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School of Policy Studies

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Regents to vote on naming of Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

ATLANTA – The state Board of Regents in the coming weeks is expected to approve a request from Georgia State University to name its School of Policy Studies after former U.N. Ambassador and longtime civil-rights advocate Andrew Young.

"I cannot think of any other policy maker who is such a perfect fit with the School of Policy Studies," said Georgia State President Carl V. Patton, who will ask the board to approve the naming during its Aug. 10-11 meeting in Atlanta.

"Our ideals and philosophy for policy studies are entirely consistent with the remarkable service Andrew Young has demonstrated throughout his life," Patton said. "Over the years, he has been a major force in shaping policy in Atlanta and across the world."

A former U.S. congressman and two-term Atlanta mayor, Young is chairman of GoodWorks International consulting group, which advises corporations and governments operating in the global economy. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Young to head the Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund, a \$100 million privately managed fund to provide equity to businesses in the region.

The School of Policy Studies' work reflects his own interest in fighting poverty around the world, as well as improving social conditions, Young said.

"For democracy and free enterprise to continue to be relevant, it must be used to eliminate poverty at home and abroad," said Young. "The School of Policy Studies is developing training models that will help people in business and government in emerging economies to learn about democracy by our example. Its faculty members are teaching government bureaucrats from Africa and Jamaica, helping create tax reform in Russia, and working with the Indian government and in Indonesia, among others."

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"Here at home, the school's faculty members and researchers are studying health care, humane end-of-life care, how best to educate our children and how to reduce pollution," Young added.

The Coca-Cola Foundation is donating a lead gift of \$1 million, a term endowment earmarked for scholarships and international training. The Georgia State University Foundation hopes to

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reach an endowment goal of \$10 million by the completion of the university's comprehensive campaign in December 2000.

Under its new name, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies will continue its research and teaching in the areas of urban structure, planning and poverty; the economics of developing countries; environmental policy; health policy; tax reform; regional economics and state and local government finance; human resource development; education policy; public and non-profit management; and transportation.

"Andrew Young is a national treasure, known to all and with a following that does not seem to know race or age boundaries," said School of Policy Studies Dean Roy W. Bahl Jr. "But even more than that, he is active in the college as a public affairs professor of policy studies and lends his considerable imagination to what we are trying to do in the classroom, with policy research and with technical advisory services and outreach.

"Andrew Young is also one who believes, as we do, that partnerships between the private sector and the public sector are the best way to address many of the major problems we face today," Bahl said. "He has an abiding interest in young people and in education -- what a perfect match."

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies is composed of two academic departments: the **Department of Economics** and the **Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies**. The school also houses several prominent research centers:

- the **Applied Research Center**, which conducts the quarterly Georgia State Poll to gauge public sentiment on political candidates, the economy and other issues of concern to Georgians;
- the **Georgia Health Policy Center**, whose projects include finding ways to improve care at the end of life, evaluating the state's health insurance program for low-income children and monitoring health-care delivery in Georgia's rural areas;

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- the **Fiscal Research Program**, which regularly advises governments on tax reform issues;
- the **Environmental Policy Program**, which initiated the statewide initiative to improve air quality known as the Partnership for a Smog-Free Georgia;
- the **International Studies Program**, which this year received a \$20 million U.S. government contract, along with two partner organizations, to advise central and eastern European and former Soviet Union countries on tax policy and other economic issues;
- and the **Domestic Studies Program**, which looks at various problems affecting urban and regional economic development, such as unemployment, low-birthweight babies, transportation systems and the delivery of public services to the poor.

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies also has two affiliated research centers:

- **Research Atlanta Inc.**, whose recent research reports have examined parental involvement in middle schools, regional decision-making and private management of public schools;

- and the **Council for School Performance**, which evaluates Georgia's schools through regularly released "report cards," and recently completed the second year of a 12-year study of the state's Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Atlanta businessman Paul Rosser, chairman of Rosser International Inc. architectural and engineering firm, heads the school's external advisory board.

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Editors: For more information on the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, visit school's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwsps>.