



James E. Lyons, Sr.
Interim President

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The University of the District of Columbia joins the nation and world in mourning the death of South African President Nelson Mandela. We celebrate the legacy he leaves as an extraordinary and world class leader, humanitarian, and fighter for justice and equality. His life symbolizes the positive difference that one person can make against all odds.

I was in South Africa after Mr. Mandela took office. Not only was his vision for his country remarkable, but his ability to manage the expectations of his people, was incredible. I talked to a Black South African in Pretoria who told me that after the election he had expected to be able to send White South Africans packing and take their home. He had already picked out the home he was going to take! But President Mandela's steady leadership and philosophy of forgiveness enabled the nation to take a higher road.

Our University of the District of Columbia family extends its heartfelt sympathies to the Mandela family and his nation.

James E. Lyons, Sr.

Celebrated 160 Years of scholarship and achievement in 2011

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