

**"OUR GLORIOUS UDC"**  
*(Alma Mater)*

**Words by Larry Mills**  
**Music by Robert Felder**

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.**

**UNIVERSITY<sup>OF</sup>  
THE  
DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA**  
—1851

4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

*Founders' Day*  
**2024**  
*Delivering on the Promise*



**THEATER OF THE ARTS AUDITORIUM**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

**10:00 A.M.**

# Our History

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is the only public university in Washington, DC, and the nation’s only exclusively urban land-grant institution. It was formally designated among the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities by the U.S. Department of Education in 1999. For nearly seven generations, the University of the District of Columbia and its predecessor institutions have transformed the lives of thousands of students for whom a quality education seemed out of reach. Our initial mission was to improve the lives of young African American women who would go on to educate others. And today, it remains deeply rooted in elements of the institution’s purpose. Founded in 1851, UDC was originally established as a “Normal School for Colored Girls” by abolitionist and educator Myrtilla Miner, who envisioned a more equitable society and believed that education and learning opportunities should be available to everyone. Subsequently, other schools emerged as predecessors of UDC to extend quality and affordable education to residents of the District of Columbia

Over time, a series of mergers among the District’s teachers and technical colleges gave rise to the city’s first comprehensive university system. In 1976, the District of Columbia Teachers College, Federal City College and Washington Technical Institute combined to form the University of the District Columbia. Today, UDC is a pacesetter in urban education, offering workforce training opportunities and more than 80 undergraduate and graduate academic degree programs through six colleges and schools: College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), School of Business & Public Administration (SBPA), School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (SEAS), College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), UDC-Community College (UDC-CC), and David A. Clarke School of Law (DCSL), which is regarded as one of the finest public interest law schools in the country. As the pinnacle of the District of Columbia’s public higher education system, UDC supports the District’s effort to be the model of a sustainable, resilient and equitable community by creating solutions to urban challenges and providing training and support for an exemplary workforce at all levels.

# “LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”

James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

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.

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb 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?



*Founders' Day*

*-2024-*

*Delivering on the Promise*

The University's predecessor institutions include: Miner Normal College, Miner Teachers College, Wilson Normal School, Wilson Teachers College, District of Columbia Teachers College, Washington Technical Institute, Federal City College, Antioch School of Law and the District of Columbia Law School.

# Our Leadership

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024

- Christopher D. Bell, Esq.  
*Chair*
- Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn  
*Vice Chair*
- Ken Grossinger, MSW  
*Treasurer*
- Esther Barazzone, Ph.D.  
*Secretary*
- Lamont Akins
- Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.  
*President, Ex-Officio*
- Mildred L. Musgrove, Ed.D. \*
- Carolyn B. Rudd, Ed.D.
- Barrington D. Scott\*
- Warner H. Session, Esq.
- Jerome Shelton
- Anntoinette White-Richardson\*
- Travis Henderson \*\*

\*Elected Alumni Trustee  
\*\*Elected Student Trustee (AY2023-2024)

## EXECUTIVE CABINET

- Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.  
*President*
- April Massey, Ph.D.  
*Interim Chief Academic Officer*
- David A. Franklin, MBA  
*Chief Operating Officer*
- Kelly McMurray, Ph.D.  
*Chief of Staff/Senior Vice President*
- Avis M. Russell, Esq.  
*General Counsel*
- Ruthie Little-Berry, Ph.D.  
*Chief Student Development & Success Officer*

## DEANS

- Jeffery Fleming, Ph.D., Acting Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences
- Dwane Jones, Ph.D., Dean  
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences
- Mohamad Sepehri, Ph.D., Dean  
School of Business & Public Administration
- Devdas Shetty, Ph.D., Dean  
School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
- Twinette Johnson, J.D., Ph.D., Dean  
David A. Clarke School of Law
- Marilyn A.L. Hamilton, Ph.D., Dean  
UDC - Community College
- MaShonda Smith, Ph.D., Dean  
Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning

