Clayton County, GA (March 24, 2010) – As a way to involve the men in the Clayton County community a new program has begun called 500 Men Standing In the GAP. This program, which began as a part of All Pro DADS, is a volunteer program that allows men to be a part of a child’s life. Five-hundred Men Standing In the GAP was started because the men of Clayton County saw that there were many Clayton County children who would never have a consistently positive, male influence in their life. They decided to take it upon themselves to fill that need within the community.

Rhonda Burnough, the Community Relations Liaison for Clayton County said, “The men are encouraged to volunteer, mentor, and find ways to support the school systems and the students within.” In October of 2009 the committee in charge of starting the program decided to host a kick-off event and invited the men of the community to come out to hear the message. Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond was the keynote speaker at the event, and Dr. Edmond Heatley, the Superintendent of schools also spoke. Dr. Heatley challenged the men to be role models for children who would otherwise not have a positive male influence in their lives.

This program is designed to renew the interest in existing programs that provide role models for children. The men who participate are allowed to choose which school they would like to volunteer at and what area they would like to participate in. They help with anything from mentoring kids or making copies for teachers to reading to students or playing basketball after school. This program is designed to work alongside the All Pro DADS program, which restores communication within the family system. Five-hundred Men Standing In the GAP is a group of more than 300 men who are actively engaged in impacting the lives of children in the Clayton County Public School System.

For more information about this program or for information about how to get involved contact Rhonda Burnough or John Brinson, or go to the organization’s website at http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/GAP/pointman.asp.
Free Online Tutoring Offered in Clayton County through Public Library System

Clayton County, GA (March 4, 2010) – In continuing efforts to increase community involvement in the education of students in Clayton County, the county has partnered with tutor.com and Partners for Digital Equality (PDE) to bring free online tutoring services to students. The LearningWOW Program is in response to recently regaining accreditation in May 2009. Since then, the county has been implanting programs such as this to bring a quality education to students in Clayton County’s communities.

The program is based on live chat interaction and covers a range of material and course levels from K-Adult. They also have specialized tutors to assist students with college entrance. Services are provided in the four core subjects of math, English, science, and social studies Sunday-Thursday from 4-10PM. Science and math are also taught in Spanish. The system is set up in a way to be extremely user-friendly. Any student seeking extra help can go to http://lhh.tutor.com/?ProgramGUID=7121917c-6e51-440e-8383-63332f612798 and enter either their personal library number or a standardized password.

The county’s school system is also a fan of the program. Clayton County Superintendent Dr. Edmond T. Heatley said, “The library system stands in the gap…tutoring, mentoring, giving classes.”

The Clayton County Public Library system consists of six branches and is committed to “To contribute to the success of the citizens of our diverse community by offering a full range of library services that meet their informational, educational and leisure interests, fostering the love of reading in our youth and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge for all.”

Partners for Digital Equality is a non-profit organization that seeks to bring educational opportunities to underprivileged, primarily urban, areas.

Tutor.com is an online chat-based program aimed to give students across the country the opportunity to receive help in educational endeavors.

Clayton County Library System
865 Battle Creek Road
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
Phone (770) 473-3850, Fax (770) 473-3858

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Clayton State University Provides Resources for Community

JONESBORO, Ga.—March 3, 2010— Clayton State University (CSU) is partnering with its local community now more than ever. This past fall the university welcomed 6,800 students, the largest freshman class in the history of the institution. These young men and women helped make this the fifth straight year CSU has been ranked as U.S. News & World Report’s most diverse student population among colleges in the South, meaning the student population best reflects Clayton County’s diversity.

Besides representing Clayton County through the admissions process, CSU continually provides resources to the rest of the community through jobs, healthcare, and academic programs that serve the community. The university continues to be the fourth largest employer in the county, and it provides locals with benefits they would have to find elsewhere at a high cost. For instance, the CSU dental hygiene laboratory serves 5,000 patients from the community every year.

As a regional, publicly supported institution, CSU administrators believe that the university should play an influential role within the community, especially after recent events with the public school system. Dr. Thomas Hynes, president of Clayton State University believes in the university’s mission of place. “We live here, and
we’re going to continue to live here. As a member of the University System of Georgia, our name sometimes gets attached to what others have done that is absolutely independent of us,” Hynes said. But that’s not stopping Hynes from rolling up his sleeves to help the community. On top of providing higher education opportunities, Hynes believes it is the university’s job to be a convener on matters of public concern. This involves opening CSU doors to the Department of Economic Development and advising the local community on public policy issues. “Our location may have been challenging, but it also offers incredible opportunities,” Hynes said.

One of these opportunities will include engaging with the community to complete the county’s re-branding initiative. Mike Tidwell, Assistant Dean in the School of Business at CSU, has been conducting focus groups for the past six months with citizens of Clayton County to gather information about their perception of the county. Dr. Tidwell serves on the Clayton Archway Public Image Committee, which was established to create and implement a strategy that redefines Clayton County’s public image. The committee hopes to use this data to improve perceptions of Clayton County. “We’ll use these results to design a full-fledged marketing plan for the county. We’ll use all the public relations tools available to us including online media, Facebook, television advertising, and event planning,” said Tidwell.

