



University of the District of Columbia

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MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION REAFFIRMS ACCREDITATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, D.C. – Washington, D.C. mayor Anthony A. Williams today announced the reaffirmation of accreditation of the University of the District of Columbia by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Mayor Williams also announced that the American Bar Association (ABA) Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar had voted to award full accreditation to the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law. These announcements acknowledge the significant accomplishments of the only public university in the nation's capital in gaining the recognition of peers in the field of higher education.

Today's announcement follows a report of the final findings of the Middle States Site Evaluation Team which found the University to be in continued compliance with eligibility requirements, federal requirements and accreditation standards. In a letter from Commission Chair Judith L. Gray to University president

Dr. William L. Pollard, Gray commended the University for progress shown to date. A Middle States Site Evaluation team visited the University in March, 2005. Based on the team's findings, it was determined that the University had met all fourteen standards of excellence used by the Middle States team in assessing member institutions.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The Commission accredits institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations abroad.

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.

"I applaud the leadership and faculty of UDC for this great accomplishment," said Mayor Williams. "As the nation's only historically black urban land grant university and the city's only public institution of higher education, UDC is an invaluable part of the educational fabric of the District of Columbia. This accreditation is recognition of the progress that has already occurred at UDC and an indication of great things to come."

"Reaffirmation of accreditation shows that the University is on the ascendancy," said James W. Dyke, Jr., chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. "The university is on the right path, moving aggressively towards the next level of excellence. This shows that the University is a good investment in the future of the District. Middle States reaffirmation only boosts the efforts to identify and devote greater financial resources needed to carry out the University's strategic plan."

"The importance of reaffirmation of accreditation by Middle States cannot be underestimated, particularly in light of the wide range of challenges overcome by the University since our last accreditation," reflected Dr. Pollard. "While some may view it as an ultimate goal, it is actually a milestone on a continued quest to provide the residents of the District of Columbia with a quality education."

Concurrent with today's Middle States pronouncement concerning accreditation of the total University was the announcement that the American Bar Association (ABA) Council of the Section on Legal Education

and Admissions to the Bar had voted to award full accreditation to the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. The Council's final decision is on the agenda for the ABA House of Delegate's approval at its annual meeting in Chicago on August 8-9, 2005.

These two landmark accomplishments are the most recent in a string of academic successes enjoyed the District's university. Last summer, the University's program in nursing received accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). Another health-care related discipline at the University, the Didactic Program in Dietetics (part of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and the University's School of Arts and Sciences), also received notification of certification by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association.

Within days of these notifications, the University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences received notification that Bachelor of Science degree programs in civil engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering have been fully reaccredited, with Associate degree programs in Electronics Engineering and Architectural Engineering Technology also receiving accreditation.

March of 2005 marked other significant accomplishments, as the University's Department of Education received notification that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) had approved nine University programs for accreditation, the first such national endorsement in the history of the University. The same week, the University's Child Development Center was also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

All of these successful reviews proved a precursor for the overall review provided by the Middle States Commission, according to Dr. Pollard. "Middle States recognition, along with other recent reaccreditations in our programs in education, engineering, nursing, and dietetics means a lot," asserted Dr. Pollard. "Combined with the impending accreditation of the School of Law, these acknowledgements demonstrate the University's responsibility to provide quality education as the public community college, baccalaureate institution and graduate school for the District."

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.