The Equity Imperative Case for Investment

A STRATEGIC PLAN TO REGENERATE THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS A PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION MODEL OF URBAN STUDENT SUCCESS 2019-2022
The Equity Imperative is a streamlined, focused and refined Strategic Plan designed to regenerate the University of the District of Columbia as a Public Higher Education Model of Urban Student Success.

The Equity Imperative is a plan that is right for UDC, for its students, and for the District of Columbia. The strategies it fuels— which were informed by input from town halls held around the city and suggestions gathered internally from students, faculty, staff, and our Board of Trustees—will transform the University into a powerful source of hope, education, creativity, research, and urban resilience as it guides many members of our community toward the middle class. Its tactics are affordable and its mission is essential to the future health and stability of the District.

The Equity Imperative will address UDC’s:

- Lack of student housing
- Old technology
- Insufficient personnel resources
- 50-year old infrastructure
- Outdated classrooms
- Low enrollment rates
- Low graduation rates

EQUITY IMPERATIVE PLAN

2022 GOALS

ONE

UDC WILL BE A PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION MODEL OF URBAN STUDENT SUCCESS BY:

- Offering effective and affordable academic and workforce programs
- Launching nationally recognized urban research and scholarship
- Strengthening links to government and community stakeholders

TWO

UDC WILL AWARD MORE DEGREES AND WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS BY:

- Charting seamless pathways between training, education, and employment
- Ensuring students succeed by providing coaching, tutoring, and financial aid
- Creating environments conducive to learning

THREE

UDC WILL GRADUATE PASSIONATE LEARNERS AND LEADERS WHO WILL TRANSFORM OUR LIVES AND URBAN SPACES AS WE:

- Encourage multicultural engagement
- Enrich our curriculum with experiential learning
- Equip students with self-awareness tools and sense of empowerment

VISION

All students will achieve their highest levels of human potential.

MISSION

Embracing its essence as a public historically black urban-focused land-grant university in the nation’s capital, UDC is dedicated to serving the needs of the community of the District of Columbia, and producing lifelong learners who are transformative leaders in the workforce, government, nonprofit sectors and beyond.

MOTTO


PILLARS

Quality • Location • Affordability

- Diversity • Community Focus

CORE VALUES

Excellence • Innovation • Integrity

- Sustainability • Collaboration

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IDEALS
THE CASE FOR INVESTMENT

The University of the District of Columbia believes that the opportunity to gain an excellent education and thrive as a member of the middle class should be available to everyone.

Education is the key to equity. If you are born poor in the United States, you are almost certain to die poor. Education offers just about the only escape there is from poverty. In the District of Columbia, the median income for white households is $134,358, more than three times the $42,161 median for black households. Additionally, 92 percent of white residents have college degrees, compared to only 25.6 percent of black residents.

Many D.C. public high school and public charter school graduates are unable to take advantage of the federally funded Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) program—which pays up to $10,000 per year toward tuition at public colleges and universities—because their families can’t afford to send them away to college, or they are not sufficiently prepared academically to gain admission to selective schools.

UDC can be the life-changing alternative for those students. The Equity Imperative equips UDC to offer nationally competitive programs that are affordable and accessible to District citizens who are seeking pathways to the middle class. The Equity Imperative will empower UDC to be a leader in public higher education and to support this vision, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser recently pledged a significant “down payment” on the funds needed to achieve the University’s Equity Imperative Strategic Plan.

UDC’S STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

#1 in D.C. According to Ranking of Tuition, Financial Aid, Degree Options, and Student Success Metrics

Schools.com (2011)

#1 Community College in D.C.

Wallet Hub

#1 Best Value in the Nation’s Capital for Earning an M.A. in Counseling Degree

http://counselingrankings.org

UDC Law #2 in the Nation for Public Interest & Government Job Placement Program

TopCounselingSchool.org

UDC Law #6 Clinical Law Program in the Nation

US News and World Report

#10 HBCU in the Nation

Wall Street Journal

Least Expensive University in DMV

Collegecalc.org

Overarching Strategy

As the pinnacle of the District of Columbia’s public system of education, the University of the District of Columbia will support the District in its continuing effort to be the model of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable community. The University will create solutions to urban challenges, train and support an exemplary workforce at all levels and in all sectors, and develop transformative, ethical leaders, thus improving access to economic opportunity for all.

Academic Structure

UDC awards undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees at four colleges (Arts & Sciences; Business & Public Administration; Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences; and Engineering & Applied Sciences) and a School of Law located at its flagship Van Ness campus. It also specializes in developmental learning and early college instruction, and certifies workforce credentials, professional certifications, and associahits degrees at a branch campus which is a Community College.
Capital Investment Request
$723.5 MILLION

- $19.5 MILLION for critical infrastructure repairs & health & safety upgrades
- $76 MILLION to upgrade & maintain: classrooms & support spaces
- $113 MILLION to expand: Bankau Campus
- $22 MILLION for Perlman Farms
- $49.5 MILLION for Connecticut facilities
- $106 MILLION for student housing
- $37.5 MILLION for presence in wards 7 & 8

Operational Investment Request
$71.4 MILLION

- $20.7 MILLION ($8.1m recurring after FY22) for Staff & Faculty Market-Based Compensation
- $6.5 MILLION ($1.5m recurring after FY22) for Faculty and Staff Early Retirement
- $12.6 MILLION ($6m recurring after FY22) for Land-Grant Professional Development
- $10.5 MILLION ($5m recurring after FY22) for Workforce
- $12 MILLION ($6m recurring after FY22) for IT

Equity Imperative 2019-2022

OPERATING INVESTMENT REQUEST FY19 REQUEST VS RECEIVED

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USES
- MARKET-BASED SALARIES
- TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
- SUPPORT EXPANSION OF WORKFORCE PROGRAMS
- GROW URBAN FARM FOOTPRINT AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS
- MODERNIZE IT SYSTEMS

CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST FY19 REQUEST VS RECEIVED

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USES
- HEATING AND COOLING UPGRADES
- CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION
- PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS
- FIREBIRD FARM UPGRADES
- EXPAND PRESENCE IN WARDS 7 & 8

EQUITY IMPERATIVE 2019-2022

- PARTIAL MOVEMENT TO MARKET-BASED SALARIES
- PARTIAL LAUNCH OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
- MODERNIZE IT SYSTEMS
- NEW LEASES AT 4250 AND 4225 CONNECTICUT AVE