

UNIVERSITY OF THE
DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
—1851

UDC FORWARD >>

SPECIAL ISSUE

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Academic Year



Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.
10th President, University of the District of Columbia

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ABOVE: Photo courtesy of Lewis Johnson

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT EDINGTON

Welcome to the University of the District of Columbia, Firebirds!

It is an honor to lead UDC into its next growth phase. At my previous institution, I helped boost the reputation and status of the university in myriad ways: improving its national rankings as a public university and an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), increasing student success outcomes and securing more than \$12 million in research funding. I'm excited to translate that dedication to institutional excellence to UDC.

The future of UDC is bright. I plan to be a visible, engaged president focused on the students. I hope to have a strong presence in your lives, and I am excited to see and hear from you about what you need to feel supported this year.

I am driven by a commitment to serve—that's what gets me up in the morning and keeps me going through the day. I have spent my career as someone who keeps his head down and works hard to effect change. Working at UDC will allow me a broader platform to continue my mission to serve students and transform lives.

As you begin the fall semester, it's my mission to provide you with an exceptional experience here at UDC, from student orientation to final exams.

Here are some of my top priorities:

- Enhancing the student experience. This includes supporting significant renovations already underway on campus and other amenities coming soon, such as adding dining options to the Student Center.
- Boosting student recruitment, retention and academic success outcomes.
- Increasing awareness of UDC's brand. This includes expanding public and private partnerships and raising UDC's rankings as a top public HBCU.
- Expanding UDC's role as an economic driver for the DC area.
- Improving operational efficiency across the institution and support for students, faculty and staff.

As you embark on or continue your journey at UDC, I hope you find yourself at home here. We are One UDC, aligned in the common goal to make the University a truly student-centered, first-choice institution in our nation's capital.

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.
UDC President

PRESIDENT EDINGTON FOUND A PATHWAY OUT OF PERSONAL HARDSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION

BELOW: UDC President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., poses with USGA President Brent Thigpen (left) and 2023-2024 Mr. Homecoming Jaeron Nichols (right) in Cleveland L. Dennard Plaza.



The joy of learning, the protective love of grandparents and caring educators kept Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., on the path to success in his youth. Protected from the realities of a drug epidemic in his community, Edington spent his early years in the library and off the streets while dreaming of a better life.

“As a child, my grandparents shielded us from a lot of what was going on, and that’s what got me through high school,” said Edington, the University of the District of Columbia’s 10th President. “Crack devastated my community and some members of my family.”

Edington and his two older brothers were raised by his grandparents in Berkeley, California due to his parent’s substance abuse. His early exposure to the University of California, Berkeley campus and a nurturing home environment helped

him become the first in his family to attend college.

“I didn’t see many people attaining success professionally, but I’ve always loved learning. As a kid, I would go to the library two to three days a week, and I was reading 24/7. I had a thirst for learning,” he said.

Edington’s affinity for math and science led him to Fisk University, where he would eventually earn a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry.

The 53-year-old chemist quickly points out that his

college education would have been derailed had it not been for his favorite professor and mentor. After taking a Greyhound bus and arriving on Fisk’s campus with only \$400 in his pocket and a duffle bag, he soon realized he didn’t have enough funds to pay his entire tuition. He turned to his chemistry professor, Dr. Princilla Evans, who helped him secure a scholarship to cover his tuition in full.

“That scholarship kept me in school; otherwise, I would have been a one-semester student,” Edington said. “I

was so naïve when I left for college, but I just knew I had to leave.”

Edington credits Fisk, a fellow HBCU, with saving his life.

“That’s where I came alive because I began to see a world [that] was available to me. I followed the path of my love for science. I also embraced my commitment to service. I realized that I could do both

in higher education—help people learn and help them have access to opportunity.”

Edington continued his education after Fisk, earning a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Vanderbilt University and completing his postdoctoral studies at Duke University, where he was a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow.

His challenges as a student early on have made it easy for the President to relate to those struggling to attain an education in urban settings. Edington wants to make the pathway to higher education more accessible for students and has been a champion for pipeline recruitment and student retention, as well as for providing wraparound support services that address needs beyond the classroom.

“I plan to have a strong presence in their lives, on and off campus. I am excited to see and hear from the students about what they want and need from us to support them as they matriculate through the University,” Edington said.

Understanding the plight of many UDC students drives the President to want to secure more scholarships and address obstacles to student success. He is committed to expanding partnerships, exploring ways to increase housing options and continuing infrastructure improvements, and making sure students feel heard.

As UDC’s 10th President, Edington brings over 20 years of higher-education experience. Most recently, he was executive vice president and chief operating officer at Florida A&M University (FAMU), the second-ranked administrator at the school. He previously served as FAMU’s provost and vice president for academic affairs, as well as the vice president

for strategic planning, analysis, and institutional effectiveness.

His leadership strategy resulted in FAMU’s elevation in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for national public universities from #123 to #103, and the university has held the top ranking for public HBCUs for the past four consecutive years.

While at FAMU, Edington spearheaded considerable progress in increasing grant awards at FAMU by 100 percent, boosting enrollment of first-time college students by 13 percent and increasing graduate enrollment by 10 percent.

The President describes himself as caring, compassionate and analytical, and he believes in a strong work ethic. When it comes to faculty and staff, Edington said he tries to lead by example.

“I am driven by service and commitment. That’s what gets me up in the morning and keeps me going,” he said.

“I want students to know that the future of UDC is bright. They will have a visible, engaged, student-centered President,” Edington said.

BELOW: President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., First Lady Tonya Edington and UDC’s 2023-2024 student leaders.





ABOVE: First Lady Tonya Edington and President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D. (Photo courtesy of Lewis Johnson).

“I try to model the behavior I expect from those I work with and those reporting to me.”

He prides himself on being the first person to work and probably the last person to leave most times, not just for the sake of it but because of the strong work ethic he’s always had.

“I set high expectations as a leader. I am very goal-oriented and outcome and results-oriented. I do believe in positioning each member of the team to be the best

that they can be. I try to take the time to learn about each person professionally and personally so that I can understand what they need from me to support them in their work. I can’t ask you to be something if I’m not living up to that same standard,” Edington said.

