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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EARNS
FIRST NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**

Washington, D.C. – The University of the District of Columbia's Department of Education attained an important milestone today when the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) notified the school of its accreditation, the first such national endorsement in the history of the University. This confirmation is the most recent of a series of accreditations culminating in the University's reaffirmation visit by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools which is currently underway.

"This is a big day in the history of the University," said Dr. Patricia Myers, Interim Chairman of the Department of Education and a 32-year veteran of the University. "It shows we are committed to carrying on our historic mission as being the source of teachers for the District of Columbia"

These sentiments were echoed by University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke. "One of our predecessor institutions (District of Columbia Teacher's College) was devoted to educating educators. The hard work of the faculty and staff demonstrate a renewed dedication to this tradition."

The Department of Education, one of the nine academic departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, administers both pre-service and in-service professional education programs for the University of the District of Columbia. In keeping with the mission of the University of the District of Columbia, the Department's programs and activities are designed to respond to the University's responsibilities as an urban land-grant institution. To this end, the Department of Education seeks to prepare certified teachers and other professionals who desire leadership roles in diverse human service settings, and provides an adequate foundation of advanced study for students to continue their educational preparation. The

NCATE accreditation visit, held in the fall of 2004, certified nine different programs within the department: early childhood education, elementary education, special education, English, foreign languages, mathematics, social studies, music and art. Each of these areas received accreditation of their teacher certifying programs.

Dr. Myers attributed the successful completion of the accreditation standards to the efforts of several members of the Department's faculty, including Dr. Arlene King-Berry, the University's NCATE coordinator, and chairpersons responsible for each of the six certification standards used by the NCATE accreditation team.

In receiving their certification, the Department of Education joins several other academic programs that have received accreditation from various certifying agencies. Last summer, the University's programs in nursing and dietetics received accreditation. A few days later, 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. Last week, the University's Child Development Center was also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

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. The current visit to the University of the District of Columbia is the first in ten years. The Middle States team will conclude their visit to the University Wednesday, March 23.

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.