

**PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

*Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.*

THE TENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**11 A.M. MARCH 14, 2024**



# About

## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### History

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is a unique and essential institution offering high-quality, experiential academic opportunities in an urban environment and preparing the next generation of changemakers. It is the only public university in the nation's capital, the only exclusively urban land-grant university in the country and a proud HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) whose roots date back to 1851. UDC is home to more than 80 academic programs, a nationally recognized law school, a bustling community college and workforce-development programs on multiple campuses in the DC area.

Throughout its evolution, UDC has always held fast to the principle that all people deserve a high-quality education, serving as a stalwart for social justice and a beacon of opportunity. Its earliest predecessor school—the Myrtilla Miner Normal School for Colored Girls—trained Black teachers and strived for racial equity amid the backdrop of American slavery. Its 1930s-era iteration, Miner Teachers College, offered a tuition-free college for Black residents during the Jim Crow era. Decades later, Miner Teachers College merged with Wilson Teachers College (which educated white DC residents) to form the integrated DC Teachers College following the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision outlawing “separate but equal.”

Federal City College and Washington Technical Institute—a four-year university and vocational school, respectively—emerged in 1968 to offer new educational opportunities to District residents. In 1976, these three predecessor schools—DC Teachers College, Federal City College and Washington Technical Institute—merged into a comprehensive, public university for the nation's capital: the University of the District of Columbia.

### Mission

Embracing its essence as a public, historically Black, urban-focused land-grant university in the nation's capital, UDC is dedicated to serving the needs of the community of the District of Columbia and producing lifelong learners who are transformative leaders in the workforce, government, nonprofit sectors and beyond.

### Vision

All students will achieve their highest levels of human potential.

### Core Values

Innovation

Integrity

Collaboration

Excellence

Sustainability

Inclusion

# Message

## FROM MAURICE D. EDINGTON, PH.D.

As the 10th President of the University of the District of Columbia, I am honored to help shape the next chapter of this storied institution—an institution whose roots were planted 173 years ago in the firm belief that all people deserve a high-quality education. UDC is an institution that has evolved but always stood as a beacon of opportunity and unlimited promise. I am committed to delivering on that promise by helping UDC continue to rise, becoming the **world-class flagship university for the nation's capital**.

UDC offers some of the highest-ranked academic programs in the country. We are a sought-after destination for research and partnerships. We are one of the top-ranked public HBCUs in the nation. Now is the time for us to convert that success into momentum, propelling us to even greater heights.

Our 2024-2029 strategic plan lays out bold goals for UDC, titled “Delivering on the Promise.” Central to that promise is becoming **a national model for urban student success**. UDC serves a diverse student body, from young to young-at-heart people seeking to expand their career opportunities. To deliver on this promise, we will ensure all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. That means expanding academic support services and financial assistance, while fostering a campus culture where every student feels valued. Ultimately, it means more students completing their degree programs, equipped with the education they need to reach their full potential.

UDC holds the promise of serving as the **premier workforce and economic mobility engine for the District**. By strengthening our partnerships with employers, District agencies and community organizations, we can ensure our academic programs align with the needs of the local work-

force. As the only public university in the District, we have not only a responsibility but also a unique opportunity to address the region's workforce needs and provide pathways to high-wage, high-demand careers for people across the DC area.

UDC holds the promise of serving as a **research and innovation hub addressing the District's critical needs**. The challenges facing our nation—from a lack of affordable housing to climate change—require innovative solutions rooted in rigorous scholarship. We are ready to face these challenges with investments in research and innovation at UDC, leveraging our expertise and resources to make a meaningful impact.

UDC also holds the promise of **uniting all its stakeholders in support of a shared vision for One UDC**. As President, I am committed to fostering the alignment of the UDC administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as the District government, business and community partners. This commitment also means supporting a culture of transparency, accountability and mutual respect, where every member of the UDC community feels empowered to contribute to the realization of our shared vision.

These are ambitious goals and require buy-in across this incredible community. But I am confident that, together, we can build on the legacy of those who came before us and create a brighter future for our students, the District and our world.