Coming from a STEM background, the President is committed to helping the University reach Research 2 (R2) status, a designation denoting the level of research at a university.

“We support the mission to achieve R2 status because it opens the door for additional funding and support from federal agencies,” Edington said. “It makes it easier to attract top-notch faculty. Those things will open the door for more research opportunities, particularly for undergraduate students.”

Edington was the founding dean of the College of Science and Technology at FAMU. A physical chemist with a research specialty in ultrafast laser spectroscopy, his scholarly work includes research and

training for faculty in STEM education. As an accomplished researcher, Edington helped secure over \$12 million in research funding from various federal and state agencies for FAMU.

“I believe a vibrant, strong and active research program is critical to any institution, particularly UDC. When you are strong and active in research, the effects are felt across the campus,” he said. Under Edington’s leadership, FAMU increased student success outcomes, launched several new degree programs and experienced its highest performance in 2021 and 2023 on Florida’s Performance-Based Funding Model. Edington succeeds President Ronald Mason Jr., J.D., the University’s longest-serving President. Mason ended his tenure on July 31, 2023, and he will remain a faculty member at the David A. Clarke School of Law.

“I want to build on President Mason’s legacy of building a strong foundation for the future,” he said. “I want to be seen as one of the people who led the charge to elevate UDC

to top-tier status in terms of academic reputation and impact in the community. I want us to be a thriving, flourishing University for the District and highly regarded in all circles. I want to elevate the stature of this University.”

When the President isn’t working on University business, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Tonya, and supporting his daughter, Gabriella Edington, M.D., a medical resident working in psychiatry in South Florida.

“My wife will be a fully engaged First Lady,” he said.

“We are a package deal. We are fully committed to serving the University, and we are going to be very active.”

Edington is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., pledging in 1989 with Fisk University’s Alpha Chi Chapter.

Music is a significant part of Edington’s life. He listens to hip-hop, jazz and R&B and names Mary J. Blige as his favorite artist. He is an avid reader who enjoys fiction and suspense novels and also enjoys mountain biking.

BELOW: President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., poses with his daughter Gabby at graduation at Florida State University’s College of Medicine.



PRESIDENT EDINGTON'S CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., comes to UDC with a broad background in higher education. The scientist, administrator and classroom veteran has dedicated more than 20 years of his career to serving students, staff and faculty at institutions of higher learning. Here are some of his key achievements:

- Most recently served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Florida A&M University, the second-highest ranking role at FAMU
- Prior FAMU roles include provost and vice president for academic affairs, as well as the vice president for strategic planning, analysis and institutional effectiveness
- Served as the founding dean of FAMU's College of Science and Technology
- Helped secure more than \$12 million in research funding and increased grant awards at FAMU by 100 percent
- Helped increase enrollment of first-time college students by 13 percent and graduate student enrollment by 10 percent at FAMU
- During his tenure, FAMU ascended from #123 to #103 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for national public universities
- FAMU has also held the top place in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for public HBCUs for the past four consecutive years, during which Dr. Edington was a member of the leadership team
- Served as chair of the State University System of Florida's Council of Academic Vice Presidents
- Earned his B.A. in Chemistry from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Vanderbilt University
- Completed postdoctoral studies at Duke University as a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow





ABOVE: First Lady Tonya Edington (Photo courtesy of Lewis Johnson)

MEET UDC'S FIRST LADY: TONYA EDINGTON

First Lady Tonya Edington plans to be “very active and very visible.” As her husband serves as the University of the District of Columbia’s 10th President, Edington plans to promote UDC through engagement on campus and throughout the DC community.

“This is an honor and privilege to represent UDC as First Lady; it is something I hold very dear and do not take lightly,” Edington said. “I’m excited about being a part of this wonderful institution. I look forward to working alongside Maurice and helping him fulfill his vision for the University.”

Like her husband, Edington also plans to have a prominent presence on campus.

“It’s important for me to be there and a part of what’s going on,” she said. “I will be able to figure out where I can be most helpful, not only to Maurice but throughout the campus community. I hope to be able to use my platform as the First Lady to be a role model for young people.”

Edington graduated from Eastern College (now Eastern University) in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in

Organizational Management and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in management. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), Inc., pledging the graduate chapter of Delta Kappa Omega in Tallahassee, Florida.

Edington has been active in community service with her sorority chapter, including serving on its scholarship committee for several years and participating in community health projects and back-to-school drives for college and K-12 students providing supplies, clothing and personal hygiene products. She plans to continue her charitable work while in DC.

She also volunteered with the United Way on its allocations committee, reviewing the financial needs of various food pantries and shelters that provide services for individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Edington has worked in human resources for over 20 years in various industries, including retail and manufacturing, and she

also spent a decade working in higher education. She currently works in HR for a small marketing agency.

Edington grew up on a farm in the small town of DeFuniak Springs in West Florida, known for Lake DeFuniak, one of only two spring-fed lakes that are nearly perfectly round and sit in the heart of town.

“We did have animals, horses and cows,” she said. “My dad had a love for horses; he owned quarter horses that were show horses, and he trained horses, so people would be able to ride them.”

Edington talks fondly about her close-knit family, especially her sisters, who have also been her role models.

“I have three sisters and three brothers, and I’m in the middle. My mentors were my sisters. The age difference is 11, nine and six years older than me, which means I had many mothers,” she said. “They each were role models for me. I just really looked up to them. I remember how



ABOVE: First Lady Tonya Edington and President Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., pose with Felix the Firebird.

much I idolized my oldest sister. Even now, as an adult, I still look up to my sisters; they are my go-to for everything.”

Edington has one stepchild with President Edington—his daughter, Gabriella, who is completing a medical residency in psychiatry—and plays a significant role in the lives of many young people in her family.

The First Lady’s passion for working with young people

stems from being a part of a large family. In addition to being the fifth of seven children, she has many nieces and nephews.

“I take great pride in them and the adults they have become,” Edington said. “I try to pour into them and be a role model and support, helping them find themselves. That’s where my passion comes from. We have a responsibility to be those role models and to be able to help shape and develop them to

be able to represent us in the future. I truly have a heart for young people.”

