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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Big Band Festival at University of the District of Columbia Pays Tribute to
Local Jazz and Education Icon**

Washington, D.C. – Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month at the CALVIN JONES University BIG BAND Jazz Festival, renamed in memory of the great Calvin Jones, director of the university's Jazz Studies Program and a legendary figure in the Washington, D.C., community who passed away suddenly October 10, 2004.

On Monday, April 25, 2005, at 8:00 P.M., the big band sound returns to the Van Ness campus for the nineteenth year as the powerhouse jazz ensembles of the University of the District of Columbia (directed by Allyn Johnson), Howard University (directed by Fred Irby III), and the University of Maryland (directed by Chris Vadala) offer a special tribute to Calvin Jones. Produced by UDC's Jazz Studies Program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, the festival began in 1987 as part of a citywide tribute to Duke Ellington, and it remains one of the most anticipated events on Washington, D.C.'s jazz calendar.

Tickets for the big band concert can be purchased in advance at the Department of Mass Media, Visual & Performing Arts, Building 46 West, University of the District of Columbia Van Ness Campus, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Tickets are \$15 for all seats and will also be available at the University Auditorium door on the night of the performance. The University Auditorium (Bldg. 46 East) is conveniently located on Metro's Red Line at the Van Ness-UDC stop.

Should you have any questions regarding this event, contact Judith Korey at (202) 274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu for more information. Photos in support of this event can be found at <http://www.lrdudc.wrlc.org/events.html>.

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 University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.