It is with great humility and determination that I embrace the opportunity to lead UDC into this compelling new chapter. Now is the time for the university to fully realize its limitless promise. **Now is the time to rise higher as ONE UDC.**





# Biography

## **MAURICE D. EDINGTON, PH.D.**

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., began his tenure as the 10th President of the University of the District of Columbia in August 2023. Edington is an accomplished scientist and educator who brings over 20 years of higher education leadership experience to UDC, including a proven track record of improving student retention and graduation rates.

He most recently served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Florida A&M University (FAMU), where he guided strategy to improve institutional outcomes on key performance indicators and to sustain operational excellence. Under Edington's steady hand, FAMU climbed into the top 100 public national universities in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings and became the nation's highest-ranked public HBCU, a designation it has held for the past five years.

As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (2018-2022), Edington was responsible for all matters pertaining to academic programs, activities and services in FAMU's 14 colleges and schools, including institutional and specialized accreditation activities. He managed an annual operating budget of \$99 million for 9,200 students and over 500 full-time faculty.

Edington worked closely with FAMU's President and Board of Trustees as the university's chief strategist to establish and advance the university's strategic priorities. His leadership resulted in FAMU making tremendous strides in increasing student success outcomes, launching several new degree programs and experiencing its highest performance (in 2021 and 2023) on Florida's Performance-Based Funding Model.

To support his vision for increasing student success, while at FAMU, Edington established the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Office of Freshman Studies and the Office of STEM Outreach. He also chaired the university's Strategic Planning Committee that developed the 2022-2027 strategic plan, as well as the State University System of Florida Council of Academic Vice Presidents.

Edington's previous administrative experiences include serving as the Director of the FAMU Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), Chair of the FAMU Department of Chemistry and Director of the FAMU Office of Engineering and Science Support. Edington also has extensive experience with accreditation and strategic planning. Under his supervision as Dean, the FAMU Computer Science Program completed a successful ABET accreditation review. Additionally, he served as FAMU's SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison.

Edington is a physical chemist by training with a research specialty in ultrafast laser spectroscopy. He also conducts research and provides training to faculty in the area of STEM education, with a focus on using active learning instructional strategies to enhance critical thinking skills.

Edington received a B.A. in chemistry from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He also completed postdoctoral studies at Duke University, where he was a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow.

Edington is married to Tonya Barge Edington and is the father of Gabriella Edington, M.D.

# Program

## INVESTITURE CEREMONY

### Mistress of Ceremony

April Massey, Ph.D., Interim Chief Academic Officer

### Prelude

Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

### The Processional

### Presentation of Colors\*

Metropolitan Police Department Ceremonial Honor Guard Unit

### Musical Selection\*

“The Star-Spangled Banner”

(Arr. Darmon Meader)

University of the District of Columbia Chorale

Director, Professor Johnny H. Butler III, M.M.

Accompanist, Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

### Invocation\*

Jeffery Fleming, Ph.D., Acting Dean

College of Arts & Sciences

### Musical Selection\*

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

(Arr. Roland Carter)

University of the District of Columbia Chorale

Director, Professor Johnny H. Butler III, M.M.

Accompanist, Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

*\*Please stand*



### Opening Remarks

April Massey, Ph.D., Interim Chief Academic Officer

### Welcome

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair

UDC Board of Trustees

### Greetings

Muriel Bowser, Mayor

District of Columbia

Ronald Mason, Jr., J.D., Immediate Past President

University of the District of Columbia

Arlene King-Berry, J.D., UDC Faculty Senate Chair

Professor of Special Education

Travis Henderson, Student Trustee

UDC Board of Trustees

Reginald Tarver, Representative

Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning

### Reflections

Princilla Evans, Ph.D.

Retired Associate Professor of Chemistry,

Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, Fisk University

### Musical Selection

“Done Made My Vow to the Lord”

(Arr. Kenneth W. Louis)

University of the District of Columbia Chorale

Director, Professor Johnny H. Butler III, M.M.