Her spirituality is also a guiding force in her life.

“I consider myself to be a servant leader,” Edington said. “I am very spiritual. I love the Lord. I have no shame in saying that. I always tell my nieces and nephews that no matter what you are going through, don’t make any decisions without consulting God, even in the smallest things.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



On behalf of the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees, I welcome all new and returning students to the 2023-24 academic year.

As the only public institution of higher learning in the nation's capital, the only exclusively urban land-grant university in the country and an HBCU, UDC has made tremendous strides to serve our students and community.

Our expansion of academic programs, institutional infrastructure, and UDC's rising stature in *U.S. News and World Report's* college rankings at #17 among all HBCUs and #7 among public HBCUs culminates in UDC being recognized as the premier institution for students, across the metropolitan area and beyond.

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., our 10th President, will

continue to build on the momentum and refine UDC's strategic direction and goals in alignment with a shared vision, mission, and core values across all areas of the institution.

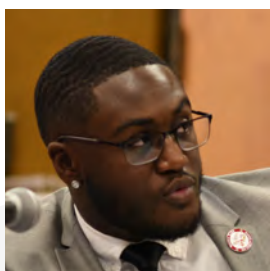
As you embark on your academic journey, take advantage of the many facets of showing your Firebird pride. I encourage you to engage with all that makes UDC great, from the intellectual pursuits of the classroom to student life. Pop in for an on-

campus jazz concert. Apply to become a student ambassador. Rally in support during a Firebird basketball game.

We hope your UDC education helps prepare you as a global citizen and is just one stop in a lifelong learning and service journey.

Christopher D. Bell, J.D.
Chair, UDC Board of Trustees

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT TRUSTEE



On behalf of UDC students, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning Firebirds. May this year be filled with rigorous academic challenges, opportunities for personal growth and connections with the community—at UDC and beyond.

Travis Henderson
UDC Board of Trustees Student Trustee



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



Welcome to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)!

I cannot tell you how happy we are that you chose to join us. As nervous as you may be, you are about to make friends you will keep for the rest of your life. You will find mentors who will help you find your purpose. UDC's faculty will inspire you to fall in love with learning and to be endlessly curious. Furthermore, you will be part of a community that we hope quickly feels like your chosen family.

UDC is a place, and Washington, DC, is a city that wants you to be yourself, your full self and the very best version of yourself. You will teach us how your lived experiences inform who you are as a human being. Moreover, you will learn from your new friends about cultures, accents, and faiths worldwide.

There is much to do here; all it takes is energy and courage. There are several student organizations, activities, and teams to join. Choose something you love or try something entirely new, from the Honda All-Star Challenge Quiz Bowl team to the UDC Chorale. Try out for one of the Firebird sports teams or become a UDC Ambassador.

Most of all, remember that Washington, DC, is your campus too. Make your bucket list and jump in. Eat food from a country halfway around the world. Discover a band about to become famous. Watch a play that will make you think about the world differently. Walk

around the corner to explore international Embassies (at Van Ness), take a walk and experience urban renewal (at Lamond-Riggs), explore the rich history of Anacostia (at Old Congress Heights), pick fresh leafy green vegetables (at Firebird Research Farm) or examine the inside of a jet engine (at the Hangar @ Reagan National Airport). Whatever you can imagine, there are endless possibilities at UDC.

I will see you on campus, stop and ask you how it is going, or come randomly sit with you and have lunch at one of the new dining spots. Getting to meet you—to hear about your dreams and experience your enthusiasm—that is my fuel. So, do not hesitate to say hello or email me your thoughts and feedback.

The new beginnings of things are always hard. Nevertheless, I hope you can enjoy the adventure of it all and remember that soon enough, you will barely remember when UDC did not feel like your home away from home.

Wishing you a wonderful fresh start to a new academic year!

Lawrence T. Potter Jr., Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



ABOVE: Jazz studies graduate Jade Jacobs singing alongside Allyn Johnson (piano) and Herman Burney (bass) at the UDC Annual Holiday Concert on December 5, 2022, at the Theatre of Arts.

I am looking forward to seeing you this fall and supporting your journeys toward new possibilities.

The start of the fall semester is a busy time for new and returning students. Faculty and staff in the College are available to help you finalize registration, explore extracurricular activities, find a major, problem-solve your textbook and supply needs, apply for graduation or find scholarships, internships and research assistantships. Remember that your faculty advisors are a key component of your success.

A few updates:

- We've added new classrooms, updated labs, and purchased new technology needed to enhance your learning experiences. We're also working to add more spaces where you'll be able to collaborate with fellow students.

- We've expanded our pool of experts with the hire of nearly 25 new faculty and staff members. This August, we welcomed new hires in Art, Education, Social Work, Political Science, Digital Media and Administration of Justice, to name just a few programs.
- We met with local and national organizations across the summer toward our goal of having every CAS student complete an internship or fellowship before graduation. We will again work with DACOR, the Global Fairness Initiative and the Smithsonian/Hirshhorn Museum.

Know that College faculty and staff stand committed to ensuring that CAS remains an inclusive community that prepares its graduates for successful and satisfying careers as teachers, creatives, problem solvers and activists. We're here to partner with you to create an experience that moves you one step closer to your dreams.

April Massey, Ph.D., Dean
College of Arts and Sciences



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



ABOVE: UDC student Jason Sierra cultivates plants in the greenhouse at the University's Firebird Research Farm in Beltsville, Maryland.

We are thrilled to welcome you to the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). Congratulations on choosing to pursue your education with us!

In CAUSES, we pride ourselves on offering a unique learning experience that combines academic excellence with a deep commitment to environmental stewardship, urban sustainability and agricultural innovation. Our College is dedicated to preparing future leaders like you who are passionate about making positive changes in our communities, promoting sustainable practices and shaping the future of our planet.

In addition to our exceptional faculty, CAUSES offers state-of-the-art facilities and resources that will enhance your learning journey. Our laboratories, research centers and urban farms provide you with ample opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research, gain valuable hands-on experiences and contribute to meaningful projects that positively impact society.

