OUR MISSION!

The Workforce Development mission is to reduce unemployment and underemployment in the District of Columbia by enhancing the skills of its residents.

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Our Leaders!

Dr. Calvin Woodland, Interim CEO, Community College of the District of Columbia

Dr. Calvin Woodland has served in various higher education capacities over his career, from professor through president. Most recently, Dr. Woodland was President of Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut, where he oversaw initiatives to grow student enrollment and graduation rates. Dr. Woodland's involvement in national issues of higher education is impressive. He has served as a member of the American Association of Community College's Commission on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, and the Commission on Academic, Student and Community Development. He also served on the Citizens' Congressional Commission African American Education, and as a member of the Association of Community Colleges Trustees' Awards Committee that annually recommends candidates to receive ACCT's national recognition for outstanding leadership. Dr. Woodland holds a Doctor of Psychology degree from the Southern California University for Professional Studies and a Doctor of Education from Rutgers University. He is a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences addressing such issues as developing future leaders in the community college sector, and cultural differences and their implications in teaching and counseling.

Letter to the students from

Kim R. Ford, Acting Dean of Workforce Development and Life Long Learning

We are so incredibly excited to present the first edition of The Torch Newsletter!! The Torch is designed to highlight our students and their success. We have made student success the forefront of our operations through 1) building community, 2) instituting feedback loops and 3) helping students transition. The entire Workforce Development team is engaged in this effort. We launched the initiative this semester and have already accomplished a great deal, including this very Newsletter.

We held appreciation events for our students including the Onstage production play at PR Harris, an ice cream jam at Shadd and a study break lunch at Backus. Our students participated in community service activities including the My Sister’s Place Clothesline Project on the National Mall and students at our UMC site volunteered at the Central Union Mission. Throughout these pages you will see pictures showcasing these events, and if you missed anything, make sure you’re at the next one!

We created the workforce@udc.edu email account for students to communicate with us, as well as placed feedback boxes and surveys at each site. We monitor the feedback boxes and email account and respond to students within 48 hours. We also started hosting Town Hall meetings with the “Dean and Team” and had great conversations with our students at each site.

We are hiring a Student Success Specialist to work with our students who want to pursue an Associate’s or Bachelor’s Degree. This individual will help with the application, financial aid and scholarship process.

Last, but certainly not least, our students will now get entered into the University’s Banner database, which will allow access to @udc.edu email accounts and University ID cards! We are very excited about this, because as we always say: “you are a University of the District of Columbia, Community College, Workforce Development student” and now you will have access to the resources afforded every other student at the University.

So we’ve done a lot this semester, but there’s a lot more to come. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Celebration of Excellence event on June 1st at UDC Auditorium. This event is always the most memorable because we see our students receive their certificates and take another step towards achieving their dream.
**Assistant Director of Workforce Development**  
David Lloyd

Appointed as Assistant Director in October, 2012, David Lloyd, has served the students of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning by promoting and contributing to the student-centered culture. Most notably, David has overseen the development and implementation of the Student Success Initiative. Through these works and others, David hopes to continue assisting WDLL provide the absolute best place for students to harness their interests and passions to create careers.

**Director of Continuing Education**  
David N. Richardson

Continuing Education prepares you for the 21st century! The world's economy has undergone fundamental changes over the last decade and transformation is accelerating. In the wake of the Great Recession in 2008, many of us have experienced job changes or watched family and friends suffer through hard times. In your career there are many things you cannot control yet the most important factor in sustaining and thriving in the workplace you do have control of...your skills. Continuing Education has thousands of online training and professional development opportunities from accounting to technology to program management. Our classes are the highest quality from the top providers and can last from 1 hour to 12 months and lead to national certification. Anyone can take our classes whether you are working on a GED or you have Ph.D. Check out our website for more information and take charge of your future with Continuing Education at the UDC Community College.

