University of the District of Columbia Hosts Nikki Giovanni, World Renowned Poet, Writer, and Educator

Washington, D.C. - The University of the District of Columbia is pleased to bring to the Van Ness Campus Main Auditorium (Building 46 East) the world renowned poet, writer and educator Ms. Nikki Giovanni. Ms. Giovanni’s 7:00 p.m. lecture on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2007 will commemorate African American History Month and ignite the University’s current Literature-Live Reading Series, which promotes the culture of reading and writing across the curriculum and the academic community. A complete listing of the Literature-Live Reading Series can be found following this release.

Ms. Giovanni has written more than a dozen books, received nineteen honorary doctorates, and remains a sought-after distinguished voice on civil rights and equality.
“Nikki Giovanni educates and inspires, while raising consciousness on the issues that matter most,” says the University’s Writer-in-Residence Marita Golden. “We look forward to her presentation continuing to expand the audience for literature on the campus. Nikki is a very bright star in the literary firmament and she will make Black History Month especially meaningful on campus because of her work as an artist and an activist.”

Over the past thirty years, Ms Giovanni’s outspokenness, in her writing and in lectures, has brought the eyes of the world upon her. One of the most widely-read American poets, she prides herself on being "a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English." Giovanni remains as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and equality. Always insisting on presenting the truth as she sees it, she has maintained a prominent place as a strong voice of the Black community. Her focus is on the individual, specifically, on the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus, in the lives of others.

This celebrative event - free and open to the public - will culminate in a raffle of several of Ms. Giovanni’s books, a reception, and book sale/signing sponsored by Karibu Books.

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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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**Literature Live Reading Series at the University of the District of Columbia**

**Friday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.** - University of the District of Columbia’s Writer in Residence Marita Golden reads from her most recent novel AFTER. Reception and book sale to follow program.
*Location:* Building 44, Room A03, University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, DC.

**Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.** - Poet Nikki Giovanni reads from her work. Reception and book sale to follow program.
*Location:* Building 46East Auditorium, University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, DC.

**Thursday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.** - Poets Kenny Carroll, Brian Gilmore and saxophonist Marshall Keys present an evening of poetry and jazz. Reception and book sale to follow program.
*Location:* Building 46West, Recital Hall, University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, DC.

**Wednesday March 14, 7:00 p.m.** - Lecture by the University of the District of Columbia’s Writer in Residence Marita Golden on “Why Writing Matters.” Book sale and reception to follow program.
*Location:* Building 44, Room A03, University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington DC.

For more information contact Marita Golden at mgolden@udc.edu or 202-274-5553