Beyond the classroom, we encourage you to explore the various student organizations, clubs and academic societies that enrich campus life. These extracurricular activities will allow you to network with like-minded peers, develop leadership skills and be an active part of our vibrant community.

Once again, welcome to UDC's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences. We are proud to have you as a member of our family, and we look forward to witnessing your progress, accomplishments and contributions to the University community.

Wishing you a transformative and rewarding academic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Dwane Jones, Ph.D., Dean
*College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability
and Environmental Sciences*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



ABOVE: Social robot used to help DC high school students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We begin the new academic year by welcoming you to campus, as we embark upon a glorious era for the UDC School of Business and Public Administration (SBPA): I am proud to announce that the SBPA has earned the AACSB accreditation! It is a marquee achievement and recognition of the quality of our business program—an achievement only five percent of all business schools worldwide can claim.

The attainment of the AACSB accreditation signifies SBPA's quality programs and the market relevance of our degree to top employers and other universities. It reaffirms our unwavering commitment to our students to help empower them to achieve their goals and blossom into outstanding leaders of tomorrow.

We are also proud of the teaching excellence and remarkable research of our esteemed faculty, which ensures that our students receive

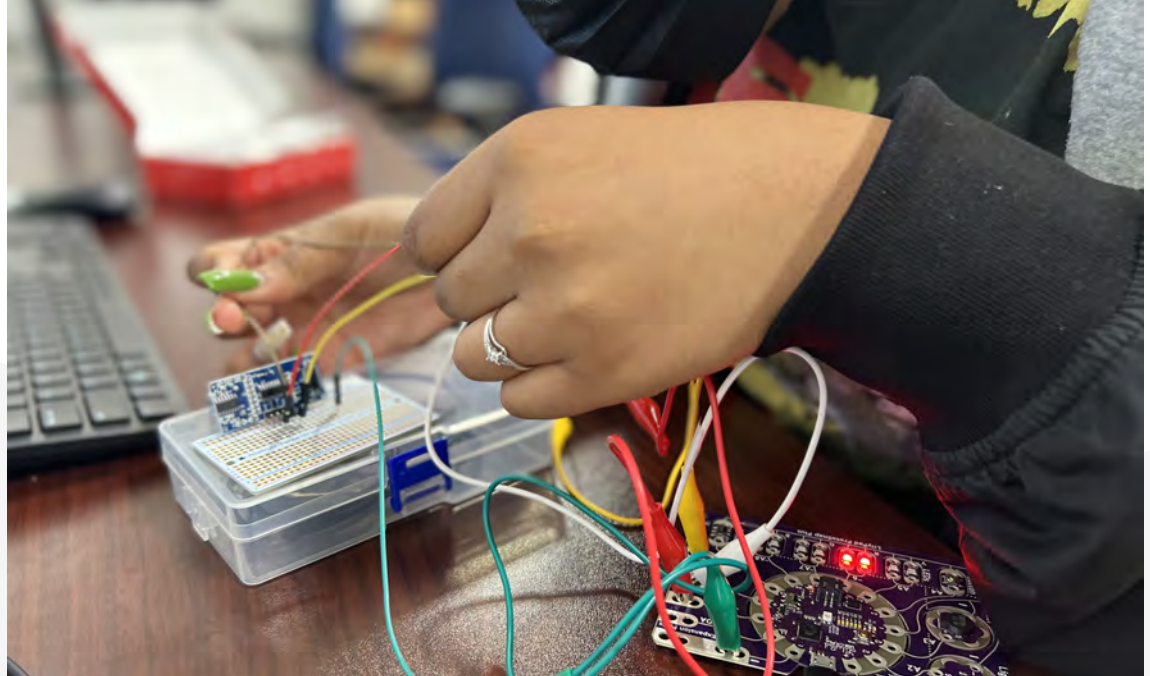
an unmatched academic experience throughout their journey. We pride ourselves on our social impact through the development of innovative, award-winning programs such as the SBPA's VITA Tax Clinic, PATHS program and the Social Robotics, benefitting communities and students.

Our excellent SBPA alumni network and DC location provide inimitable advantages to our business programs, with easy access to corporate, governmental and international networking resources. The SBPA's business programs now are embedded in the only AACSB-accredited, exclusively urban, public land-grant and a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). We look forward to getting to know you, too.

Welcome home to your UDC SBPA.

Mohamad Sepehri, Ph.D., Dean
School of Business and Public Administration

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES



ABOVE: A student works on an engineering project.



We are honored to be a part of your academic journey and of the realization of your dreams. We are looking forward to seeing you at your best in every learning endeavor at UDC. You will learn from your fellow students, our incredible staff, and our amazing faculty of the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (SEAS).

Our faculty are dedicated professionals who excel in connecting with students and providing educational experiences, not only providing the latest materials in the classroom but also creating experiential opportunities (for example, internships). SEAS prepares students for a variety of career opportunities through a combination of hands-on experience, exposure to state-of-the-art technologies and the possibility of undertaking financially supported research before you graduate. Our students participate in national competitions and win

awards, and SEAS graduates secure jobs and internships in top companies.

We are constantly being recognized for the values that have defined who we are—our academic excellence and a focus on the well-being of our students and community. Through our School's culture of curiosity, critical thinking and collaboration, you can participate in cutting-edge research and creative opportunities with our world-class faculty. I have no hesitation saying our students will be the technological leaders of tomorrow.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of SEAS, I welcome you to one of the best engineering and computer science programs in the nation.

Devdas Shetty, Ph.D., Dean
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE DAVID A. CLARKE SCHOOL OF LAW



ABOVE: First-year law students participate in the August 2023 Law School Pinning Ceremony.

As we begin a new academic year, my first as Dean of the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law), I am excited to welcome new and returning students. This academic year brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and become connected with your purpose as a member of the next generation of legal advocates.

The faculty, administration, and staff are eager to welcome you, and we look forward to providing you with educational opportunities that include a vast array of courses and programs. We are all committed to providing you with a comprehensive and practical legal education that will prepare you to practice law, promote justice, and change lives.