## MYRTILLA MINER AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO SOCIETY (The President’s Award)

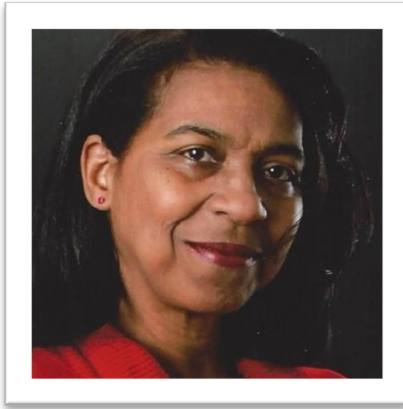


**Kojo Nnamdi** is host of *The Politics Hour* with Kojo Nnamdi, a live talk show produced by WAMU (American University) that airs Fridays at noon. Mr. Nnamdi joined WAMU in 1998 to host *Public Interest* (formerly known as *The Derek McGinty Show*). In 2002, the show was renamed as *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*, which he hosted until the show ended in April 2021.

A longtime D.C. resident, Mr. Nnamdi emigrated to the United States in 1968 to attend college and explore the civil rights movement. He enrolled in Federal City College, now the University of the District of Columbia. From 1985 to 2011, he hosted *Evening Exchange*, a public affairs television program broadcast by WHUT-TV at Howard University. From 1973 to 1985, he worked at WHUR-FM, where he served as news editor and then news director, producing the award-winning local news program *The Daily Drum*.

In addition to his hosting duties, Mr. Nnamdi continues to moderate “Kojo in Our Community” live events with WAMU. He is also active in GUYAID, an organization devoted to the welfare of children in Guyana. He served on the Board of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center from 2003–2008. In 2005, he was named "Washingtonian of the Year" by *Washingtonian* magazine. DCist named Mr. Nnamdi one of "DC’s Most Influential People" in 2007. A proud naturalized American citizen for more than 20 years, his passions include cricket, Caribbean carnival, poetry, jazz and jogging.

DR. PAUL PHILLIPS COOKE  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Angelyn Spaulding Flowers**, Ph.D. is Professor and Coordinator of the Crime, Justice, and Security Studies Program at UDC; founding director of UDC’s graduate program in Homeland Security; Co-Director of UDC’s Institute for Public Safety and Justice; and lead author for the book *Twenty Years of School-Based Mass Shootings in the United States: Columbine to Santa Fe* (2021). She is currently under contract for a book on white Christian nationalism.

Dr. Flowers is the recipient of multiple grant awards including: three Scientific Leadership Awards for Minority Serving Institutions from the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate; two awards from DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and several intradistrict awards.

She received a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Commonwealth Open University where her work focused on the impact of over-policing in minority communities; a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center; and a B.A. in Broadcast Management from Howard University. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and D.C.

## Greetings



I am delighted as always to welcome the UDC community to our annual Founders’ Day celebration and awards program. This is always a joyous occasion, as we come together to celebrate our predecessor schools—Federal City College, Washington Technical Institute and DC Teachers College—our founder, abolitionist Myrtilla Miner, and her bold vision of expanding social justice through access to education. This year, we have the added pleasure of seeing Miner’s vision carried forward by our 10th President, Maurice D. Edington. Since stepping into the role in August

2023, he has been an excellent steward of UDC’s legacy of educational excellence, equity and empowerment. We welcome him, and all of you, in celebrating this Founders’ Day, a reminder of the profound impact that Myrtilla Miner’s vision has had on generations of scholars, leaders and changemakers—and the countless generations still to come.

*Christopher D. Bell*

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



Happy Founders’ Day, Firebirds! What an honor it is to lead this storied institution into its next chapter—one that delivers on the promise of all that UDC can be.

That means fully committing to and fully realizing our immense potential—the potential of an institution whose roots were planted in 1851 in the firm belief that all people deserve a high-quality education. An institution that has always stood for social justice and opportunity. An institution whose best days are yet to come.

Firebirds, as we look ahead, we are setting some ambitious goals: To establish UDC as a world-class flagship university for the nation’s capital. A national model for urban student success. A workforce and economic mobility engine for the District. A research and innovation hub that addresses the District’s critical needs. A University that unites all its stakeholders in support of a shared vision, One UDC.

We will get there by turning today’s success—from national rankings to research funding to lauded students, faculty and alumni—into momentum that propels us into the future. I can’t wait to see us soar even higher.

