



University of the District of Columbia

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a new opportunity"*

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University of the District of Columbia and Council on Churches Hosts Youth/Gang/Violence Summit

Washington, D.C. — The past two years have seen an alarming increase in violent deaths among youths under the age of 25 in the District of Columbia. In recognition of this disturbing trend and in an effort to reverse this cycle, the University of the District of Columbia's Office of Community Outreach and Involvement (a branch of the University's Division of Student Affairs) is joining together with the Council of Churches of Greater Washington to convene a Youth/Gang/Violence Summit on the University's campus this Saturday, June 18, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The day-long meeting will explore this worrisome challenge from many aspects, including panel discussions on issues including:

- Parents of Fallen Children and the Perspective from “behind the wall”
- Understanding Gangs and Crews
- The System Speaks
- The Psychology of Self-Hate Murder
- Healing and Restoration

“Too many families have been impacted by the occurrence and their suffering needs to be highlighted,” reflected Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, Director of the University’s Office of Community Outreach and Involvement and one of the coordinators of the summit. “The event will recognize victims of crime and their families and will applaud their strength and courage. The conference will encourage non-violent methods of conflict resolution.”

Dr Holness also reflected that University involvement in meetings such as this is consistent with the University’s commitment to support all District citizens, not just students. "The University of the District of Columbia is the only public institution of higher learning in the District of Columbia and we believe it is our task to keep the community informed of issues that impacts all citizens.”

In addition to panel discussions, there will be gospel entertainment and a step team from a local church. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to participants. The summit will be held in Room A-03 of Building 44 on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia, located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, DC. For more details, please contact Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness at (202) 274-7114 or Dr. Ora Hill Dugar of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington at (202) 722-9240.

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.