



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UDC's FARMERS' MARKET PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR
LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND ALUMNI**

The University of the District of Columbia's Farmers' Market provides an opportunity for local youth to learn about entrepreneurship, professionalism and community service

Washington, DC – At the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), the circle is complete. Taria Nelson, one of UDC's own esteemed alum, comes back to give back as she and the young participants of her grassroots youth volunteer organization, "Come Back to Give Back," will be featured at UDC's weekly Farmers' Market this Saturday from 7:30 am – 1:30 pm. The young residents will be selling handmade soaps, providing quality customer service and learning about entrepreneurship. The Market will serve as an outdoor classroom where local youth will learn about entrepreneurship, professionalism and community service.

A native Washington Ms. Nelson, appreciated not only growing up in an urban setting; she also appreciated the opportunity to attend the University of the District of Columbia, the nation's only urban land-grant institution. Taria states that "funds were limited and UDC gave me more for my money to do what I needed to do to earn a degree in Urban Studies and an American Humanics Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership." Armed with her life experiences and academic training, Ms. Nelson along with her fiancée, Mr. Byron Ezell, founded "Come Back to Give Back," a grassroots volunteer organization for youth at risk in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the organization is to educate, inspire, mentor and to provide parental guidance and advocacy for what appears to be an abandoned culture of youth in Washington, D.C.

As a result of a difficult childhood, Ms. Nelson states that she learned that nothing in life comes easy. To ensure that she was prepared to get the most out of her life, Taria chose to attend college. She states "UDC allowed me to make my own way in the world and discover my talents in order to go back to my community and serve and help to improve the human condition."

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According to UDC President Allen Sessoms “The University of the District of Columbia is not only proud to highlight the positive and impactful efforts of our alumni, but we are also honored to be able to encourage local youth by providing opportunities for personal growth and community service.

In addition to the young participants of “Come Back to Give Back,” this week the UDC Farmers’ Market will continue the summer excitement with more Blues and Barbeque. This week’s the Farmer’s Market the blues headliner is none other than Washington D.C.’s own DC Blues Society Band. The band will be stirring things up as market patrons enjoy good food, good fun and great networking.

The Blues and Barbeque theme would not be complete without wonderful barbeque. Uncle Sonny’s Barbeque is back on Saturday. Uncle Sonny and his team of professionals will be dishing up delicious summer fare with fresh barbeque ribs, smoked chicken, macaroni and cheese, collard greens and more.

All District residents are encouraged to get a fresh start on the weekend by visiting UDC’s Farmers’ Market to support local young residents and enjoy fresh produce, great service and Blues and Barbeque.

The Farmers’ Market, which takes place every Saturday through early November, is presented by UDC’s newest addition – the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES). Providing a sustainable bridge from college to the world.

For more information regarding the UDC Farmers’ Market, please contact either Dr. Calvin Lewis at 202-274-7163 or by email at clewis@udc.edu , or Mr. Gordon White at 202-274-7126 or by email at gwhite@udc.edu.

As the only urban land-grant institution in the country, the University System of the District of Columbia (www.udc.edu) supports a broad mission of education, research and community service across all member colleges and schools, which include the University of the District of Columbia (David A. Clarke School of Law, College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, College Arts & Sciences, School of Business and Public Administration and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences) and the Community College of the District of Columbia.