**Words of Wisdom from the Site Managers**

At the beginning of each semester we conduct a student orientation. The orientation is set to inform students of the roles of staff, procedures and policies of the building and an attempt to help them with a positive outlook on the future. I ensure that I remark to students a tagline that I find to be an extremely effective tool that has aided me through life; "In order to have worth, you must have a skill. In order to have a skill, you must master something. In order to master something, you must be dedicated to the process". At Shadd, we aren't here to dictate what a student decides to learn. We really desire to help build the pathway and ensure that the tools for learning are in place. The staff at the site, instructors and fellow students at the site, should all be looking toward mastery. Mastery is what provides us worth and allows us to exchange our worth to provide resources for ourselves and family.

As a child and even today as an adult, I love the process of building. I am charged with building staff, building relative and viable programs and building the lives of District residents. As we continue to build effective programs, we intend to attract students seeking to build different/better lives. We welcome you to Marion Shadd for summer and Fall classes for 2013. - Elijah Moses, Site Manager of Marion Shadd Educational Center.
The faculty and staff at United Medical Center (UMC) strive each day to be recognized for providing stellar services by offering quality educational excellence and resources for students to become gainfully employed. We are pleased to provide District of Columbia residents with viable allied health certificate programming to obtain new employment, whether seeking a new job, looking for a promotion, or branching out into a new career in healthcare. How do we achieve this? Through perseverance, creativity, coalition building and study of best practices. UMC is still a fairly new WDLL site. We are approaching our two year anniversary in June 2013. In two years we developed and offered new allied health programs such as Phlebotomy/EKG Technician, Direct Support Professional (DSP) and Patient Care/Behavioral Mental Health Technician including offering Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide training. This summer we are pleased to launch our newly developed Dialysis Technician and Pharmacy Technician programs. We believe that everyone aspires to do better. A better job leads to better pay which leads to a better life. We have weekly “Information Orientation” sessions to provide detailed admission information for all our programs. We welcome you to stop by and check us out!

– Jefre T. Holmes, Site Manager of United Medical Center.

The Backus Campus puts people first, and believes all individuals can achieve and will succeed. The staff of Backus shares the responsibility to educate all who enter in a positive, safe, and rigorous learning environment. It is our goal to empower all to reach their fullest potential and become responsible members of society who appreciate and respect individual differences. The Backus campus is a part of our community and within a short period of time, with expansion and upgrades to its existing structure, will be like a light house in the middle of the community. Guiding the unguided, lifting up and empowering those looking for hope, direction and freedom from the bonds of desperation. At Backus we know that poverty and illiteracy is not and never has been a destiny. “It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.” - Franklin D Roosevelt

– Sherman Cook, Site Director of Bertie Backus

"At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems - the answer for all the problems of the world - comes to a single word. That word is "education."

- Lyndon B. Johnson

An education is priceless. It stimulates creativity and opens the door to a world of opportunities. Staff at the Patricia Roberts Harris Educational Center encourages students to reach their highest potentials in education. We have created an atmosphere for learning, achieving, and succeeding at the highest levels of personal satisfaction and professional expertise. New programs are being added and current programs are being strengthened to widen opportunities for the community. We have embarked upon an interior and exterior beautification project that involves painting walls, replacing furniture and new landscaping at the front of the building. We want our students to thrive in a pleasing and welcoming environment as we work continuously to improve our site. Give good things to people and they will give good things back to you.

—Barbara Thompson, Site Director of Patricia R. Harris Educational Center
Michelle Blackman completed the Accuplacer Preparation course in the Spring 2012 semester at the Backus Campus. Having two adult children in college she knew she needed to set an example. She decided that it was time for her to enroll back into college. It had been 25 years since she last attended so there was quite an adjustment. Today, a year later, Ms. Blackman is pursuing a Bachelors degree in Social Work. She is now finishing up the end of her second semester with a 4.0 cumulative GPA.