In service,

*Maurice D. Edington*

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., President

# Order of the Program

## **PRESIDING**

April Massey, Ph.D.  
*Interim Chief Academic Officer*

## **PRESENTATION OF COLORS \***

Metropolitan Police Department Ceremonial Honor Guard Unit

## **“THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” \***

Francis Scott Key

Musical selections led by the University of the District of Columbia Chorale

Professor Johnny Butler, M.M., *Assistant Director*

Leah Claiborne, D.M.A., *Pianist*

## **INVOCATION \***

Reverend Dr. George E. Holmes

*Associate Minister, First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church*

*Chairman, DC Democratic Party Religious Caucus*

*Recipient of the U.S. President’s Lifetime Achievement Award*

## **GREETINGS**

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

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

Darchiniquia Smith, *UDC Community College Representative*

Brent Thigpen, *Undergraduate Student Government Association President*

John Irungu, *Graduate Student Government Association President*

Imani Roberson, *Student Bar Association President*

## **“LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING” \***

James Weldon Johnson/J. Rosamond Johnson  
(arr. Roland Carter)

## **INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Dr. Uche Udeochu

*Associate Professor of Chemistry and Coordinator of the UDC Chemistry Program*

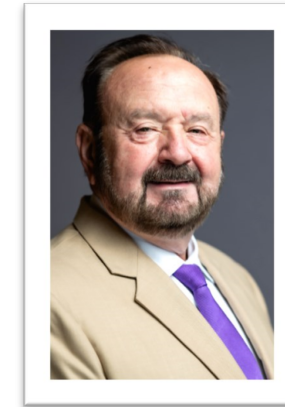
## **CONVOCATION ADDRESS**

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.

*President, University of the District of Columbia*

\*Please stand

## THE HONORABLE RONALD H. BROWN DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

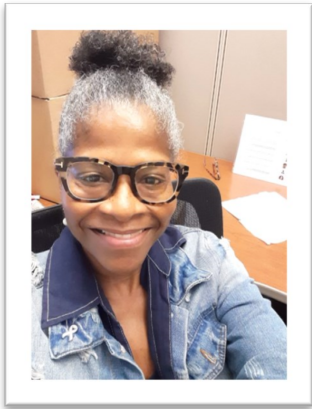


**Paul Cota**, Ph.D., is a Professor in UDC’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), where he serves as Department Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Director of the Engineering Ph.D. Program; and Director of the SEAS Research Center. His contributions and impact have been recognized internationally, nationally, and especially by the national capital area’s science and engineering community. Since joining UDC in 2008, he has earned approximately \$3.5 million in federal research grants and instructed hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Cota is a Fellow and a Board Member of the Washington (DC) Academy of Sciences and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies. He served as a Board Member of the *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’* (IEEE) Communication Society/North America Region. He also was selected as a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Cota holds degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University “Polytechnica” Bucharest, Romania, and in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**DR. CLEVELAND L. DENNARD  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**



**Linda A. Conquest** currently serves as Information Processor for the Office of Recruitment and Admissions and has worked 40+ years at UDC, starting in the Registrar’s Office. In this role, Ms. Conquest has spent years working with a diverse population of students—including District residents as well as international students from Jamaica, Bulgaria, Turkey, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt, etc.—gaining important knowledge of various cultures.

Because of the close relationship she has formed with students, many call Ms. Conquest “Mom” and have credited her with providing them with a positive and memorable UDC experience. She is respected and beloved by UDC colleagues and said that *“My goal is to ensure that all students are enrolled successfully. Working at UDC has allowed me to work with great people and build good working relationships on and off campus.”*

Originally from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, she moved to D.C. in 1981. She would like to recognize her sister, and her daughter, Monique Conquest, who works in UDC’s School of Business & Public Administration.

