

February 10 , 2005
Ser 005-007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**University of the District of Columbia's Founders' Day Convocation to
Honor Excellence in Education**

Washington, D.C. — The University of the District of Columbia's Founder's Day Convocation, scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the University's Auditorium, will for the first time present four awards to honor excellence in educational leadership and service, as well as a lifetime achievement award for sustained and exceptional commitment to the University's mission. The only public university in the nation's capital will present the Ronald H. Brown Distinguished Leadership Award, the Marjorie Holloman Parker Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, the Cleveland L. Dennard Distinguished Service Award, and the Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award as high points of the Founders' Day Convocation program.

The Ronald H. Brown Distinguished Leadership Award will be presented to that individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his/her profession and whose work has contributed to the betterment of one's community and its citizens on a local, national, or international level. The award commemorates the long career of public service of the honorable Ronald H. Brown, former Secretary of Commerce and former chairman of the University's Board of Trustees.

John B. Childers, president & CEO of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area in Washington, D.C., will receive **the Ronald H. Brown Distinguished Leadership Award**. Mr. Childers is a highly regarded education leader with senior executive experience in government relations, communications, and higher education with national education associations. As the chief executive officer at the Consortium, Childers directs all joint programs in support of the 14 universities that are members of the Consortium and practices an inclusive and collaborative management style that successfully draws out the best from colleagues in a diverse workforce setting. Childers' previous professional experiences have included: Staff Director, U.S. Senate Rules Committee; Minority

Staff Director, U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee; Chief of Staff and Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Charles H. Percy; and Assistant to the Dean for overseas programs, The Johns Hopkins University.

The Cleveland L. Dennard Distinguished Service Award honors that individual who has demonstrated a long-term commitment of outstanding service to the University or to the Washington, D.C. community. The award is named for the late Dr. Cleveland L. Dennard, who was the former president of Washington Technical Institute, a UDC predecessor institution, and a chief architect of the blueprint for the unified, postsecondary public education institution that became the University of the District of Columbia.

Darrell Watson, music teacher at Ballou Senior High School in the District of Columbia, will receive **the Cleveland L. Dennard Distinguished Service Award**. Mr. Watson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education in 1995 from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). In 2004, the Ballou High School Band, the Marching Knights, gained national recognition when vying for a spot in the Home Depot “Battle of the Bands” in Carson, CA. One hundred ten bands entered the initial tryouts for this competition with the Marching Knights becoming one of eight bands selected to take part in the final contest. Most recently, the Marching Knights received the high honor of being invited to march in the 55th Presidential Inauguration Parade in January 2005. The band has also performed before former President Bill Clinton and the Ambassador of Taipei, China. Additionally, Mr. Watson has performed with several well-known gospel artists, including Yolanda Adams, Karen Clark-Sheared, Dorothy Norwood, Murna Summers, and Albertina Walker.

The Marjorie Holloman Parker Distinguished Educator’s Award is awarded to that individual whose laudable contributions as an educator have made a discernible difference in the city or nation’s schools, colleges, universities, or private institutions of higher learning. Marjorie Holloman Parker is a former District Councilmember, was once Chair of the University of the District of Columbia’s Board of Trustees, and is a 1936 graduate of Miner Teacher College.

N. Joyce Payne, Ph.D., will receive **the Marjorie Holloman Parker Distinguished Educational Leadership Award**. Dr. Payne is the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges (OAPBC) of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in cooperation with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Dr. Payne formerly served as President of Global Systems, Inc., and as a senior staff member

under the Carter administration with the President's Advisory Committee for Women; President's National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs; and the White House Conference on Families. She is an alumna of the District of Columbia Teachers College, a UDC predecessor school, and has also served as chairperson of the University of the District of Columbia's Board of Trustees.

Named for the eminent scholar, author, international statesman, and former District of Columbia Teachers College president, **the Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award** honors that University of the District of Columbia faculty or staff member who has consistently demonstrated exceptional loyalty and extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service to the advancement of the University and its goals and objectives. Dr. Cooke graduated from Miner Teacher College (a predecessor institution of District of Columbia Teachers College) in 1937.

Elma Redfern-Moore, Ed.D. Associate Professor of Elementary Education at the University of the District of Columbia, will receive **the Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Redfern-Moore's illustrious 55 years in education includes: elementary school teacher and principal; mathematics resource teacher; supervising instructor at a Laboratory School at D.C. Teachers College; and Coordinator of Teacher Education Programs at UDC. Dr. Redfern-Moore was the coordinator of each accrediting team for the accreditation of teacher education programs from 1980 to 1998. More recently, she served on the Department of Education's team during the site visit by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Dr. Redfern-Moore is listed in the first edition of *The World Who's Who of Women in Education*. Dr. Redfern-Moore is a graduate of Miner Teachers College, a University of the District of Columbia predecessor institution.

Civil Rights attorney **Thomas N. Todd** will deliver the keynote address for the UDC's Founder's Day Convocation. Mayor Anthony A. Williams, D.C. Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp, D.C. Council Chairman of the Council Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation Kathy Patterson and other members of the District Council, as well as Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, have all been invited to share in the celebration of the University of the District of Columbia's founding.

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.

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.