I encourage you to become a full participant in the UDC Law community. Put your studies first—but also partake in other opportunities that can enhance your academic experience and expose you to the many members of the UDC Law community who support you.

As you begin your semester and continue throughout your legal education, you will appreciate even more the transformative power of the law and how it can be used to bring about a more just and equitable society. As you encounter the rewards and rigors of law school, remember that your success is UDC Law's success, too. We travel on this journey together, and we all play an integral part in ensuring that success.

I look forward to welcoming you to all the experiences this school year will bring. On behalf of the faculty, administration, and staff, I wish you a productive and prosperous academic year.

Warmest regards,

Twinette L. Johnson, J.D., Ph.D., Dean
David A. Clarke School of Law

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ABOVE: Nursing students practice patient care.

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we eagerly start a new academic year at the University of the District of Columbia Community College (UDC-CC). I extend my warmest welcome to both returning and new students joining our vibrant community.

As Dean, I am honored to lead a College that values excellence, diversity and the pursuit of knowledge. Our campus is a melting pot of talent, culture and ideas, and each of you brings a unique and valued perspective that further enriches our environment.

At UDC-CC, we believe education can transform and empower you. Please approach your academic journey with curiosity and determination. To help us help you, we ask you to: focus on your studies; work hard to submit all assignments on time; and commit to completing your degree. If you are falling

behind, NEVER GIVE UP! Let us know so we can provide the necessary resources to help you bounce back.

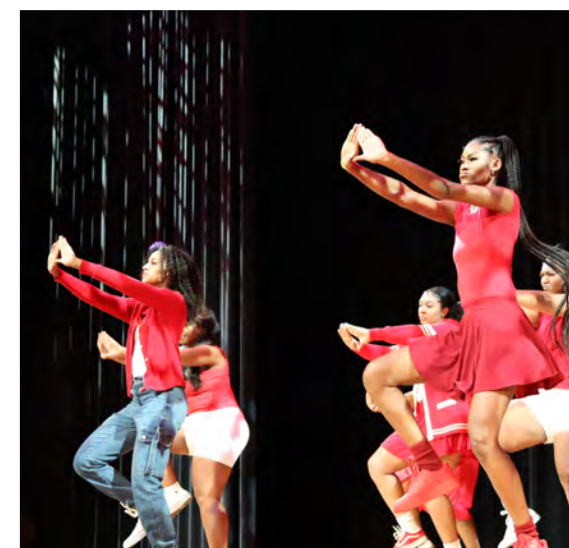
Our dedicated faculty members are committed to fostering an inclusive learning experience. Beyond the classroom, explore the many extra-curricular activities, clubs and community engagement opportunities that can tap into your passions and create lasting memories.

With the new academic year, let's embrace our collective potential, support one another and strive for greatness. I am confident that together we will make a profound impact both within our College and the broader community.

Let's make this year an extraordinary year!

Marilyn A.L. Hamilton, Ph.D., Dean
Community College





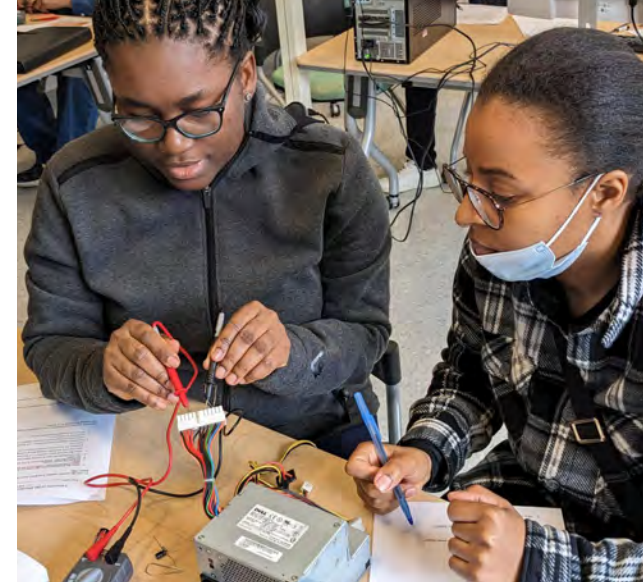
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING



As Dean of the Workforce Development Division (WDLL), I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new, continuing and returning UDC students and especially WDLL students.

The WDLL continues to make significant improvements to ensure your career success, and highlighted below are a few that you can expect during this new semester:

- Development and implementation of a robust and holistic career services unit.
- Implementation of an agreement between WDLL and UDC's Community College that will provide credit for prior learning.
- Establishment of dynamic partnerships with several notable organizations throughout the region.
- The launch of new and/or enhanced course offerings across all career pathways.
- Enhanced communications to keep you “in the know” about how UDC-WDLL can support you and to provide effective resources to bolster your future goals and career success.



ABOVE: Workforce Development students participate in the Step Into Success in Information Technology pathway program.

I encourage all UDC students to take full advantage of WDLL's industry-recognized, job training certification courses. Most importantly, be aware that WDLL's course offerings are at no cost to DC residents (note, some fees apply). So, if you are a DC resident, check out the WDLL website regularly (see below) to stay current on all the services, resources and opportunities WDLL has to offer—and please share this info with family and friends. Also, join us on social media: @UDCCCWDLL on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. If you have questions, send an email to our admissions team at: workforce@udc.edu and/or to the WDLL Deans at: wdlldean@udc.edu.

Sincerely,

MaShonda Smith, Ph.D., Dean
*Workforce Development
and Lifelong Learning*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEARNING RESOURCES DIVISION



ABOVE: Students use VR headsets at the Center for the Advancement of Learning.



Welcome new and returning students to Fall Semester 2023! The Learning Resources Division is thrilled to see all your happy faces in the library this semester! We offer you an open invitation to visit right from the start of your semester. We eagerly anticipate meeting each of you and helping you get to know your home away from home, your UDC Library!

The UDC Library is here to provide you with access to free resources like books, articles, audio and video. We can also help you with your coursework, including but not limited to:

- Getting started on your research assignments
- Finding sources
- Evaluating resources
- Citing sources

Visit the UDC Library's website to see everything that is available to you as a UDC student. You can also meet one-on-one with a librarian. Contact us at ask@udc.libanswers.com or schedule an appointment (online or in-person).