*Award Presentation*

**STUDENT HUMANITARIAN & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS**

Presented by Ruthie Little-Berry, Ph.D.  
*Chief Student Development & Success Officer*  
Heaven Frazier  
Jamil Mian  
Craig Bass

**RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION AWARDS**

Presented by Rodney E. Trapp, MBA, MSc, MA  
*Vice President, University Advancement*

**PATHMAKER AWARDS**

Ronald E. Floyd  
Lee Brian Reba

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LEGACY AWARD**

Kelita Boyd

**UNIVERSITY AWARDS**

Presented by Maria Byrd  
*Associate Vice President, Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness*

**DR. MARJORIE HOLLOMAN PARKER DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD**

Dr. Arlene King-Berry

**DR. CLEVELAND L. DENNARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Linda A. Conquest

**HONORABLE RONALD H. BROWN DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Dr. Paul Cotae

**DR. PAUL PHILLIPS COOKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Dr. Angelyn Spaulding Flowers

**MYRTILLA MINER AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO SOCIETY**

Presented by President Edington  
Kojo Nnamdi

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Massey

**ALMA MATER “OUR GLORIOUS UDC”**

Robert Felder and Larry Mills  
Led by the University of the District of Columbia Chorale

**BENEDICTION**

Reverend Dr. Holmes

# *Keynote Speaker*

## Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., began his tenure as the 10th President of the University of the District of Columbia in August 2023. Edington is an accomplished scientist and educator who brings over 20 years of higher-education leadership experience to the University, including a proven track record of improving student retention and graduation rates.

Edington most recently served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Florida A&M University (FAMU), where he guided strategy to improve institutional outcomes on key performance indicators and to sustain operational excellence.

Under Edington's steady hand, FAMU climbed into the top 100 public national universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings and became the nation's highest-ranked public HBCU, a designation it has held for the past five years.

As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (2018-2022), Edington was responsible for all matters pertaining to academic programs, activities and services in FAMU's 14 colleges/schools, including institutional and specialized accreditation activities.

Edington worked closely with FAMU's President and Board of Trustees as the University's chief strategist to establish and advance the University's strategic priorities. His leadership helped FAMU boost student success outcomes, launch several new degree programs and experience its highest performance (in 2021 and 2023) on Florida's Performance-Based Funding Model.

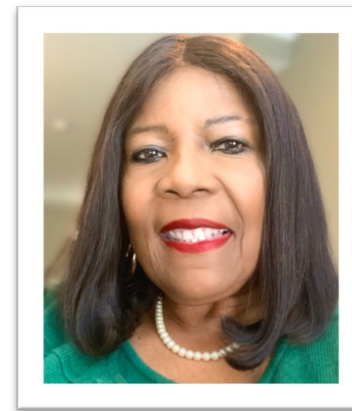
Edington is a physical chemist by training with a research specialty in ultrafast laser spectroscopy. He also conducts research and provides training to faculty in STEM education.

Edington received a B.A. in chemistry from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He also completed postdoctoral studies at Duke University, where he was a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow.

Edington is married to UDC First Lady Tonya Edington and is the father of Gabriella Edington, M.D.



## DR. MARJORIE HOLLOMAN PARKER DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

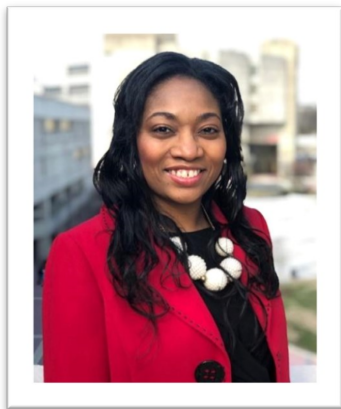


**Arlene King-Berry**, B.A., M.A., J.D., is a Professor of Special Education in the College of Arts & Sciences and Chair of the Faculty Senate of the University of the District of Columbia. Throughout her 40+ years of teaching, research and service, Professor King-Berry has made major contributions to transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities. As a special education teacher, she directly impacted the development of students with disabilities. As a Supervisor and Director of Special Education, she implemented and monitored special education policies and procedures. As a school Attorney-Advisor and Hearing Officer, she resolutely protected and defended the right of students with disabilities to free, appropriate education.

As a prolific writer and researcher, Dr. King-Berry's academic publications and presentations have regional, national, and international influence. Her instruction, mentorship, and numerous grant awards continue to support and prepare new generations of personnel prepared to emulate her unwavering dedication and significant contributions to education.