On Monday, April 15, 2013 Backus held it’s first student appreciation event by hosting a luncheon. In attendance were Dean Kim Ford, Staff, Faculty, and approximately 50 students comprised of the Workforce Development and Allied Health programs. Students participated in three raffle drawings and the "Name That Famous Person" game. Students were asked to name the 17 famous people displayed in the hopes of receiving a gift card. Guest speaker, Ivan Laney, Consultant for Brighter Career Pathways Group had a powerful message, which motivated students to strive for their goals. As refreshments were served students were able to have one-on-one sessions with Dean Kim Ford.—Sabrina Simmons– Student Success Specialist
Laughter could be heard from the Atrium at PR Harris Educational Center on Monday evening, March 25, 2013 as Kathy Creek-Vann presented a stage presentation sponsored by Silent Partners, Incorporated. Ms. Creek-Vann delighted the audience with various skits relating to workforce development and HIV awareness.

At the end of her performance, Ms. Creek-Vann engaged the audience in a discussion about what their goals were and following their dreams. She told the audience that she was a biology major in college, but she followed her passion and desire thirteen years ago, and is now the CEO of Strait8-N-Up, Incorporated. She has performed in the local area including the Lincoln Theater, The Arc, and has appeared at venues all over the country. Her most recent project, The Dance has her calendar quite full.

At intervals during the evening, many door prizes were given out including jewelry items, a leather bag, cosmetics and novelties from Avon, Incorporated, and a set of AMC movie tickets. After the presentation, students enjoyed an array of desserts and punch. At the end of the event, health screenings including blood pressure and confidential HIV testing were available. – Stephanie Poteat– Staff Assistant
Marion Shadd: Student Success Story

William Watson is currently enrolled in the NCCER Carpentry level I course at Shadd. He thoroughly enjoys his class and the instructor, Mr. Brown. He recently gained employment with Paradigm Management as a Maintenance Tech. In addition to his new career, he is newly the proud owner of a 2006 Ford Explorer. He credits his accomplishment to his willingness to defy all odds and obstacles that may arise in his life, including the recent loss of his grandmother, who had a profound effect on his upbringing. He plans to continue his WDP experience by taking NCCER Carpentry II in the summer. He is very thankful for this opportunity and plans to maximize the moment! - Tim McDuffie – Student Success Specialist

Marion Shadd: Ice Cream Jam

On Wednesday April 17th, students returned from the Emancipation Day holiday to find that music and delicious treats had filled Shadd for a student appreciation day! Amazing flavors provided by Rita’s Italian Ice and the DJ wizardry of WDLL’s own Philip PremDas provided for a groovy, fun opportunity to get down, cool out, and thank our students for being wonderful members of our broader UDC-CC community. Thanks to Rita’s, Mr. McDuffie, and Mr. PremDas, without whom none of this would have been possible. – Liam Ball – Lab Manager
My name is Danielle Boxley and this is my success story. To begin, I want everyone to know that I feel great about my experience at United Medical Center (UMC). I love what “Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning” has to offer DC residents; the programs and student activities really allow people to get their feet in the door to make the best career choices. This opportunity gave me a better outlook on life. When I first started my program near the end of January 2013, I told Mr. Holmes that I lost my job on January 4th and I was looking for a career change. That pivotal moment in my life motivated me to pursue the medical field, something I wanted to do a long time ago, but I didn’t have the opportunity. This is my second chance to help people! With that being said, I’m glad I had the chance to participate in WDLL and UMC community service projects this semester. My ultimate goal is to become a Registered Nurse in the Pediatric field within the next five years.

