UDC Honored with Three Sustainable DC Grants

CAUSES was awarded three of seven Sustainable DC Innovation Challenge Grants

Washington, D.C. – The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) was named one of the honorees of the Sustainable DC Innovation Challenge, winning three out of seven grants for a total of $921,000. The grant competition was established to promote novel initiatives among District agencies that will advance Mayor Vincent C. Gray’s Sustainable DC Plan that seeks to make the District of Columbia the greenest, healthiest and most sustainable city in the nation.

In his announcement Mayor Gray stated:

“These Sustainable DC Innovation Challenge grants demonstrate that a dollar invested in sustainability can return multiple benefits for the city. By building outdoor classrooms, urban farms and greenhouses, and green infrastructure for storm-water control we can help educate the next generation, increase access to healthy foods, expand job training and business opportunities and ensure protection of our natural resources.”

The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia was awarded three grants; one for building three state of the art neighborhood scale aquaponics facilities; one for building a commercial kitchen facility and food truck to promote nutrition, job-skills and entrepreneurship training and one to create a native plants nursery to combat invasive plant species and restoration native habitats. All three facilities will serve as community education center to create local green-jobs training.

“This is a unique opportunity to see the community education and research programs we offer through our land-grant programs transform District neighborhoods,” said UDC Interim President Dr. James E. Lyons.

The Innovation Challenge awarded a total of $2.35 million to District agencies. Other honorees include the District Department of Transportation, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

The three UDC grants were authored by Dr. Dwane Jones, Director of the CAUSES Center for Sustainable Development, and Mary Farrah, of the CAUSES Center for Urban Agriculture.
“I could not be more proud of our CAUSES team. This is an exciting time for our land-grant programs and we look forward to working with our colleagues from the UDC Office of Facilities and Real Estate to bring these projects to fruition and to make our city a healthier and more attractive place for its residents,” said Dr. Sabine O’Hara, CAUSES Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs.

For more information on the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences of the University of the District of Columbia, please visit www.udc.edu/causes. The Office of Facilities and real estate of UDC is led by Vice President Barbara Jumper.

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About CAUSES
The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences of the University of the District of Columbia offers research-based academic and community outreach programs that improve the quality of life and economic opportunity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation and the world.

About the University of the District of Columbia
An HBCU, urban land-grant, and the only public university in the nation's capital, The University of the District of Columbia is committed to a broad mission of education, research and community service. Established by abolitionist Myrtilla Miner in 1851, the University of DC offers Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and a host of workplace development services designed to create opportunities for student success. The University is comprised of the 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, a Community College and the David A. Clarke School of Law. To learn more, visit www.udc.edu. 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.