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MEDIA ALERT

ITC TO NAME DR. THOMAS COLE INTERIM PRESIDENT

Atlanta, GA August 31, 2009 – During a Campus Community Meeting, scheduled for 11 a.m., September 1, 2009, in the ITC Chapel, Dr. Joseph Crawford, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) will announce and present to the ITC community the Board's appointment of **Dr. Thomas W. Cole Jr.** as interim President. This follows the Sending Forth Celebration for Dr. Michael A. Battle on August 18, 2009 as he resigned the presidency to accept President Barack Obama's nomination to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the African Union. His swearing-in ceremony was held Friday, August 21, 2009 in the Treaty Room of the U.S. State Department, Washington, DC. Ambassador Michael Battle and his wife, Linda, will reside in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dr. Cole, who holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Chicago, is President-emeritus of Clark Atlanta University, and has also served as Chancellor of the West Virginia Board of Regents, President of West Virginia State College and President and CEO of Great Schools Atlanta. Most recently he was Interim Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A highly respected and accomplished educator and administrator, it is the consensus of the ITC Board of Trustees that Dr. Cole will provide the strong administrative leadership needed as the seminary conducts a national search for a permanent successor.

Regarding his acceptance of the interim post, Dr. Cole said, "I'm very excited about the possibility of working closely with the board, administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni of ITC to help move the institution forward. I want to build on the work done by my predecessor and move the Strategic Plan in the direction that the board has envisioned."

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Dr. Cole became Clark Atlanta University's first president in 1989 following the consolidation of Clark College and Atlanta University in 1988. He served simultaneously as president of Clark College and Atlanta University for a year prior to the consolidation. During his time as president of Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Cole was credited with building enrollment, increasing the size of the faculty by more than 50 percent and raising more than \$100 million during the school's first capital campaign.

Board Chair, Dr. Joseph Crawford commented, "We are excited about the high level of interest that Dr. Cole has expressed in the mission of ITC demonstrated by accepting this appointment as our Interim President. He has an exceptional career of strong leadership in higher education. I am confident that Dr. Cole will make his mark on the ITC with the same administrative zeal that has earned him respect across academia throughout his career. It is our hope that this will move us to an even higher level of providing quality theological education and achieving financial stability. On behalf of the ITC Board of Trustees, I pray God's blessings upon Dr. Cole as we look forward to working together for the good of the ITC."

A native of Texas, Dr. Cole graduated with honors from Wiley College and earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Chicago. West Virginia State College, the University of Charleston, Allegheny College and Wiley College have awarded him honorary doctorate degrees.

In addition to his other academic positions, Dr. Cole served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Chair of the Chemistry Department and Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Chemistry at Atlanta University. He also held visiting professorships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Dr. Cole is the son of Thomas W. Cole Sr., the former president of Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. He is married to Brenda Hill Cole, a state court judge in Fulton County, Georgia. The Coles have two adult children who live in Atlanta.

For additional information, call 404-527-7718 or 404-614-6394.

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