My motivating factors throughout this journey, for one, are my children. I promised that I would never leave this earth without my babies knowing their mother made something of herself, regardless of age.” Secondly, UMC’s administrators Holmes, Cook, Tate, and instructors, Woolfork and Padgett, have been amazing to me. They are always energetic, encouraging, and giving me that extra push to go the extra mile. Thus far, I’ve completed the Nursing Assistant (NA) program and recently passed the national certification exam. Now, I am licensed, yay! I’m currently enrolled in the Patient Care Technician (PCT) program in the evening and I just completed the Direct Support Professional (DSP) portion of the Home Health Aide (HHA) program which started April 15, 2013. After the extensive lessons and experiences in the DSP program, I was inspired to reach out sooner than later to help individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. On April 8, 2013, I applied for a job at a group home, interviewed and was hired on the spot. Not to mention, with a combination of my NA license and my DSP certification, I’m in a position to conduct on-site training for new employees and making a decent salary. At this moment in my life, I am extremely blessed, happy, and proud of my achievements. “I encourage anyone out there struggling and/ or looking for a job, even if it’s not in the medical field, research it, and find programs that can help you pursue a career. It’s not about just having a job; it’s about having a career of your choice.”

**UMC Students Meet Mr. Germ!**

One of the training modules for the Direct Support Professional (DSP) program is teaching Universal Precautions. Universal Precautions are safety measures that are used to prevent harmful bacteria and viruses (pathogens) for infecting people who work in health care. DSP’s are strongly encouraged to use universal precautions— it helps to protect everyone. Proper hand washing technique is one of the most important safety measures that must be taken with DSP’s. Students learned appropriate hand washing techniques by using “GLO—Germ” liquid is rubbed onto one’s hands like lotion; students then wash their hands as they would normally, once the hands under an ultra-violet light which tells a different story. The discovery of remaining germs shed new light on their hand washing effectiveness. Students learned that it is a big mistake to assume that everyone understands the critical nature of proper hand washing techniques. – Jefre Holmes—Site Manager
Continuing Education: Student Success Story

How has the online UDC-CC courses help me?

Taking all of the online Community College of DC (UDC-CC) Ed2Go project management classes prepared me to enroll in the USDA Graduate School project management exam prep course. In August 2011 I passed the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) certification. Eight months later I started my new Program Analyst job.

This is a GS-13/14 position. I am retaking Ed2Go PMP certification 1 course now to sit for the PMP exam this summer. The Project Management Professional certification has portability crossing multiple industries. It’ll get me my GS-15 promotion.

Sincerely,

Carla Jenkins
Town Hall Discussions at WDLL Sites

On Tuesday, April 23, 2013 the first of many to come Town Hall Meetings at the Backus Campus was held with Dean Kim Ford. The event had a twofold purpose: One to show students that their voices will be heard; that both positive and negative issues are welcomed, that issues which need to be addressed will be addressed and two, to allow an open interaction with the Dean. Mr. Cook greeted and addressed the gathering in his warm and customary manner. He then introduced staff members which included adjunct professors. After his remarks he introduced Dean Ford.

Dean Ford fielded all questions sent her way. The two topics that dominated the conversation, were Nursing (Home Health Aide & CNA) and HVAC 2 (installation). Dean Ford referred to her basic and driving concept of Pathways to Success for all, not just at Backus but all the Workforce Development sites. Food was served during this period of time. The Dean went from person to person to individually communicate with the audience. The feedback we have received after the meeting was and has been positive in nature.— Bertie Backus Site—Elizabeth Gaither-Staff Assistant