Accompanist, Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

### The Ceremony of Investiture

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair

UDC Board of Trustees

Darchiniquia Smith, Representative

UDC Community College

Brent Thigpen, President

Undergraduate Student Government Association

John Irungu, President

Graduate Student Government Association

Imani Roberson, President

Student Bar Association

Bernard M. Grayson, Jr., President

National Alumni Society

Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D., President

Virginia State University

Kelly McMurray, Ph.D.

Chief of Staff & Senior Vice President



*\*Please stand*

### **Academic Robing**

Tonya Barge Edington, UDC First Lady  
Gabriella Edington, M.D.

### **Presidential Medallion & University Mace**

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair  
UDC Board of Trustees

### **Oath of Office**

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair  
UDC Board of Trustees

### **Introduction of the President**

Larry Robinson, Ph.D., President  
Florida A&M University

### **The Inaugural Address**

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., President  
University of the District of Columbia

### **The Alma Mater**

“Our Glorious UDC”  
(Words by Larry Mills; Music by Robert Felder)  
Led by the University of the District of Columbia Chorale  
Director, Professor Johnny H. Butler III, M.M.  
Accompanist, Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

### **Benediction**

Jeffery Fleming, Ph.D., Acting Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

### **Recessional**

Accompanist, Professor Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, M.A.

*\*Please stand*

## **Order of The Processional**

**Grand Marshal with  
the Ceremonial Mace**

**Delegates of Institutions  
of Higher Education**

**Deans**

**Faculty Marshals**

**Faculty**

**Union Representatives**

**Student Leaders**

**National Alumni Society**

**UDC Presidents**

**Senior Leadership Team**

**UDC Board of Trustees**

**Mayor of the  
District of Columbia**

**President Edington**



# Delegates

## THE INAUGURATION OF MAURICE D. EDINGTON, PH.D.

### The Grand Marshal

Tia Jeffery, Ph.D.  
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences

### College Marshals

Dowan McNair-Lee, Ph.D.  
College of Arts & Sciences

Donovan Collier, Ph.D.  
School of Business & Public Administration

Briana Wellman, Ph.D.  
School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Professor Steven Macias, J.D.  
UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Professor Stephanie Spears  
UDC Community College

Phronie Jackson, Ph.D.  
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences

Professor Glen Benedict  
Division of Learning Resources & Information Technology

### The Ceremonial Mace

The University of the District of Columbia's ceremonial mace symbolizes its authority and mission. The mace is carried in all formal academic processions that include the President of the University. UDC's mace is bronze and walnut with four seal medals mounted on its head and 16 engravable sections. Its design depicts strength, knowledge and unity in education.

### Delegates of Institutions of Higher Education

1865  
Bowie State University  
Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.  
President

1867  
Howard University  
Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.  
Provost & Chief Academic Officer

1875  
Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University  
Daniel Wims, Ph.D.  
President

1875  
Stillman College  
Devarieste Curry  
Former Trustee

1882  
Virginia State University  
Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.  
President

1887  
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University  
Larry Robinson, Ph.D.  
President

Erick Akins, Ph.D.  
Director of Title III Program

Linda Barge-Miles, J.D.  
Chief of Staff

Carmen Cummings  
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Affairs/University Advancement

William Hudson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Kenya Johnson, J.D.  
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Lewis Johnson, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost of Student Success & Strategic Initiatives

Rodrick Jones, Ph.D.  
Interim Vice President for Strategic Planning, Analysis & Institutional Effectiveness

Danielle McBeth, J.D.  
Director of Government Relations

Donald Palm, Ph.D.  
Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President

Robert Seniors  
Vice President, Information Technology Services

Mary Simmons, Ph.D., MPH, RRT  
School of Allied Health Sciences

Desmond Stephens, Ph.D.  
Director of Faculty Development

Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D.  
Vice President, University Advancement & Dean of the School of Business and Industry

O'Dell Stroud, J.D.  
Director of Health Care Management

Allyson Watson, Ph.D.  
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

G. Dale Wesson, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean, College of Agricultural & Food Sciences

1964  
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Andrew Flagel, Ph.D.  
President & Chief Executive Officer

