



Clark Atlanta University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

“Mentored Undergraduate Scholarly Endeavors”

Clark Atlanta University (CAU) has selected *“Mentored Undergraduate Scholarly Endeavors” (MUSE)* as the topic of its Quality Enhancement Plan. Supported by its vision *to increasingly become a dynamic 21st century research university*, one of the hallmarks of the CAU community is to promote innovation and collaboration in order to unite and make significant contributions to the knowledge of humankind. Scholarly Endeavors, which encompass both creative and research activities, is defined by the University, *“as a systematic or focused inquiry, investigation, experimentation, or exploration – predicated upon intense use of mind – that makes an original, revised, expanded, or interpretive contribution to one or more disciplines in pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and the public good.”*

The MUSE mission is to enhance and/or expand faculty-mentored undergraduate scholarly endeavors. The program vision is to emphasize scholarly inquiry throughout the curriculum to improve undergraduate student learning and enhance and showcase students’ creative works/performances and research initiatives.

The MUSE is intentionally designed to employ the high impact practice of student-faculty engagement through curriculum infused pedagogy of creativity, research and discovery across undergraduate academic programs. Through this program the University aims to fundamentally change the culture of teaching and learning by adapting more relevant, real-world inspired, creative and research-rich educational experiences for its students.

MUSE Goals:

1. Enhance the visibility and student awareness of creative and research activities at CAU.
2. Establish a culture and an environment in which creative and research activities are translated into practice.
3. Develop the infrastructure and ethos to sustain and elevate undergraduate creative and research activities.

MUSE Objectives:

1. Expose all first-year students to *Discovery of Scholarship (DS) and Scholarly Inquiry (SI)*.
2. Identify, modify/develop creative and/or research related courses for the *Scholarly Inquiry (SI)* level for all undergraduate degree programs.
3. Expand opportunities for students to participate in creative and research activities.

As part of the QEP, all first year students will be introduced to MUSE through two specific levels of inquiry: *Discovery of Scholarship (DS) which familiarizes students to creative and research activities and processes at the introductory level; and Scholarly Inquiry (SI) further assists students in learning content and skills needed for evaluating scholarly work and understanding it in a larger context.*

Over the next five years, the University will undertake a number of initiatives to infuse creative and research activities into the culture of the University at various levels, both within the curriculum and through co-curricular support. Undergraduate student performance will be assessed at both these levels through academic courses and activities based on the student learning outcomes outlined in the plan.

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