PR Harris had a town hall meeting with a question and answer session between Dean Kim R. Ford, Deputy Director Barbara J. Thompson and our students. The event was catered by Gist Catering Company and the food was phenomenal. Dean Ford and Ms. Thompson were very quick witted answering questions left and right from eager students. Dean Ford received many cheers and applause when she mentioned the new resources that will be coming available to all Workforce development students that were normally reserved for students in credit courses; she also noted that we are a part of the Community College and should be treated as such. The event was a success and all parties left satisfied with the questions and answers they were provided.—Patricia R. Harrison Educational Center—Nelia Ramirez—Clerk
On April 24th, the Shadd site convened a town hall meeting that gave us a chance to bring together the Shadd community of students and staff with our colleagues from the Community College's main campus at 801 North Capitol Street. In attendance were Dean Ford of WDLL, Dr. Calvin Woodland, CEO of UDC-CC, David Lloyd, Assistant Director of WDLL, and Sallie Lampron, a Program Coordinator with the Center for Workforce Strategies. Students and staff shared their favorite movies and chatted a bit about current events, followed by remarks from Dean Ford and Site Director Elijah Moses about the vision for the future of the Shadd site. Students had the chance to ask any and all questions, about UDC in general, the Community College, and of course the Shadd site itself. Additionally, students shared comments, critiques, and compliments about courses and programs at Shadd. A few students spoke about their experiences obtaining employment, and how their work at Shadd had contributed to those efforts. After all the talking was done, everyone enjoyed a delicious spread from Famous Dave's and socialized with their fellow Shadites! Thanks to everyone who participated in setting up and serving food.—Marion Shadd Educational Center—
Liam Ball—Lab Manager

On April 29, 2013, United Medical Center housed a “student driven” town hall discussion with Dean Kim R. Ford and Assistant Director to Workforce Development, David Lloyd. The convention was very informative and exciting; students learned about forthcoming resources and new initiatives geared toward workforce development student success. Dean Ford reinforced the importance of WDLL’s mission and “Student Success.” With that being said, she dove immediately into the newly developed initiatives which consist of building community, instituting feedback loops, and transitioning into the community college. Nevertheless, another great topic of discussion was the upcoming Mayor’s scholarship fund which is scheduled to kick-off during Fall 2013.

This eye-opening event had students raising their hands with question such as, “If I want to transition into the credit bearing and career programs, can someone lead me in the right direction?” They expressed concerns regarding the Home Health Aide program and also shared personal experiences with the Dean. Dean Ford was intrigued to hear each testimony. With conviction, Phlebotomy/EKG Technician student Lynette Banks stated, “I’m beyond grateful for these workforce and allied health programs offered in my neighborhood. My class is like a family, and I look forward to seeing us prosper.” Everyone appreciated the positive feedback; Dean Ford stressed the importance of student success and the importance of education. In sum, this open dialogue with the Dean was one of the best opportunities to hear the voices of our future leaders and to witness the support from their leadership.—
United Medical Center—Lachelle Harrison—Student Success Specialist
On Saturday, March 23, 2013, the UDC-CCDC WDLL staff and students volunteered with the My Sister's Place Human Clothesline Project on the National Mall which was a day awareness for breaking the silence for domestic violence victims in Washington, DC. There were twenty-two students and staff who completed the following tasks: assisted with the set-up for the event, distributed flyers, brochures, snacks and water, showcased t-shirts made by the domestic violence victims, displayed the clotheslines with the t-shirts, and cleaned the area afterwards. The volunteers discovered that Washington, DC receives at least 31,000 calls a year for domestic violence and every seventeen minutes a call is placed to the local police department for domestic violence. It was a very exciting day and we are looking forward to volunteering for the National Domestic Day My Sister's Place Human Clothesline Project in October of 2013!!—Conchita Mays—Lab Manager
Spring means spring cleaning to a lot of people, the time for the sort of general maintenance work that helps keep your life orderly and organized. It’s also a good time to do maintenance on you. Early detection can be a lifesaver for many conditions, so now is an excellent opportunity to get to your healthcare provider for important health screenings and tests to help you catch serious diseases before you see symptoms.

Here are some things you should be sure to check for:

**Heart Disease.** Heart disease is the biggest single cause of death for men and women alike. Chronic high blood pressure is an early warning sign of, and common precursor to, heart disease, but often has no symptoms itself. It’s important to get your blood pressure checked regularly. Cholesterol screenings are also important for adults, even people in their 20s and 30s—by the time high cholesterol is causing problems, it’s been building up for a lifetime, and it’s never too soon to keep it in check.

