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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SWEEPS MIDDLE STATE'S STANDARDS OF  
EXCELLENCE**

*Washington, D.C.* – The University of the District of Columbia concluded its reaffirmation of accreditation visit by a Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Site Evaluation team with a clean sweep. In an end-of-visit oral report, the University learned they met all fourteen standards of excellence used by the Middle States team in assessing the District's only public university.

The successful report of the visit came one day after University officials were notified that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) had granted accreditation of the professional education unit of the University.

Accreditation by associations such as Middle States is an important means of self-regulation and peer review adopted by the educational community. The accrediting process is intended to strengthen and sustain the quality and integrity of higher education, making it worthy of public confidence. The extent to which each educational institution accepts and fulfills the responsibilities inherent in this process is a measure of its concern for freedom and quality in higher education and of its commitment to strive for and achieve excellence in its endeavors.

As part of their assessment, the Middle States Site Evaluation team, led by Dr. Thelma B. Thompson, President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, reviewed fourteen separate standards of excellence covering a wide spectrum of concerns. During the team's exit review, team members reported that the University had met each of these standards.

Today is an important milestone in a ten-year cycle since the University's last accreditation by Middle States in 1995. In those intervening years, the University's budget was cut in half, a measure which resulted in both sharp reductions in programs offered to District citizens and a marked decrease in student enrollment.

“Coming out of this review in such a positive manner is a tribute to the dedicated faculty and staff who kept this place going when it would have been easy to throw in the towel,” said University President Dr. William L. Pollard. “Despite the obstacles, they persevered. They kept the university and the dreams and promises it represents alive. It’s been a true team effort and a cause for celebration.”

While this is a critical step in attaining accreditation, there are additional review processes and procedures remaining for the University. Ultimate notification from Middle States of accreditation is expected in mid-summer of 2005.

The University of the District of Columbia’s Self-Assessment team was co-chaired by Dr. Marie M. B. Racine and Dr. Helene Krauthamer, both members of the University’s faculty, but Dr. Racine is quick to point out that this was truly a “team effort.”

“Everyone, including the Board of Trustees, the faculty, the administration, the staff and most importantly our students have been involved in this process,” said Dr. Racine. “This resulted in a concerted effort to assess everything we do here at the University of the District of Columbia.”

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The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and Alumni Affairs at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University’s web site at [www.udc.edu](http://www.udc.edu).