Dr. King-Berry is a proud graduate and former director of UDC's Mortuary Science program. She is also a graduate of the Antioch School of Law, predecessor of the current UDC DCSL.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
LEGACY AWARD**



**Kelita Boyd**, MPA, received both her Bachelor of Business Administration (2007) and Master of Public Administration (2009) degrees from UDC. She began her career at UDC in 2002, serving in various positions, including: Assistant to the Associate Dean in the Business School; Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs; Executive Assistant to the Chief Student Development and Success Officer; and Admissions Officer. Currently, she serves as Program Manager in the Office of Title III.

Ms. Boyd was selected for the first cohort of the Parents Amplifying Voices in Education’s (PAVE) “Community Change Fellowship,” focused on the District’s education and policy systems. She has also been an active education leader and advocate for Ward 8, pushing DC Public Schools to provide budget transparency, mental health support, trauma-informed training in all schools, and increased access to specialized school programs.

Besides her commitment to excellence and passion for making a difference, Ms. Boyd is a proud UDC National Alumni Society (UDC-NAS) life member and serves as co-chair for the UDC-NAS membership committee.

***Award Descriptions***

**STUDENT HUMANITARIAN & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD**

The Student Humanitarian & Civic Engagement Award is presented annually at UDC’s Founders’ Day Celebration and is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to activism, social responsibility, civic participation and advocacy for the welfare and betterment of the University of the District of Columbia and the greater community.

**PATHMAKER AWARD**

The PathMaker Award is made annually at UDC’s Founders’ Day Celebration and is awarded to an alumnus and an employee of the University who have consistently supported the University and its students through a commitment to philanthropy.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LEGACY AWARD**

The Distinguished Alumni Legacy Award is presented annually at UDC’s Founders’ Day Celebration. It is awarded to an active member of the UDC National Alumni Society for five years or more and who has demonstrated extraordinary participation in the Association through contributions to the Alumni Society, including increasing membership participation, enhancing the image of the Association, showing professional ethics of the highest caliber, and engaging in the community.

**DR. MARJORIE HOLLOMAN PARKER  
DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD**

The Distinguished Educator Award is named for the Honorable Marjorie Holloman Parker (Class of 1936). It is presented annually at UDC’s Founders’ Day Celebration to an individual whose laudable contributions as an educator have made a discernible difference in the city or nation’s schools, colleges, universities, or private institutions of learning.

# Award Descriptions

## CLEVELAND L. DENNARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award is named for former Washington Technical Institute President Cleveland L. Dennard. It is presented annually at UDC's Founders' Day Celebration to an individual who has demonstrated a long-term commitment of outstanding service to the University.

## HONORABLE RONALD H. BROWN DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Distinguished Leadership Award is named for the Honorable Ronald H. Brown. It is presented annually at UDC's Founders' Day Celebration to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his/her profession and whose work has contributed to the betterment of one's community and its citizens on a local, national, or international level. Awardees must be employed five years or longer.

## DR. PAUL PHILLIPS COOKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is named for the former District of Columbia Teachers College President Paul Phillips Cooke ('37). It is presented annually at UDC's Founders' Day Celebration to a University of the District of Columbia faculty or staff member who has consistently demonstrated exceptional loyalty and extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service to its advancement, goals, and objectives.

## MYRTILLA MINER AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO SOCIETY

(PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL)

The Myrtilla Miner Award for Exceptional Service to Society is presented annually at the University of the District of Columbia's Founders' Day celebration and is bestowed on persons the President of the University determines have demonstrated exceptional lifetime service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the nation.

## PATHMAKER AWARD



**Lee Brian Reba** joined the University of the District of Columbia in April 2010 and serves as the Senior Advisor for University Events and Protocol in the Office of the President. He is a recognized leader in the events and protocol community with more than four decades of experience. In addition to his duties at UDC, he is a civic and political activist in DC focusing on the development and enhancement of local programs and services aimed at improving the quality of life for District residents, with an emphasis on youth and seniors. He has served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 3C01 for 17 years.

Mr. Reba is being honored for his unwavering dedication to the UDC Foundation, with a history of generous donations spanning an impressive 12 years. His philanthropy has impacted UDC initiatives across a diverse range of causes, including: the Athletic Hall of Fame; E.B Henderson Memorial; UDC Fund; Emergency Student Assistance Fund; CAS Big Read; and Student Development & Success, to name a few.

Mr. Reba's exemplary support underscores his dedication to fostering a thriving academic community and exemplifies the spirit of service that the PathMaker Award seeks to honor.

