



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **GM Foundation gives \$75,000 to Atlanta University Center Consortium Supporting Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College & Spelman College STEM Efforts**

The General Motors Foundation announced a \$75,000 donation to the Atlanta University Center Consortium in support of AUC Dual Degree Engineering Program students, the Spelman College SpelBots Robotics team, and faculty and curriculum development.

Mr. Royal Blackmon, General Motors engineer and alumni of the AUC DDEP (via Morehouse College and Georgia Institute of Technology), Ms. Charissee Edmondson and Mr. Benjamin Bohannon, also GM employees, presented the award on behalf of the GM Foundation during the AUC Consortium's premier STEM celebration – the Annual AUC DDEP Awards celebration. GM's partnership with the Atlanta University Center dates back to 1975. Their involvement with scholarships, internships and permanent employment, and electric vehicle technology, rounds a rich and meaningful partnership for the development of African-American engineering and technology students.

Dr. Sherry L. Turner, Executive Director & CEO of the Atlanta University Center Consortium remarked, *“Each of the Consortium’s member institutions has proven commitments in significantly increasing the numbers of socially conscious leaders who excel in STEM disciplines. Our graduates can be found making a difference in virtually every industry. The support from GM enables us to broaden the scope of our influence.”* Tracey Martin-Toomer, Director of the AUC Dual Degree Engineering Program, added *“We are extremely excited to have the long standing partnership with General Motors. Our students have benefitted from their mentoring and sponsorship for over 30 years and the bond among industry, academia, and community continues to grow. This funding will strengthen the tutorial program, provide scholarships and assist the development of curriculum on the campuses of Clark Atlanta,*

*Morehouse, and Spelman.*” Dr. Andrew Williams, Spelman College’s SpelBots Coach, indicated that the donation represents a nice addition to the SpelBots program, supporting its mission to promote computer and robotics education and research by competing in the International RoboCup 4-Legged competitions.

The GM Foundation has provided more than \$26 million since 2005 to support education initiatives in engineering, manufacturing, design and business across the country.

About the GM Foundation: Since its inception in 1976, the GM Foundation has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to deserving American charities, educational organizations and to disaster relief efforts worldwide. The GM Foundation focuses on supporting Education, Health and Human Services, Environment and Energy and Community Development initiatives, mainly in the communities where GM operates. Funding of the GM Foundation comes solely from GM. The last contribution to the GM Foundation was made in 2001.

About the AUC Consortium, Inc.: The world’s oldest and largest association of historically Black colleges and universities, the Atlanta University Center Consortium is comprised of four member institutions – Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College. The Consortium is a vibrant intellectual community with a long tradition of scholarship, service, and community engagement. AUC Consortium, Inc. is a non-profit organization that operates on behalf of its members to advance each institution’s mission and strategic goals by fostering collaboration, managing center-wide initiatives, offering services that benefit our students and community, and leveraging our shared resources.