Here's wishing you a great start to your learning journey this semester—and evolving into a better and more informed version of yourself. We want you to know that we are here for you ... always!

Sincerely,

Melba P. Broome, Director
Learning Resources Division

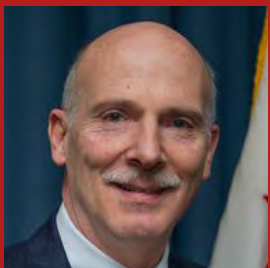
A MESSAGE FROM THE DC MAYOR



Congratulations and welcome to a new year at the University of the District of Columbia! You are embarking on an exciting time in your life and are attending the only public historically Black, urban-focused land-grant university in Washington, DC. You represent the best and brightest collegiate students here in the District. Your success is our success, and we cannot wait to witness all the ways you make us #DCProud!

Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia

A MESSAGE FROM THE DC COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



Welcome to Washington, DC! As a student at the University of the District of Columbia, you attend the only public HBCU (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation's capital. Getting a quality education is essential to success in life. Let your experience in the District set the foundation for your future success.

Phil Mendelson
DC Council Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM DC COUNCILMEMBER MATT FRUMIN

As the representative on the DC Council of the area that includes the Van Ness Campus, I could not be more excited about the future of UDC. I look forward to working with you to strengthen the University and its partnership with our community.



I hope as you make your way through the next years at the University, you will use the nearby community and entire city as an extension of your campus and learning experiences. We have much to learn from each other and a great opportunity to make a positive difference (and have fun) together.

To stay connected with my office and the broader Ward 3 community, please visit MattFruminWard3.com and follow @CMFrumin on social media.

Matt Frumin
Ward 3 Councilmember

A MESSAGE FROM DC COUNCILMEMBER ZACHARY PARKER

Congratulations on beginning your 2023-2024 academic year at the District of Columbia's only public university! Positioned within a city that is both one of the most influential in the world and rooted in unique local history and culture, the opportunities available to you as a student at UDC are unparalleled.



This academic year is yours to reach new heights, explore the many resources and experiences the District has to offer and apply your learning for the benefit of our communities. I am honored to represent Ward 5 on the Council of the District of Columbia, home to UDC's Lamond-Riggs campus and a vibrant, diverse community of DC neighbors working together to build healthy communities.

Please feel free to reach out to my office anytime throughout this year to get connected to resources, community events, legislative activities at 202-724-8028 or ward5contact@dccouncil.gov.

Go Firebirds! In service and community,

Zachary Parker
Ward 5 Councilmember

A MESSAGE FROM DC COUNCILMEMBER TRAYON WHITE SR.

I extend a warm welcome to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). This institution holds a vital place in the heart of our nation's capital, and I am truly delighted to have you join its ranks.



Being a lifelong resident of Washington and serving as the DC Councilmember for Ward 8, I take immense pride in having UDC's Congress Heights campus as an integral part of my community. This University has been a breeding ground for numerous remarkable individuals, ranging from dedicated leaders to innovative artists and accomplished athletes. It stands as a beacon of potential and promise, and my wish is for you to thrive here and pursue your aspirations wholeheartedly.

Let's rally together, Firebirds!

Sincerely,

Trayon White Sr.
Ward 8 Councilmember



ABOVE: Anacostia High School students pose for a photo after delivering presentations at the U.S. Department of Interior.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DC STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Welcome to a new school year! Whether you are entering the first year of your journey through college or returning to the University of the District of Columbia, I encourage you to seek excellence in everything you do. As students in the nation's capital, you have a unique opportunity to watch history unfold as you prepare to shape the future.

Best of luck for a year full of success!

Christina Grant, Ph.D.
DC State Superintendent of Education



A MESSAGE FROM THE DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR

I am excited to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning University of the District of Columbia students. As you enter into the next stage of your educational development, it is my hope that you embrace this new academic year with determination and curiosity. As the Chancellor of DC Public Schools (DCPS), I saw so many of you thrive in K-12 due to your dedication, hard work and the support of your community. Now that you are taking that same enthusiasm to the District's only public institution of higher learning, I remind you that as alumni, you are forever a part of the DCPS family, and we are proud to have been a part of your educational journey.



Let's go, Firebirds!

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee
DC Public Schools Chancellor

MESSAGES FROM THE DIVISION OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS

Welcome to another fantastic year at UDC. I'd like to encourage you to take advantage of all that the University has to offer, including scores of programs and services designed to enrich your student experience.

Let's go, Firebirds!

William U. Latham, Ph.D.
*Chief Student Development
and Success Officer*



It is indeed my pleasure to welcome you to the University of the District of Columbia, Firebird Nation!

Whether you are a new or a continuing Firebird, I'm delighted that you have chosen UDC as your home for your academic, professional, and personal growth and success. From joining any of our over 50 clubs and organizations to hosting or participating in campus events, serving in leadership roles and maintaining self-care and wellness, we are here for you.

Best wishes for a great academic year as we "transform today's scholars into tomorrow's world-class leaders."

Trelaunda Beckett-Jones, Ed.D.
*Associate Vice President and Dean of Students,
Division of Student Development and Success*



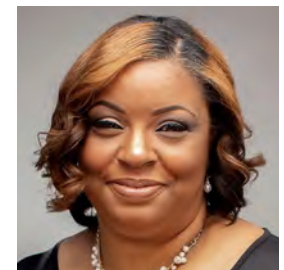
"The best is yet to come!" Welcome home, Firebirds!

We are eager to see you back on campus and engaged in one of the most important chapters in your personal and professional life.

We have a packed year of student experiences for you, curated just for you, your social growth and personal exploration, The Office of Student Life and Services is here for you. Please stop by and say hello!

We are here for you through and through, Firebirds!

Valerie Lewis Taylor
Director, UDC Student Life and Events



A MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Greetings, Firebirds! I am pleased to welcome you to a new athletic year at the University of the District of Columbia, home to 10 NCAA II programs.



It's my hope that you take advantage of all that UDC Athletics has to offer this year.