**Breast Cancer.** Women over 50 should have annual or biannual mammograms; women with a family history of breast cancer, particularly at a relatively young age, or who carry any of several genes for the condition would probably benefit from screenings in middle age. Men can get breast cancer too, and men with risk factors such as obesity should talk to their doctors about getting tested.

**Colon Cancer.** People between 50 and 75, or between 40 and 75 with a family history or other risk factors, should be checked for colon cancer annually. One in 20 people will develop the condition, and it is the third leading cause of death, but it can be treated if it’s discovered in time.

**Type 2 Diabetes.** If you can discover type 2 diabetes early, you can take steps to not only manage but minimize it, reducing the risk of permanent damage and possibly avoiding needing insulin. Screening, particularly in high-risk patients can also help find prediabetic conditions, enabling a patient to adopt a healthier lifestyle before becoming diabetic.

Get your annual checkup in the spring, and talk to your physician about what tests you might benefit from given your age and health history. If you take care of your health, you can enjoy the summer—and many summers after.
Greetings! My name is Ouinette Muwwakkil (Wallace). I am in the LPN program at Bertie Backus. It is exciting being in the Workforce Development Program because a lot of things are changing within the Community College, which will allow workforce development students to be included and fully aware of those changes. To the students; it is not important how short or long the program is; what is important is workforce development students have a voice within the student government. It is an opportunity to fully engage in what is offered to us as students. In the future I would like the WDLL students to let me know what they want so I can voice it to Dean Ford and the student government. In conclusion, I look forward to working with all the students and staff at all workforce development sites.—

To voice your thoughts, please email me at: workforce senator@udc.edu Ouinette Muwwakkil (Wallace)

Hello Workforce Development Lifelong Learning students, my name is Nina Montgomery and I am honored to embark on this journey as the Alternate Senator during the 2013-2014 school term for the WDLL Student Government. Although I am a first timer to the student government, I am always a team player when it comes to being part of a great mission. As your Alternate Senator, I find it very important to take the needs of students seriously, doing whatever possible to improve student life. In the upcoming months of this school year, I want the conversations between students and the WDLL Student Government to matter, to make a difference, and to create a campus where students are satisfied with what they see and experience. With having a degree and over 15 years of experience in the Accounting/Finance industry working for various companies, it was still challenging to find permanent jobs in my field, due to the economical changes and downsizing in some very prominent companies. I decided to further enhance my skills and try a career field that seems to be really lucrative. I have taken several classes at WDLL pertaining to Medical Billing & Coding. I believe that knowledge is definitely power, so I will continue to take classes, acquire the skills, and obtain all certifications needed as Medical Biller and Coder.

WDLL’s mission is to reduce unemployment and underemployment in the District of Columbia by enhancing the skills of its residents. This is your school… Get involved, take a class, enhance your skills, and acquire that job! To voice your thoughts, please email me at: workforce alternate@udc.edu - Nina Montgomery


June 2013

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⇒ 6/1/2013 Celebration of Excellence: Student Recognition Ceremony
   The University of the District of Columbia Auditorium—11am –2pm

⇒ 6/3/2013 Fall Registration : Workforce Development Courses/ Programs
   All Site—PR Harris, Bertie Backus, Marion Shadd, United Medical Center (Ongoing)

⇒ 6/4/2013 Community Reentry and Expungement Summit
   Walter E. Washington Convention Center—10am—2pm

⇒ 6/5/2013 - Jewelry Design Class
   Patricia R. Harris Educational Center—8pm
WDLL WISHES YOU WELL ON YOUR JOURNEY OF SUCCESS!

**THE TORCH: Meet the Committee**

- Pamela Jenkins-Fields - Chairman/Managing Editor
- Lachelle Harrison-Cook - Editor-in-Chief/Content Officer
- Stephanie Poteat - Writer
- Noelia Rameriz - Writer
- Liam Ball - Writer
- Kelvin Payne - Contributor