

University of the District of Columbia

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a new opportunity"*

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University of the District of Columbia to Open Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy as Part of International Conference

Washington, D.C. - The University of the District of Columbia will take a step in world leadership in the developing of affordable, renewable energy when the University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences opens the **Center of Excellence in Renewable Energy** as a part of the two-day International Conference on Renewable Energy for Developing Countries 2006. The Center will be dedicated Friday, April 7, 2006 at the site of a newly constructed wind and solar panel energy generating facility on the University's campus on Connecticut Avenue in Northwest Washington.

The opening of the center is the final event of the University's International Conference on Renewable Energy for Developing Countries April 6-7, 2006, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St., N.W. in Washington, D.C. Transportation will be provided for conference participants to the Center inauguration from the Omni Shoreham Hotel to the UDC campus. Other conference activities include a keynote address from David

K. Garman, under secretary for energy in the U.S. Department of Energy, and remarks from U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., who will speak at the conference's banquet on April 7. Details on the conference, including registration, sponsors, speakers, and the Advisory Board, can be found at www.icredc.udc.edu.

The Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy will open with the goal of becoming a world leader in research development, application, training and education dedicated to renewable energy and the environment using a multi-disciplinary approach. The Center will be a national and international locus for innovation in the rapidly growing area of renewable sources – solar, wind, fuel cells, etc. Additionally, the Center will be a partner in the development of energy efficient resources and uses for the District and other urban areas.

At inauguration, the Center will demonstrate an operational Photo-Voltaic (PV) Solar System and a Wind Turbine Combo System recently installed at a strategic site on the University's campus. The system can demonstrate the fundamental principles of the operations of a photo voltaic system as well as the operations of a wind turbine power system. The systems can work in combination producing almost 2 kW power or individually and can be used to provide AC or DC power for any suitable application. This renewable energy system can be used to measure system performance and improve design. In addition, the excess power generated can also be sold to local power companies.

The Center will also offer dedicated laboratories in support of the civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering programs in the University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. As the Center receives external funding, additional facilities will be added to support the Center activities.

During its recently-completed Strategic Plan, leaders of the University identified as a long-term goal the need to establish Centers of excellence in various academic areas. The Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy should emerge as one of the premier Centers in the University and also serve as a model of multi-disciplinary cooperation between the faculty at the University. Additionally, the Center will also contribute to projects which will improve

the energy efficiency of low income family housing in the District of Columbia, in doing so supporting the land-grant mission of the University. The Architecture program at UDC, which operates the Architectural Research Institute, can collaborate with the other engineering programs in order to design energy efficient housing models for the District of Columbia.

The University of the District of Columbia is the fully-accredited 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 University Spokesperson at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.

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