Whether you are suited up to compete (walk-ons are welcome to try out!); enjoying the open gym, our swimming pool, tennis courts and intramurals; or cheering on your fellow Firebirds at the next big game, we want you to be part of Team UDC.

Visit our website to learn more about the athletic programs we offer.

Patricia Thomas

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

TOP RIGHT: UDC community gathers outside the newly named Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson Sports Complex. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Statue of Dr. E.B. Henderson, the "Grandfather of Black Basketball"





A MESSAGE FROM THE USGA PRESIDENT

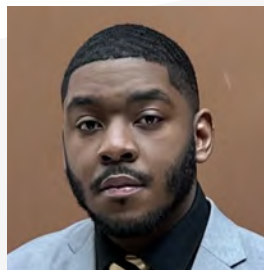
My fellow Firebirds, as your esteemed USGA President, it is with boundless excitement and pride that I stand before you today, united with the University of the District of Columbia's exceptional student leaders, to extend a resounding welcome to our remarkable new and returning Firebirds!

To the fresh recruits embarking on this momentous journey, brace yourselves for an electrifying ride within our dynamic community. Your arrival has sparked a surge of enthusiasm among us because we know that each of you possesses extraordinary talents that will undoubtedly ignite the growth and triumph of our esteemed institution.

And to our esteemed returning Firebirds, I commend your unwavering dedication to personal growth and the progress of our beloved university. The upcoming academic year promises to be nothing short of awe-inspiring—an extraordinary fusion of inspiration, nurturing and transformation, accompanied by abundant opportunities waiting to be seized.

Now, my fellow Firebirds, brace yourselves for greatness and dare to dream huge dreams! Embrace the audacity to chase those dreams with relentless discipline and I assure you, we will be your unwavering cheerleaders, supporting you with every beat of our hearts.

So, let us raise our spirits and toast to an electrifying year ahead brimming with challenges, triumphs and unforgettable moments. Good luck and go, Firebirds! Let's soar to new heights and blaze a trail of excellence that will shine for future generations!



Brent Thigpen
UDC USGA President

A MESSAGE FROM THE LAW STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

On behalf of UDC's student leaders, we'd like to extend a warm and sincere welcome to all our new and returning Firebirds.

To our new Firebirds, we're so excited to have you join us. You each have unique talents that will be invaluable to the growth of our community. You were selected for a reason.

To our returning Firebirds, be proud of your continued investment in not only yourselves, but our institution. May this school year be stimulating, nurturing, transformative and comprised of an abundance of opportunity.

We challenge you all to have the audacity to dream big dreams and the discipline to achieve those big dreams. We'll be cheering you on along the way. Good luck and go Firebirds!

Imani Roberson
UDC Law Student Bar Association President



A MESSAGE FROM THE GSGA PRESIDENT

Greetings, new and returning UDC graduate students!

I'm honored to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year at the University of the District of Columbia. I hope this year is filled with fun, friendship and exciting new academic opportunities.



We at the GSGA look forward to getting to know you this fall and can't wait to toss our mortar boards in the air with you when that day comes!

John Irungu
UDC GSGA President

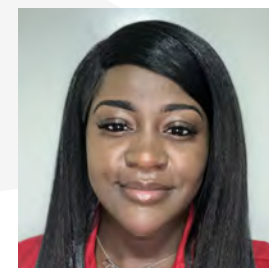


ABOVE: Student volunteers pose with Felix the Firebird at the New Student Orientation

A MESSAGE FROM THE CCSGA PRESIDENT

Hello, Firebirds!

I am Darchiniquia Smith, president of the UDC Community College Student Government Association, and I'm ecstatic to welcome you to this fine institution. UDC has so much to offer — from its rigorous academic programs to its arts and culture offerings to its unrivaled school spirit. I encourage you to take advantage of it all. The CCSGA is always here for you, so don't hesitate to reach out. Here's to a fantastic year!



Darchiniquia Smith
UDC CCSGA President



ABOVE: Student poses with Felix the Firebird

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute of Architect Students (AIAS)
 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
 Biology Club
 Chemistry Club
 Chorale
 Caribbean Students Association
 Center for Advancement and Learning (C.A.L.)
 Community College Student Government Association
 Future Business Leaders of America Phi Beta Lambda
 Garden Club
 Graduate Student Government Association
 Industry & Programming Club
 Knights of Firebird Square Chess Club
 Latinx Student Association
 Mocha Moms, Inc.
 National Society of Black Engineers
 National Society of Collegiate Scholars
 National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)
 Oral History Club
 Peers for Community and Public Health Awareness
 Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Workers
 Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society
 Political Science Student Association

Prayer Works Club
 Pre-Health Society
 Royal Court
 Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
 Social Work Student Association
 Society of Women Engineers
 Student Association for Nutrition and Dietetics
 Student Outreach and Leadership Development (SOLD)
 The Alliance Group (T.A.G.)
 The Fire Dolls Majorette Dance Team
 Undergraduate Student Government Association

Black Greek Letter Organizations

Alpha Phi Alpha - Omicron Omicron Chapter
 Alpha Kappa Alpha - Beta Lambda Chapter
 Kappa Alpha Psi - Beta Kappa Chapter
 Omega Psi Phi - Omega Gamma Chapter
 Delta Sigma Theta - Beta Iota Chapter
 Phi Beta Sigma - Gamma Lambda Chapter
 Zeta Phi Beta - Kappa Alpha Chapter
 Sigma Gamma Rho - Beta Chapter
 Iota Phi Theta - Theta Chapter



TOP: Members of Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Affairs (CDIMA);

BOTTOM: Representatives of the Latinx Student Association

RESOURCES

Academic Advising Center

See us for assistance developing your educational plan and to learn about academic support services.

Building 38, A Level 202-274-6899

udc.edu/admissions/academic-advising-center
aac@udc.edu

Accessibility Resource Center

Works with students with disabilities to ensure access to every opportunity for learning and personal growth.

Building 39, Room 106B 202-274-6417

udc.edu/arc
arc@udc.edu

Athletics/E.B. Henderson Sports Complex

Home to a variety of athletic facilities, including a gymnasium, pool and tennis courts.

