

University of the District of Columbia

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University of the District of Columbia's Social Work Program Earns Maximum Reaccreditation

Washington, D.C. – At its October 2006 meeting, the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the Social Work Program at the University of the District of Columbia. The accreditation was reaffirmed for eight years, the maximum number of years possible. This confirmation continues an eighteen month period during which the only public University in the nation's capital has been recognized and affirmed by a wide array of accrediting agencies. It also continues a 30 year period (1976 to the present) during which the University's Social Work Program has successfully maintained full accreditation.

News of the reaffirmation of accreditation was particularly meaningful for Dr. William L. Pollard, president of the University and a career social worker. "We are extremely proud of our Social Work program as they achieve this significant landmark," said Dr. Pollard. "I have always believed that social work is one of the cornerstone

programs to our land-grant mission, and for CSWE to reaccredit our program for eight years proves that what we have here is a truly top-flight curriculum.”

Dr. Janet Burton, Director of the Social Work Program echoed statements from the report of site visitors that the program is committed to continue primarily preparing minority persons who otherwise would not have the opportunity to pursue a degree and subsequent career in social work. The program provides a solid curriculum with creative and challenging academic experiences. The excellent preparation that students receive is possible because of the wide ranging support from students, field instructors, advisory board member and others at the University including administration, staff and alumni.

The Social Work program offers students a course of study leading to the Bachelor of Social Work degree. The courses are designed to prepare a cadre of professionally competent, ethically based entry level social work generalists who have the skills required to resolve problems in contemporary urban living.

The program aims to develop social work generalists who understand and appreciate social practice. They will also possess a body of knowledge and skills relevant for beginning professional practice, as well as recognize their own responsibility for ongoing professional development. The curriculum focuses on preparing practitioners for multilevel assessment and intervention with the aim of empowering client systems to overcome challenges. Students are also prepared to contribute to social work research and to address social policy issues through the promotion of social and economic justice.

The University of the District of Columbia is one of six institutions nationwide to receive Reaffirmation of Accreditation for eight years with a Progress Report at the Baccalaureate level. The Council's Commission on Accreditation (COA) is responsible for developing accreditation standards that define competent preparation and ensuring that social work programs meet them. In accordance with the requirements of the Council's recognition body, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the CSWE Office of Social Work Accreditation and Educational Excellence (OSWAE) administers

a multi step accreditation process that involves program self-studies, site visits, and COA reviews.

In receiving their certification, the Social Work program joins several other academic programs that have received accreditation from various certifying agencies. During the summer of 2005, UDC received word of overall accreditation with commendation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law has received full accreditation from the American Bar Association and the University's Education programs have been nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Programs in nursing, dietetics and speech pathology have also received accreditation. The University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences degree programs in civil engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering have been fully reaccredited, and the UDC Child Development Center was also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

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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