### Deans

Jeffery Fleming, Ph.D., Acting Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

Mohamad Sepehri, Ph.D., Dean  
School of Business & Public Administration

Devdas Shetty, Ph.D., Dean  
School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Twinette Johnson, J.D., Ph.D., Dean  
UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Marilyn A.L. Hamilton, Ph.D., Dean  
UDC Community College

Dwane Jones, Ph.D., Dean  
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences

Mashonda Smith, Ph.D., Dean  
Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning

### Faculty Senate

Arlene King-Berry, J.D.  
UDC Faculty Senate Chair, Professor of Special Education

### Union Representatives

LaVerne Gooding-Jones  
President  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Frazier O'Leary  
Adjunct Faculty  
Service Employees International Union

Albert Pearsall III  
President  
UDC Faculty Association/National Education Association





## Student Leaders

Travis Henderson, Student Trustee  
UDC Board of Trustees

Reginald Tarver, Representative  
Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning

Darchiniquia Smith, Representative  
UDC Community College

Brent Thigpen, President  
Undergraduate Student Government Association

John Irungu, President  
Graduate Student Government Association

Imani Roberson, President  
Student Bar Association

## National Alumni Society

Bernard M. Grayson, Jr., President

## University Presidents

### University of the District of Columbia

Dr. Maurice D. Edington  
2023-present

Mr. Ronald Mason, Jr.  
2015-2023

Mr. James E. Lyons, Sr. (Interim President)  
2013-2015

Dr. Allen L. Sessoms  
2008-2012

Mr. Stanley Jackson (Acting President)  
2007-2008

Dr. William L. Pollard  
2002-2007

Mr. Timothy Jenkins (Interim President)  
2001-2002

Dr. Julius F. Nimmons, Jr.  
1998-2001

Dr. Julius F. Nimmons, Jr. (Acting President)  
1996-1998

Dr. Tilden J. LeMelle  
1991-1996

Dr. Miles Mark Fisher IV (Acting President)  
1990-1991

Dr. Rafael L. Cortada  
1987-1990

Mr. Claude A. Ford (Acting President)  
1985-1987

Dr. Robert L. Green  
1983-1985

Dr. Benjamin H. Alexander  
1982-1983

Mr. Lisle C. Carter, Jr., Esq.  
1977-1982

## UDC Predecessor Institutions Presidents

### District of Columbia Teachers College

Dr. Wendell P. Russell  
1974-1977

Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke  
1966-1974

Dr. Paul Omega Carr  
1958-1966

Dr. Walter E. Hager  
1955-1958

### Federal City College

Dr. Wendell P. Russell  
1974-1977

Dr. Elgy S. Johnson (Acting President)  
1972-1974

Dr. Harland Randolph  
1969-1972

Dr. Frank Farner  
1967-1969

## Washington Technical Institute

Dr. Cleveland L. Dennard  
1967-1977

## Miner Teachers College

Dr. Matthew J. Whitehead  
1953-1955

Miss Hope Lyons (Acting President)  
1953

Dr. Eugene A. Clark  
1930-1953

## Wilson Teachers College

Dr. Walter E. Hager  
1941-1955

Dr. Clyde Huber (Acting President)  
1940-1941

Dr. Edgar Higbie  
1931-1940

## Senior Leadership Team

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.  
President

April Massey, Ph.D.  
Interim Chief Academic Officer

David Franklin  
Chief Operating Officer

Kelly McMurray, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff & Senior Vice President

Teri Little-Berry, Ph.D.  
Chief Student Development & Success Officer

Avis M. Russell, J.D.  
General Counsel

Maria Byrd  
Associate Vice President,  
Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

