



FALL 2023
OPENING CONVOCATION
ONE UDC: A Public University for the Public Good

THEATER OF THE ARTS AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 10:00 A.M.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Firebirds,

Welcome to the 2023 Fall Convocation, and congratulations on being a distinguished member of the University of the District of Columbia. This ceremony is always an exciting time of the academic year. It gives us an opportunity to come together to acknowledge our students, faculty and staff and begin the school year with a sense of renewal and optimism.

This year's Convocation will highlight our students' boundless potential and expand on our shared vision of being an institution committed to public service.

In my brief time here, I have learned that UDC is a vibrant University. We have a diverse student body—and there is a special energy that comes with being a Firebird. We are all connected as ONE UDC.

I warmly welcome our new and returning students. We are glad that you are here and committed to this great institution. You have already made an excellent choice as a scholar. By choosing UDC, you decided to invest in your future.

To our outstanding faculty and staff at UDC, thank you for providing a supportive learning environment that promotes academic excellence and integrity.

As we embark on this new academic year, let us approach it with purpose and enthusiasm for what lies ahead. Let us remain committed to scholarship, career development and enhancing the student experience.

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maurice Edington".

President of the University of the District of Columbia

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CONVOCATION PROGRAM

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April Massey, Ph.D.
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Metropolitan Police Department of
Washington, DC,
Ceremonial Honor Guard Unit

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Arr. Johnny Butler III

INVOCATION

Rev. Brenton Miles Brock, M.Div.
Program Specialist
Student Development & Success

GREETINGS

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair
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WELCOME

Kiran Terrelonge
Mister University of the District of Columbia

Jhanine Walker
Miss University of the District of Columbia

Arlene King-Berry, J.D.
Chair, Faculty Senate

MUSICAL SELECTION*

"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"
Arr. Roland Carter (B 1942)

INTRODUCTION OF CONVOCATION SPEAKER

Yolanda Torres
UDC Student, Chemistry Major

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.
President

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

April Massey, Ph.D.

CLOSING SONG*

"Our Glorious UDC" (Alma Mater)
Words - Larry Mills; Music - Robert Felder

BENEDICTION

Rev. Brenton Miles Brock, M.Div.

*The audience is asked to stand throughout the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," "Lift Ev'ry Voice" and the Alma Mater.

Musical Selections led by:
UDC Chorale
Professor Johnny Butler III, M.M., Director
Leah Claiborne, D.M.A., Piano

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.

President, University of the District of Columbia

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., an accomplished scientist, educator, and university administrator with a proven track record of success in improving student retention and graduation rates, is the 10th President of the University of the District of Columbia.

Edington brings more than 20 years of higher education leadership experience to UDC. He most recently served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Florida A&M University (FAMU). In addition to other administrative roles, he was the founding Dean of the FAMU College of Science and Technology.



At FAMU, Edington provided leadership in developing the strategy and vision that resulted in the university's elevation in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for national public universities from 123 to 103 and first-place ranking for public Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the past four consecutive years.

He spearheaded considerable progress in increasing grant awards by 100 percent, boosting enrollment of first-time college students by 13 percent, and increasing graduate enrollment by 10 percent. He helped secure over \$12 million in research funding from various federal and state agencies.

Edington is a physical chemist with a research specialty in ultrafast laser spectroscopy. He received his B.A. in chemistry from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He completed his postdoctoral studies at Duke University, where he was a National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow.

He is joined at the University by First Lady Tonya Edington.

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

O say can you see
by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there
O say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave

"LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING"

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, Till earth
and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new
day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on
the way;
Thou who has by Thy might, Led us
into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine
of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

"OUR GLORIOUS UDC"
(Alma Mater)

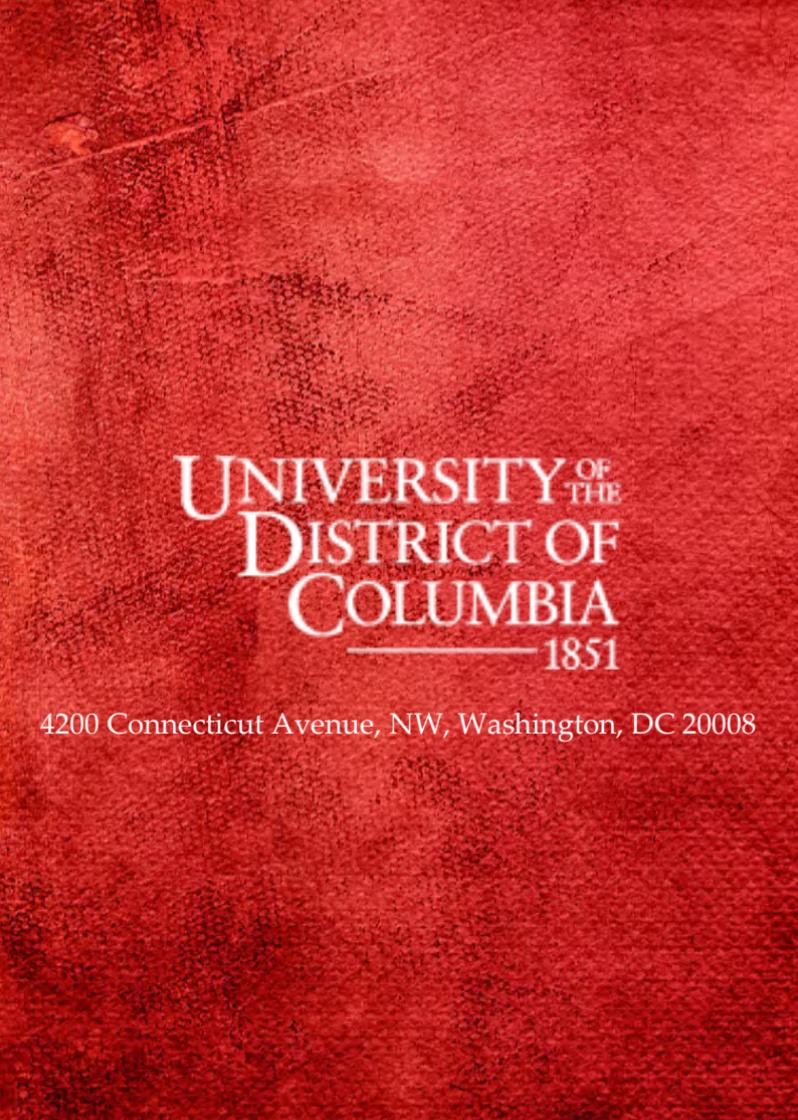
A path that's paved in Red and Gold,
Leading to the dreams that life holds,
Inspiring ev'ry growing
mind to Conquer mountains hard to climb.

You'll always reign with equality,
Strength and love and unity,
Bringing life's prosperity to
Those who pledge their loyalty.

UDC you're praised and loved,
Bless'd with strength from God above,
Leading us on through ev'ry road to UDC
our strength to hold.

REFRAIN

We praise our UDC;
Your precepts we believe;
Always our hearts will sing to thee,
OUR GLORIOUS UDC.

The background of the entire page is a textured, mottled red color. In the center, there is a faint, large, light-colored circular emblem that serves as a background for the university's name.

UNIVERSITY^{OF THE}
DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
— 1851

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