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KUDOS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN WINNING NATIONAL AWARD

Washington, D.C. – The University of the District of Columbia, Community College is proud to announce that its Workforce Development & Lifelong Learning (WDLL) Division has won the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Education Foundation Teamwork Award. Each year, NAPE recognizes a group of individuals that have proven successful in promoting access, equity, and diversity in education and workforce development. The UDC-CC Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Division was acknowledged for their team’s work in implementing the Student Success Initiative, resulting in a record number of program graduates.

According to Kim R. Ford, Dean of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning, the Student Success Initiative was launched in 2013 to help students set goals and realize their full potential. She describes the program as a three-pronged strategy to support student success by building community, promoting feedback, and helping students transition from workforce development classes into full degree programs.

“This was a very involved effort in which the entire team played a significant and meaningful role,” said Ford. “We have seen amazing results in a short period of time, including an 8% increase in course completions and the Division graduating its largest class of 929 completers,” she boasted.

To achieve these remarkable results, Ford said the award-winning team instituted information sessions and one-on-one advising, held appreciation events and community service outings, and established a variety of mechanisms for students to better communicate with the staff and administration. The team also created a student-produced newsletter, redesigned the intake process to ensure students are best positioned to reach their goals, and hired Transition Coordinators to help transitioning students with their college applications & financial aid packages.
“Most importantly, our team has given these students a new-found confidence in their ability to be successful,” Ford said proudly. “Not only have we created a more equitable system, but we’ve worked collaboratively to integrate mechanisms that help people truly believe in themselves. Because of their passion and hard work, record numbers of DC residents who are low income, unemployed and underemployed have accomplished a goal,” she added.

“We are extremely impressed with the efforts of the UDC Workforce Development team” said NAPE’s Chief Executive Officer, Mimi Lufkin. “This innovative workgroup has distinguished itself by promoting access, equity, and diversity in career and technical education, and has demonstrated through the Student Success Initiative that they embrace the NAPE belief that access to diverse human brain power will help to solve global challenges,” she said.

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_The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) is a consortium of state and local agencies, corporations, and national organizations committed to the advancement of equity and diversity in classrooms and workplaces._

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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.

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