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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Thomas Todd to be Keynote Speaker for University of the District of Columbia's
Founders' Day Convocation February 16th**

Washington, D.C. — Civil Rights attorney Thomas N. Todd has agreed to deliver the keynote address for the University of the District of Columbia's Founder's Day Convocation on Wednesday, February 16, 2005. The Convocation, which will in the University's Auditorium, is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

An activist attorney widely known as "TNT" for his oratorical skills, Thomas N. Todd, 66, served as a lawyer in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967 and joined the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago in 1967. In this capacity, Todd made history when he developed the first criminal case against a Chicago policeman for deprivation of an individual's civil rights in 1968. Todd organized and established the first Civil Rights Office in a local U.S. Attorney's Office in 1969. *United States v. Gorman*, the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer ended in a hung jury in 1971.

Todd was the first full-time black law professor at Northwestern University, where he taught from 1970 to 1974. Todd has been admitted to practice law before many courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, The Illinois Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

A powerful spokesman for civil rights, Todd was president of the Chicago chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1971 and president of Operation PUSH from 1983 to 1984.

The seeds for higher education that grew into the University of the District of Columbia were first planted in 1851, when Myrtilla Miner founded Miner Normal School, a "school for colored girls." In 1955, Miner - by then known as Miner Teachers College - united with Wilson Teachers College to become District of Columbia Teachers College. D.C. Teachers College merged with Washington Technical Institute and Federal City College in 1977 to form the new institution, the University of the District of Columbia.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams, D.C. City Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp, and other members of the District Council, as well as Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, have all been invited to share in the University's commemoration.

The University of the District of Columbia 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.

NOTICE TO MEDIA: Media are welcome to observe and report on the pomp and circumstance of this ceremony. They are asked, however, to arrive not later than 9:45 to avoid disrupting the ceremonial parade at the beginning of the convocation. Parking for media may be arranged by prior notification of Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and Alumni Affairs at (202) 274-5685.