More can be found about Clayton State University and its initiatives with the Clayton County community at its website: http://www.clayton.edu.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthy Lifestyles Begin at the local Farmer’s Market

JONESBORO, Ga.-- March 2010—Shoppers at Atlanta State Farmer’s Market are pushing for organic produce. In the heart of Clayton County, The Atlanta State Farmer’s Market is the largest of its kind in the world. The market vendors pride themselves in having a vast array of organic produce available to customers twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The residents of Clayton County have the opportunity to hand pick these organic foods from the market or even have them delivered to their front door. The strong values for a healthy lifestyle have been instilled right from the foundation of The Atlanta State Farmer’s Market and continue to uphold its traditions through its organic advances.

Currently, strawberries, asparagus and lettuce are at their freshest. With over 150 acres of land and a variety of vendors, both residents of Clayton County and tourists have the opportunity to purchase organic and healthy food choices, 364 days of out the year.

Established over fifty years ago, The Atlanta State Farmer’s Market holds strong family values and wants to reach Clayton County families, so that each family can make healthy lifestyle choices. Marsha Thomas, owner of The Atlanta State Farmer’s Market believes the family-run business exist to serve families. “I love it, I feel at home here. I watched my dad start this business and it reminds me of him each day.” Marsha says. Yet, the loss of the her father, who helped establish the produce association in 1947, has not stopped Marsha from realizing her father’s dream.

It is Thomas’ ideals to establish a strong and healthy environment. “I will continue to uphold the nutritious values that my father has set for the future of Clayton County.” Says Thomas. “And I hope that those of Clayton County choose to live their life to their healthiest extent possible.”
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Olde Town Morrow Development Receives Regional Recognition

The Atlanta Regional Commission awarded the city of Morrow, a redevelopment project in Clayton County, Ga., with the Regional Prosperity and Economic Development CREATE Community award on February 17.

The program recognized by the ARC is the ongoing redevelopment project in Morrow, Olde Town Morrow. Spearheaded by former mayor of Morrow, Ernest Duffey, Olde Town Morrow’s mission is to bring new life to the Southlake Mall area through fostering development of history and new business within the community.

Olde Town Morrow holds an array of new boutique style businesses, restaurants and potential event venues. Historic homes from the Atlanta area have been transported to the Olde Town Morrow development, among which include the home of former Ga. Governor, U.S. Senator and Confederate General, John B. Gordon.

Other initiatives in Olde Town Morrow’s future include office and condominium space, central fountain and full outdoor stage area.

The city recently signed a letter of intent for a boutique hotel and has acquired space for a second. A replica of Gone With the Wind’s Tara Plantation is set to occupy one corner of the district and act as a bed-and-breakfast inn.

Additional Information on Olde Town Morrow and the businesses it houses can be found at the city’s website, www.oldetownmorrow.com

The Atlanta Regional Commission’s CREATE Community Awards:
The CREATE Community Awards were developed in 2004 in recognition of the successes and achievements of the 10 counties and 67 cities the Atlanta Regional Commission serves. The awards aim to recognize individual communities for their local leadership, excellence and innovation in the following areas:

- Community Building & Involvement
- Regional Prosperity & Economic Development
- Educational Excellence
- Application & Innovation in Technology
- Environmental Sustainability
For more information on the Olde Town Morrow redevelopment project please reference the following contact information:

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jamie Carlington
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Renowned Music Can Be Found Right Next Door at Spivey Hall

Embarking on its ninth year, Spivey Hall, located on Clayton State University’s campus, continues to expand its high quality of music while embracing the community’s desire for fine art. Spivey Hall was founded by Emilie Parmalee Spivey and Walter Boone Spivey as an effort to promote good classical music and to give back to their community.

Spivey Hall hosts a variety of artists within both classical and modern realms and aims to please all ears of the community it serves. Past guests of the hall include pianist, Richard Goode and violinist, Joshua Bell. Spivey’s renowned concert series receives national and international attention as one of America’s finest musical venues.

Spivey Hall has an innovative approach to education-outreach, reflected through the formation of the award-winning Spivey Hall Children’s Choir and Spivey Hall Young Artists group.

A common misconception about Spivey Hall is that with the exceptional programs it offers come unreasonably priced tickets. Spivey Hall does its best to combat this perception by offering several programs at a reduced cost for students, faculty and staff of Clayton State University in addition to the production of more than 4,000 free programs annually. “Spivey hall works very hard to provide opportunities for exposure to classical and jazz music to what we
hope will be a new generation of those appreciating great music,” Dr Hynes has said. Regular
ticket prices range from $15 to $40, much less than comparable venues.

Dr. Thomas Hynes, President of Clayton State University has said, “You can’t ever talk
about Clayton State University without talking about Spivey Hall. It’s the premiere performance
space in the South.”

For more information about Spivey Hall and related events please contact Susan Volkert,
Marketing Manager, (678) 466-4200.