



1601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32307

850-599-3447

Excellence With Caring

College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
Department of History, Political Science, African-American Studies and Geography

April 23, 2021

Board of Trustees
Clark Atlanta University

My name is Kwasi Densu. I am an Associate Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of African American Studies at Florida A & M University. It is with great pleasure and good conscience that I submit this letter in support of the effort to name the Clark Atlanta University Department of Political Science in honor of Mack Jones.

Many letters of support will speak to Dr. Jones's multiple professional accomplishments in the fields of Political Science and Africana Studies. Although substantive and true they don't speak to his contributions in the most fundamental sense. Many will speak to his enduring commitment to the Black freedom struggle in all of its complexity. Again, although this may be true it doesn't capture the essence of his significance to Clark Atlanta University. Many will speak to his profound impact on thousands of students that have passed through his office and classrooms. Although this to may be accurate it doesn't wholly capture the fullness of the man.

The truth is that Dr. Jones is the embodiment of *all of these*. He is quintessentially the personification of Clark Atlanta University's motto; *I will find a way or make one* and *culture for service*. In this context he is the archetype of what it means to be a professor, mentor, organic intellectual, and community member whose destiny is inextricably linked to the lifeblood of our people and communities. The best of Clark Atlanta University (CAU) is rooted in this legacy. One that seeks to institutionalize the best of the Black experience in the service of humanizing the world. In African tradition Dr. Jones has become what one calls a "living ancestor". His legacy, his level of mastery, his intellectual and social commitments, his lived experiences, and his continued contributions to our lives must be institutionalized to ensure the continuity and progressive development of future generations. Renaming the Department of Political Science in honor of Mack Jones is, in one sense, celebrating his legacy. In another sense, and more importantly, it is a commitment to ensuring that this legacy survives and develops beyond this historical moment. His contributions to the Clark Atlanta University family and culture must be preserved

to ensure that they replicate themselves and expand beyond what he could have ever imagined. *Calling his name*, in this moment, reminds us all that a better future is possible. It reminds us that in the midst of the current crisis we can continue to make a way out of no way if we are both aware of and deeply committed to the culture and humanity of Black people. This is the meaning of Clark Atlanta University. This is the legacy of Dr. Mack Jones. We must preserve it! We must pass it on!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kwasi Densu".

Kwasi Densu
Associate Professor of Political Science
Coordinator of African American Studies