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# Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

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## Andrew Young to launch regional water policy center

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**ALBANY** – The Hon. Andrew Young will visit Albany State University on June 28 to inaugurate a new planning and policy research center designed to address south Georgia’s water woes.

“I see this center as the first step in positioning Georgia at the forefront of developing water policy researchers and professionals, who are highly sought after in a world increasingly challenged by water scarcity,” said Young, who will give the keynote speech at the center’s opening ceremony at 11 a.m. June 28 in the ACAD Auditorium at Albany State.

The Flint River Regional Water Planning and Policy Center – a joint venture of Albany State and Georgia State University -- was championed this year by Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor (D-Albany) and other members of the Georgia General Assembly to tackle water allocation and other water shortage problems affecting consumers, farmers and businesspeople in the region.

“The establishment of the center marks the culmination of years of effort by agricultural, conservation, industry and municipal groups, along with the University System of Georgia,  
(more)

**For immediate release**



to work with the legislature to provide a vehicle for responsible research, teaching and leadership in the water planning and policy process in the lower Flint River basin," Taylor said. "The center affords the region the opportunity to access some of the state's brightest minds on the critical problem of water scarcity."

The Flint River watershed's lower basin is Georgia's breadbasket, where food and fiber production and processing have a multibillion-dollar impact. For years, the region's dwindling water resources have been at the forefront of debate between officials in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Local stakeholders, concerned over the implications to the economy, have actively engaged Georgia's water negotiators and legislative leaders to provide input into the discussions, said Jerry Usry, who will serve as the water policy center's director.

Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies will contribute the expertise of its internationally recognized research faculty to the Flint River Regional Water Planning and Policy Center, including Ron Cummings, director of the college's Environmental Policy Program and the state's only eminent scholar in water policy. Albany State will provide the venue and lead a graduate teaching concentration in water resources management and policy. Other faculty members include the former director of the Office of Water Policy of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the former executive director of the International Water Resources Foundation.