Building 47 202-274-5024

udcfirebirds.com

Instagram: @udcathletics Twitter: @udcathletics

Campus Bookstore

See us for textbooks, school supplies, electronics, apparel, gifts and more.

Van Ness: Building 38, A Level 202-274-5110

udcshop.com Instagram: @udcbookstore

Campus Police

Visit the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management (OPSEM) or call us to report an incident or for information on campus safety.

Building 39, Room C-04 202-274-5050

udc.edu/public-safety/campus-police

Cashier's Office

Pay tuition, parking, and other student-related fees here.

Building 39, Room 201 202-274-5112

Center for Diversity, Inclusion & Multicultural Affairs

Provides special programming and mobilizes historically marginalized students to build power on campus and in their community.

Building 44, Room A-39

udc.edu/student-life/cdim
udc.multiculturalcenter@gmail.com

Instagram: @udc_cdim

Counseling & Wellness Center

Promotes psychological well-being that helps students reach their academic and personal goals.

Building 39, Room 120 202-274-6000

udc.edu/student-life/cwc

Enrollment Services

See us for questions about admissions, registration, financial aid and more.

Building 39, A Level 202-274-6155

udc.edu/enrollment-management

Financial Aid

Stop by to discuss your financial aid package or learn about available scholarships and other funding sources.

Building 39, Room A-133 202-274-5157

udc.edu/admissions/financial-aid
finaid@udc.edu

Identification Card Services

Visit the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management (OPSEM) to obtain your University ID (UDC One Card).

Building 39, Room C-04

UDC One Card: onecard@udc.edu

Library

Visit us for access to research and library materials, computers and other technology, research assistance, and a place to study.

Building 71, Sixth Floor 202-274-5104

udc.libguides.com ask@udc.libanswers.com

Instagram: @udc_library Twitter: @udc_library

Military & Veteran Student Services

Provides programs for active-duty military, reservists, National Guard members, veterans and their family members to help achieve their educational goals.

Student Center, Building 56, Room B-31 202-274-6099

udc.edu/military/ military@udc.edu

Office of International Student Services

Provides services, support and advocacy to the University's international student population.

Building 39, Room 119 202-274-6317

udc.edu/student-life/office-of-international-students-services
international@udc.edu

Office of the Registrar

See us for questions on registration, transcripts, student records and more.

Building 39, Room A-135 202-274-6200

udc.edu/registrar URegistrar@udc.edu

Office of Student Accounts

Maintains student financial records and responds to student financial inquiries.

Building 39, A Level 202-274-5294

udc.edu/registrar/office-of-student-accounts

Office of Student Life & Services

Hosts scores of clubs and organizations, and signature campus activities that encourage camaraderie and school spirit.

Building 38, A Level 202-274-5900

udc.edu/student-life

Instagram: @udcstudentlife Twitter: @udcstudentlife

One Stop Student Guide

Website with resources including information on registration, financial aid and UDC One Cards
udc.edu/admissions/one-stop-student-guide

Student Center

The university's community center, featuring lounge areas, meeting space, student services and restaurants: Chik-Fil-A and Fuddruckers.

Building 56 202-274-5000

udc.edu/student-center

Facebook: @udcstudentcenter

Instagram: @udc_student_center Twitter: @udcstucenter

Student Center Fitness Center

Features treadmills and other cardio equipment, as well as weights and a fitness studio.

Student Center, A Level

FitnessCenter@udc.edu

Student Government Association

UDC-CC, UDC USGA and UDC GSGA promote the concerns and welfare of community college students, undergraduates and graduate students, respectively.

Student Center, Building 56, Floor 1

202-274-5190 or 202-274-5510

udc.edu/student-life/usga (Undergraduate)

Facebook: @usgafirebirds Instagram: @usgafirebirds

University Health Services

Provides healthcare services to students, faculty and staff.

Building 44, Room A-04

202-274-5030

udc.edu/health-services

University Parking

Stop by here to register and pay for a parking permit to the UDC parking garage.

Cashier's Office: Building 39, Room 201

udc.edu/administration/operations/auxiliary-services/parking

auxiliaryservices@udc.edu



SHOW YOUR UDC PRIDE AND ENJOY FREE LUNCH ON SPIRIT WEDNESDAYS!

1.

Wear your favorite UDC gear and show off your Firebird style!

2.

Are you a member of a fraternity or sorority, honors organization, club or team? Represent them on campus with clothing and accessories to match!

3.

Join us for Spirit Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Cleveland Dennard Plaza for great music, fun activities and free food.

TOP LEFT: Recreation and Leisure Specialist Aiden Perrenoud shows off UDC gear for Spirit Wednesdays; **TOP RIGHT:** Student shows off UDC gear for Spirit Wednesdays

Remember, you must be registered for the current semester to join the festivities!

EVENTS

For an updated list of all events, visit <https://www.udc.edu/calendar/>

CHICK-FIL-A AND FUDDRUCKERS RIBBON- CUTTING CEREMONY

COMING SOON

STUDENT CENTER FOOD COURT

WELCOME BACK WEEK

SEPTEMBER 11-15

MID-DAY FLOW YOGA CLASS

EVERY TUESDAY STARTING
ON SEPTEMBER 12
12 P.M. TO 1 P.M.

UDC COMMUNITY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

UDC THRIFT STORE

SEPTEMBER 13
AT 11 A.M.

STUDENT CENTER, ROOM B02 –
TOWER LOUNGE

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BBQ

SEPTEMBER 13
12-6 P.M. | CLEVELAND L. DENNARD PLAZA

COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME BACK COOKOUT

SEPTEMBER 20
2 P.M. - 6 P.M.

UDC-CC LAMOND RIGGS CAMPUS
5171 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE. NE

OPENING CONVOCATION

SEPTEMBER 21
10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

THE THEATER OF THE ARTS

UDC CAUSES OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 29 AT 9 A.M.

BUILDING 56, HERITAGE HALL

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING

NOVEMBER 13-18

Stay informed of the latest university news, information, and events.



UDC **FORWARD»**
University News and Highlights



Follow UDC
on Social Media



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Lamond-Riggs and Congress Heights Campuses

