



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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For Release: January 19, 1990

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO EXTEND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND ATLANTA AREA HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced plans to extend for three years a partnership agreement to sponsor the Atlanta Cluster, a project designed to improve energy and minerals research opportunities for students of Atlanta area Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"This memorandum of agreement demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the development of programs and activities that will lead to a greater participation of minority students in energy research and related programs," Lujan said.

Joining Interior Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration, Lou Gallegos in a signing ceremony at Clark Atlanta University were project co-sponsors, Edison Electric Institute, Georgia Power Company and Atlanta Gas Light Company.

"We are opening up new areas of interest for our youth," Gallegos said. "More important, we are expanding their awareness and consciousness in a way that will stimulate intellectual growth."

The Atlanta Cluster project was established in 1986 to increase the capabilities of the Atlanta area HBCUs to compete for energy and minerals related research projects. Cluster participants include Clark Atlanta University, Morris Brown College, Morehouse, Spelman College and Atlanta Metropolitan College.

Cluster sponsors pool their financial and educational resources to develop training programs, internships, faculty/executive exchanges, cooperative education positions, special field seminars, curriculum enhancement, and summer employment positions for HBCU students.

Since 1986, the Interior Department and private sector sponsors have committed over \$340,000 for Cluster projects, and have also provided substantial "in-kind" support in the form of staff consultation.

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