all the findings associated with financial audits from prior years, allowing the University to reduce its annual Audit fee from \$1 million plus to less than \$400,000
- Increasing the endowment from the high \$30 million to nearly \$80 million, strategically managed the long-term debt from \$50 million to less than \$20 million and grew the total assets by approximately 36%
- Refinancing the 1995 debt at less than one percent interest rate with over \$1 million in interest savings and the return of \$4 million collateral
- Led the renovation of campus facilities, including Brawley Hall and a state-of-the-art dining hall with name brand retail establishments
- Re-structuring of the Facilities & Auxiliary Services function to better support the management of all capital projects which has generated two LEED certified Academic buildings
- Stabilizing and growing the enrollment through technology and process improvements and implementing a new IT Governance Process to ensure better project management
- Strengthening the monthly days of cash on hand for the university, which created the opportunity to realize over \$500,000 in additional interest income annually

During my time as interim president, the university has ranked among the Top 20 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS) on the “U.S. News and World Reports Best Colleges” list, and an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students. In just a brief time, I have been proud to enact several initiatives such as:

- Enhancing the CAU student experience
- Introducing the LIFT Dinners
- Initiating the Harkness Memo communication to faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- Advancing the University’s Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development (CCRTD), including an MOU with a major state university
- Gaining the Board of Trustees’ approval of the 2018-2023 CAU Strategic Plan, and revised Mission and Vision statements
- Publishing CAU’s first Annual Report in a number of years
- Creating the Office of University Relations, Events and External/Community Affairs (UREECA)
- Rallying institutional and community support behind CAU’s Department of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
- Exceeded new graduate student enrollment targets

On September 1st, we are ushering in a new era as we welcome CAU’s new President, Dr. George French, to lead our great University. Until my departure in December, I remain committed to continuing the work of cultivating lifted lives of excellence at this exceptional university by completing some projects. This is “**One Exceptional University**” and I want to ensure it is well positioned for the board and for Dr. French to take CAU to the next level of success.

All the best,



Lucille H. Mauge
Interim President