



Ronald Mason, Jr., J.D.
President

Dear High School Principal,

“Too much talent is wasted today in our schools and universities. Our future depends on finding and building the strengths of young people.” <http://www.thecliftonfoundation.org/who-we-are/mission>

I would like to extend an important invitation to you and your student body to participate in the Capital Builders Center Scholarship Competition. This program is an innovative and new entrepreneurship-focused student scholarship competition launching on April 28, 2018, in conjunction with The Capital Builders Center and Clifton Scholars Program in the District of Columbia and powered by the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCFF), and the Clifton Foundation. This initiative, developed specifically for District residents, is a tuition-free, eighteen-month opportunity, which includes summer boot camps, entrepreneurship coursework, life skills training, competitions, events, coaching, and mentorship, and a second-summer apprenticeship with a local corporation or organization.

By working together with high schools like yours, UDC can identify at-risk talent and provide opportunities for that talent to thrive. As the president of UDC, I am asking for your support to ensure that your students participate in the Capital Builders Center Program Scholarship Competition, an opportunity to vie for a place in an exciting new program that benefits students whose talents do not always shine in traditional assessments such as the SAT and ACT. The competition starts with two phases: a free BP 10 strengths assessment and awareness event at select local schools and a second Build Your Dream Day hosted by UDC at 10:00 am on April 28, 2018. Further details about the program and the scholarship competition are set forth below and in the attached description.

We are excited and fortunate to be a part of this unique collaboration of entrepreneurial development. “Entrepreneurship education aids students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to think outside the box and nurture unconventional talents and skills. It creates opportunities, ensures social justice, instills confidence and stimulates the economy. Entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning process, starting as early as elementary school and progressing through all levels of education, including adult education.” <http://theknowledgereview.com/the-importance-of-entrepreneurship-in-school-curriculum/>

The program is open to all District of Columbia residents who are either completing their freshman year or entering their first year at UDC or two other public HBCUs (Bowie State and Morgan State). The program includes a for-credit spring apprenticeship and entrepreneurship training; a second-summer apprenticeship; post-apprenticeship capstone coursework and coaching; a business pitch competition; a shark tank competition; hackathons; a speaker series; and other program components. UDC has a goal of awarding 40 "last dollar" scholarships in the initial boot camp this summer and then awarding 20 "last dollar" scholarships per year from the boot camp pool for three years to high-potential students. All students are encouraged to apply.

The Capital Builders Center Program is part of UDC’s Equity Imperative, the university’s long-term strategy for achieving its vision: “All students will achieve their highest levels of human potential.”

ASPIRE. ACCOMPLISH. TAKE ON THE WORLD.

4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW — Washington, District of Columbia 20008
Phone: 202.274.6016 • www.udc.edu • Facsimile: 202.274.5304



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President

Collaborating with the District of Columbia Public Schools and Public Charter Schools is a critical part of the Equity Imperative.

This request is time-sensitive because UDC would like to host an in-school event at your school during the month of April. Our UDC Campus Outreach Team will contact your staff to organize the event as soon as possible. I would appreciate your strong support for this important initiative and welcome any questions or recommendations that you may have. Finally, I would like to meet with you to discuss other ways that UDC and your school can collaborate to advance our common goals of enabling the advancement of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Mason, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Ronald Mason, President

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