Hasanna Tyus  
Vice President, Enrollment Management  
& Student Success

Annie Whatley  
Assistant Vice President, External Affairs

## Board of Trustees

Christopher D. Bell, J.D., Chair

Mignon L. Clyburn, Vice Chair

Ken Grossinger, MSW, Treasurer

Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., Secretary

Lamont Akins, Trustee

Mildred L. Musgrove, Ed.D., Trustee

Carolyn B. Rudd, Ed.D., Trustee

Barrington D. Scott, I., Trustee

Warner H. Session, Trustee

Jerome Shelton, Trustee

Anntoinette White-Richardson, Trustee

Travis Henderson, Trustee (Student Representative)

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., *Ex-Officio*

## Council of the District of Columbia

Phil Mendelson, Chairman

Kenyan R. McDuffie, At-Large

Anita Bonds, At-Large

Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large

Christina Henderson, At-Large

Brianne K. Nadeau, Ward 1

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2

Matthew Frumin, Ward 3

Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4

Zachary Parker, Ward 5

Charles Allen, Ward 6

Vincent C. Gray, Ward 7

Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8

## Mayor of the District of Columbia

Muriel Bowser

## President

Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D.

## UDC Foundation Board

Mr. Douglas Firstenberg, President

Ms. Beverly J. Burke, Vice President

Mr. Troy LeMaile-Stovall, Treasurer

Mr. Michael B. Goldstein, Secretary

Ms. Janice Adams, Director

Dr. Tshaka Cunningham, Director

Dr. Maurice D. Edington, Director

Mr. Joseph Perta, Director

Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Director

Mr. Barrington D. Scott, I., Director

Ms. Judith F. Terra, Director

Mr. Brandon Todd, Director

Mr. Rodney E. Trapp, Director, *Ex-Officio*

## UDC Law Foundation Board

Jon S. Bouker, Chair

ArentFox Schiff, LLP

William Robinson, Secretary

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Robert P. Newman, Treasurer

The Law Office of Robert P. Newman, P.C.

Shelley Broderick, Development Officer

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Claude E. Bailey

Venable LLP

Johnine P. Barnes

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Suzanne Rauh Davis

D.C. Court of Appeals

Abid R. Qureshi

Latham & Watkins LLP

Leslie Thornton

WGL Holdings, Inc. & Washington Gas

## Inauguration Steering Committee

Kelly McMurray, Ph.D., Chair

Chief of Staff & Senior Vice President

Trelaunda Beckett-Jones, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President & Dean of Students,

Student Development & Success

Jennifer Cohan

Web & Digital Manager

Patrick M. Gusman, J.D.

Deputy Chief of Staff

Alisha Johnson

Social Media Manager

Teri Little-Berry, Ph.D.

Chief Student Development & Success Officer

April Massey, Ph.D.

Interim Chief Academic Officer

Lee Brian Reba

Senior Advisor, University Events & Protocol

Malva D. Reid, Ph.D.

Director, Graduate Education

Denise B. Slaughter

Special Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer

Annie Whatley

Assistant Vice President of External Relations

Andrea Williams

Assistant Vice President,

Office of Marketing & Communications

Grady Wright

Special Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer

## “OUR GLORIOUS UDC”

(ALMA MATER)

WORDS BY LARRY MILLS | MUSIC BY ROBERT FELDER


A path that's paved in Red and Gold,  
Leading to the dreams that life holds,  
Inspiring ev'ry growing  
mind to Conquer mountains hard to climb.

You'll always reign with equality,  
Strength and love and unity,  
Bringing life's prosperity to  
Those who pledge their loyalty.

UDC you're praised and loved,  
Bless'd with strength from God above,  
Leading us on through ev'ry road to UDC  
our strength to hold.

### REFRAIN

We praise our UDC;  
Your precepts we believe;  
Always our hearts will sing to thee,  
OUR GLORIOUS UDC.



The only public university in the nation's capital and the only exclusively urban land-grant university in the United States, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is a historically Black university committed to a broad mission of education, research and community service. With roots dating back to 1851, UDC offers workforce training, professional certification and more than 80 academic programs designed to create opportunities for student success. UDC comprises a College of Arts and Sciences; School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; School of Business and Public Administration; College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences; Community College; the David A. Clarke School of Law; and the Division of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning.