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University of the District of Columbia
Hosts Rehearsal for over 1,500 Youth from Regional Schools for the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®

Washington, DC – The University of the District of Columbia is supporting and participating in the 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival. The University is continuing a partnership with the Festival that began in 2011 during the University’s 160th anniversary celebration in conjunction with the Festival’s centennial celebration - when the National Cherry Blossom Festival donated over 40 cherry trees to the new Dr. Cleveland L. Dennard Plaza, as well as the Connecticut Avenue streetscape and various Community College locations. The National Cherry Blossom Festival partnership also provides educational and internship opportunities to University of the District of Columbia students. This year, the University is hosting the 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® by providing rehearsal space in the Sports Complex at the Van Ness Campus for the 800-Member All Star Tap Dance Team and 900-Member Parade Youth Choir.

Hailing from schools along the East coast, 900 members of the Parade Youth Choir receive their music for the Parade and begin rehearsal months in advance. The full group joins at the Sports Complex to rehearse for the first time together prior to Saturday’s event, and will be singing “Jackson 5 Medley.” Similarly, 800 members form the All-Star Tap Dance Team, sponsored by the University of the District of Columbia, and rehearse their number, “I Want to Dance with Somebody,” as a full group for the first time.

The 2013 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® will be held Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. One of Washington, DC’s largest spectator events, the Parade runs along Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th streets, NW, and airs in a delayed telecast on WUSA9 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. The University of the District of Columbia will be recognized as a sponsor of the 800-Member All Star Tap Dance Team during the broadcast for its support.

As the only urban land-grant institution in the United States, the University 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 Community College, College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Public Administration, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and David A. Clarke School of Law.

The University of the District of Columbia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. Minorities, women, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For a full version of the University’s EO Policy Statement, please visit: http://www.udc.edu/equal_opportunity.

The University of the District of Columbia is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education - 3624 Market Street - Philadelphia, PA 19104 - (267) 284–5000.