

The Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC) and Economic Development

For many, it may look as if the economic expansion of the late 1990s and the early 2000s might have missed the AUCC area. A great deal is happening. Both Ralph David Abernathy, Blvd. and MLK, Jr. Dr. have had significant facelifts. In addition to the facelifts, what the AUCC area needs most, are sustainable, and higher paying jobs.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, awarded a feasibility study grant to Morehouse College on behalf of the AUCC. The feasibility study was completed and resulted in an AUCC Economic Development Strategy (EDS). It represents a “master plan,” a new start, for the economic development efforts in the area adjacent to the AUCC. The EDS marks an effort to return the area to the economic prominence it held more than 50 years ago.

The EDS details the target industries leaders in which the AUCC Corridor should work to retain, attract, or grow from within. The target industries recommended are: 1) Software, 2) Aviation and Aerospace, 3) Food Processing, 4) Life Sciences, 5) Advanced Manufacturing, 6) Business and Financial Services, and 7) Creative Industries. The EDS is one tool the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) uses to assist in directing Federal Funds into specific areas and projects.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration recently awarded another grant to Morehouse College to conduct an incubator feasibility study (IFS) for the AUCC area. Mr. Andre Bertrand , V.P. for Campus Operations for Morehouse College is the Principal Investigator (P.I.), on the completed EDS and is the P.I. for the current IFS. Greenwood Consulting Group, Inc. is the contractor that will implement the IFS. The IFS will open the doors to more funding opportunities for economic development, which will allow opportunities for entrepreneurs to be a part of this EDS, and thus, accomplish even more. The EDS and the IFS are the culmination of a long-term planning process to chart a new economic course for the AUC Corridor area.

PLEASE TAKE OUR Central Atlanta Core Business Incubator Interest Survey

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22AA3H3XT7H>

Devon Lambert
Morehouse College
Community Revitalization Initiative
830 Westview Drive Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
(404) 681-2800 Ext: 5483
dlambert@morehouse.edu