## PATHMAKER AWARD

*"I will always be indebted to UDC for transforming my life.  
I have tried to extend the same opportunity to  
other students by making annual contributions."*

Robert E. Floyd

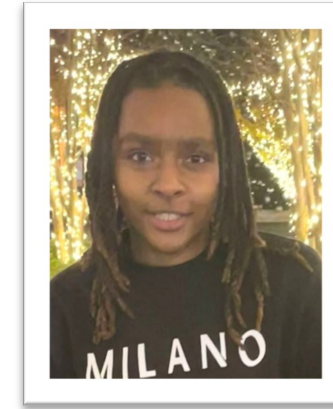
**Ronald E. Floyd** is being recognized for his unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). A distinguished member of the class of 1973, Mr. Floyd's illustrious career spans many years of dedicated service as an Auditor for the US Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. Beyond his professional achievements, he has demonstrated remarkable philanthropy, generously supporting the UDC Foundation for an impressive 24 consecutive years! His benevolence is exemplified by a grand total of 57 gifts, amounting to a substantial sum.

Mr. Floyd's impact extends across various vital initiatives, including: the UDC Fund; EB Henderson Memorial; UDC General Scholarship Fund; Intercollegiate Athletic Scholarship; Paving Your Legacy Campaign; Development Operations Fund; Alumni Scholarship Fund; 160th Anniversary; Reserve Fund; and the FCC Legacy Scholarship. This award not only acknowledges his outstanding financial contributions but also celebrates his enduring dedication to the University's success and the advancement of its diverse range of programs and initiatives. Mr. Floyd truly embodies the spirit of a PathMaker, leaving an indelible mark on the UDC community.

[ photo unavailable ]

## About the Recipients

### STUDENT HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS



**Heaven Frazier** is a full-time sophomore at the UDC Community College (UDC-CC) in the Computer Science program. She also works as a personal part-time tutor, specializing in mathematics, for area high school and middle school students. In addition, she has taught groups—ranging from youth (as young as 6 years old) to the elderly—different cooking techniques that she acquired through Brainfood, a D.C. nonprofit organization that uses food as a tool to help build life skills and promote healthy living.

Ms. Frazier was recently honored through “Guardian Innovation,” a national initiative now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and presented through the Community College. It is designed to introduce entrepreneurship to the full range of students and programs at the UDC-CC. She won a national competition with her idea, which was selected by an external panel of national judges and resulted in an award and an internship—shining a light on the talented students and programs at the UDC-CC.

Born and reared in Washington, DC, Ms. Frazier graduated from School Without Walls. She enjoys gaming and a variety of sports.

STUDENT HUMANITARIAN AND  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS



**Jamil Mian** is a graduating senior, majoring in Urban Sustainability in the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences (CAUSES). He is from Washington, DC, and is the founder of Findmygreek.com, the world’s first social network for Divine 9 Greek fraternities and sororities.

Mr. Mian served the University as Mister UDC for the 2022-23 academic year and currently serves in the capacity of Chairman of the Undergraduate Student Senate. In addition to earning a 3.7 GPA, he holds the title of Polemarch for the Beta Kappa Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Mr. Mian has represented UDC’s achievements throughout the country. From tournaments in Los Angeles with our nationally-ranked Honda Campus Allstar Challenge Trivia Team, to a poster presentation in Philadelphia as a student representative for UDC at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education’s (MSCHE) Annual Conference, the accreditation organization for UDC. A proud Firebird, Mr. Mian hopes his legacy will leave a mark of achievement, advocacy, and service.

STUDENT HUMANITARIAN AND  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS



**Craig Bass** is a second-year student at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (DCSL). He received his bachelor’s degree in business administration and information technology from Middle Georgia State University in 2014. Prior to attending DCSL, Mr. Bass worked in several industries, including the legal and technology fields, and spent almost two years overseas serving in impoverished communities.

Mr. Bass is passionate about serving others and currently holds leadership positions with the Christian Legal Society, Black Law Student Association, and the Student Bar Association. When he is not studying or serving at the Law School, he can be found spending time with his wife and two daughters.

Mr. Bass is originally from Macon, GA, but has lived in Washington, D.C., for seven years.