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Georgia Southern University to host National Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah March 2-5

FEBRUARY 8, 2008

Georgia Southern University will host more than 1,500 leaders from across the country during the 19th annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference Sunday, March 2, through Wednesday, March 5, at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah, Ga. Participants will gather to focus on successful programs for empowering youth. Educators who attend may apply to receive professional learning units through the conference.

While most of the conference is limited to participants, the 6 p.m. screening of Janks Morton's controversial film, 'What Black Men Think,' on Tuesday, March 4, will be open to the public as space permits. 'What Black Men Think' has been nominated for awards by International Black Film and Media, the Harlem International Film Festival, and the Afrikan History Film Festival. The movie will be shown in the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency, and Morton, who wrote, produced, and directed the movie, will be on hand to discuss the film following its presentation.

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference addresses students' academic achievement, social and emotional skills, safety and violence prevention, mental and physical health, and family and community. From across the state and the nation, it draws teachers at all levels, principals and assistant principals, school counselors and psychologists, criminal justice professionals, volunteer service providers, and others interested in the well-being of young people.

'The workshops offered at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference are a great way for people with a common interest in empowering our youth to share resources and develop collaborations,' said Fayth Parks, Georgia Southern University professor of leadership, technology, and human development, and a coordinator of the event. 'The work that is accomplished here each year addresses an important part of the educational mission of the College of Education at Georgia Southern University.'

Keynote speakers for the event include author and motivational speaker Ron Clark, Disney 2000 Teacher of the Year and founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. Clark will share his journey from teaching in a rural area in North Carolina to the inner-city streets of Harlem in New York City.

Other keynoters include Keith Brown of 20/20 Enterprises, who will present 'Moving from Impossible to I'm Possible,' and Lynette Elizade-Robinson, project development coordinator for the 15th Judicial Court of Louisiana's Zoned Area Intervention Program (ZAIP),

More information about the conference schedule and a registration form are available at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yar2008.html>. Information is also available by calling Georgia Southern University at 912-681-5551.