

MEDIA ADVISORY

Atlanta Public Schools' Holds Annual State of the District Address at Newest School on Historic Westside

WHAT: Atlanta Public Schools 2017 State of the District Address will be held at [one of the system's newest schools, Hollis Innovation Academy](#), located in historic Westside Atlanta. [Westside Future Fund](#) is a community partner of Hollis Innovation Academy. Through its focus on cradle-to-career education, Westside Future Fund supports projects and services that provide residents with access to high-quality education that prepare the next generation of Atlantans for success. To achieve those goals, Westside Future Fund has [pledged \\$16.4 million to APS](#) over the next five years to develop a pipeline of STEM-based "innovation" schools on the Westside, starting with Hollis as the pilot.

Westside Future Fund also supports community health and wellness, and during Friday's event, there will be a ribbon cutting for the brand-new APS Care Center at Hollis Innovation Academy. The Care Center will bring services to the school that normally would be found at a doctor's office. The Care Center is generously supported by The Chick-fil-A Foundation, which also is a key partner of Westside Future Fund. The Care Center – operated in partnership with HEALing community health and Chris180 – will:

- Serve all children at Hollis Innovation Academy initially.
- Expand to eventually include siblings, other family members and school staff.
- Aim to serve at least 400 patients in its first year.
- Grow to the greater Washington cluster community of schools in the future.

WHO:

- Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Meria Carstarphen, plus faculty and alumni
- Representatives from Westside Future Fund, including Executive Director John Ahmann
- Representatives from Hollis Innovation Academy, including Principal Dr. Diamond Jack

NOTE: Media interviews with representatives for each will be available upon request. APS will host its Quarterly Journalists Roundtable immediately after the State of the District address.

WHEN: **Friday, Oct. 20** – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **9 a.m.** – Ribbon Cutting to open the brand-new APS Care Center at Hollis Innovation Academy
- **9:30-10:45 a.m.** – Special breakfast reception and performances by the Grady High School A Capella ensemble and a Nerdy Derby STEM demonstration by Hollis students
- **11 a.m.** – Atlanta Public School State of the District Address followed by APS's Quarterly Journalists Roundtable
- **Noon** – Alumni and partner lunch tailgate in Kennedy Park

WHERE: **Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy**
225 James P Brawley Drive Northwest
Atlanta, GA 30314

DIRECTIONS: Enter through lower level at James P. Brawley Drive entrance and follow directional signage to the old natatorium, where the event will be held. Carpooling or ride-sharing (Lyft/Uber) is strongly recommended as parking is limited.

Media Notes:

- Photography (still and video) allowed.
- Media are invited to tour Hollis Innovation Academy. Sign-up is available [here](#).
- Social media: #StateofAPS, @apsupdate and @WFFAtlanta

About Westside Future Fund

The Westside Future Fund is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to reinvigorate community growth by coordinating and accelerating efforts to elevate the quality of life in Atlanta's historic Westside neighborhoods. We do this by connecting resources with needs; convening the right people around the table; collaborating on strategies; and coordinating all of these efforts, which are vital to the Westside's long-term success. The WFF was established in December 2014 by Mayor Kasim Reed and the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP), a coalition of top CEOs and leaders from Atlanta's private sector, universities and nonprofits in partnership with Mayor Reed.

www.westsidefuturefund.org

About Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy

Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy is a PK-8 model in the Atlanta Public Schools. Hollis opened in the fall of 2016 and began by servicing PK-5 and adding a grade level each year. We are a newly formed school through an aggressive turnaround strategy to improve the academic performance of the students formerly zoned for the now closed Bethune Elementary School. Hollis uses a STEM framework guided by GA Tech CEISMC and the rigorous EL Education model to focus on relational character building and preparing students for college and career.

About Atlanta Public Schools

Atlanta Public Schools is one of the largest school districts in the state of Georgia, serving approximately 52,000 students across 88 schools. The district is organized into nine K-12 clusters with 68 traditional schools, 16 charter schools, two citywide single-gender academies and two alternative programs. For more information, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us , follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaPublicSchools/> and on Twitter @apsupdate.

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