



## **America's Urban Land-grant University**

APLU Forum: Urban Universities Anchoring the Future  
Tuesday May 24, 2011

**Dr. Allen L. Sessoms**  
*President*



The University of the District of Columbia is an urban land-grant institution. We are a comprehensive public institution offering affordable post-secondary education degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels. We are dedicated to providing educational opportunities to all who aspire to improve their lives and contribute to the betterment of their environment.

# Washington, DC: A Tale of Two Cities

- 47% of Washington area residents have a Bachelor's Degree or greater
- Less than 60% of DCPS students graduate
- 36% of DC residents are functionally illiterate
- 21.5% of DC residents are on welfare
- One in five DC residents lives below the poverty level while median income in some neighborhoods is among the highest in the nation

\*Source: US Census Bureau

## Goals

- Create and nurture a premier Community College
  - open admissions policy
  - major vehicle for workforce development
  - serve as a gateway to a 4-year college education
- Become an outstanding institution for undergraduate and graduate education with a global focus
- Offer exceptional, research driven graduate and professional programs of importance to the District and the Nation
- Provide an important economic engine for the District of Columbia and the region

# Key Student Risk Factors

- Financial Circumstances
- Socioeconomic Background
- Experience At The Primary And Secondary School Levels (Perceived Relevance of Education)
- Family Experience With Higher Education
- Social Environment

# Retention Efforts

- Dramatic Increase in Financial Aide
- Psychological Support Services for Single Parents
- Peer and Faculty Mentoring Services
- Veterans Affairs Family Support Groups
- 2 Weeks of Final Exam Prep Managed by Students
- 70 Student Clubs
- New Student Inspired Standard of 3.0 vs. 2.5 GPA as measure of success
- Student Housing

# Community College Programs

- Programs Directly Tied to Jobs
- Internships Throughout Academic Career
- Industry Representatives Help Design Certificate and Some Degree Programs
- Industry Representatives Help Teach The Courses as Adjuncts

## University of the District of Columbia

- ✓ Offers broad range of academic and professional programs up to and including research intensive doctoral programs
  - ✓ Provides students with option of a residential experience
  - ✓ Admission standards
  - ✓ Honors programs
- Participates in NCAA Division I athletics

## Community College of DC

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Open admissions
- ✓ Focusing on workforce development, technical and academic certifications and academic associate degrees
- ✓ Degrees fully articulate to four-year college programs
- ✓ Honors programs available

# Flagship State University

**David A. Clarke  
School of Law**

**College of Arts and  
Sciences**

**School of  
Engineering and  
Applied Sciences**

**School of Business  
and Economics**

**College of Agriculture,  
Urban Sustainability and  
Environmental Sciences**

**Center for Urban  
Education**

**School of  
Community  
& Public Health**

**School of  
Government**

**Department of  
Intercollegiate  
Athletics**

# Flagship Admissions Standards

## Minimum Standards

- ✓ 2.5 GPA and 800/1600 (1200/2400) SAT or ACT equivalent, or
- ✓ 2.0 GPA and 930/1600 (1400/2400) SAT or ACT equivalent, or
- ✓ Alternatively, be declared “College Ready” by taking the ACCUPLACER examinations, as determined by the faculty

## Honors College

- ✓ At least 3.0 GPA and 1100/1600 (1600/2400) SAT or ACT equivalent

## Presidential Scholars

- ✓ 3.5 GPA and 1200/1600 (1800/2400) SAT or ACT equivalent, or
- ✓ 4.0 GPA and 1130/1600 (1700/2400) SAT or ACT equivalent

## **Academic Programs: From Vision to Reality**

- ✓ General Education Review and Reform—21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- ✓ Flagship Honors Program
- ✓ Graduate Studies and Research
- ✓ Online Teaching and Learning Center
- ✓ Office of International Programs & Exchanges

# Newly Implemented

- ✓ College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences
- ✓ Center for Urban Education
- ✓ Strategic Academic Program Plan—faculty engagement and collaboration (includes program consolidation and elimination, as well as new program development)
- ✓ A research driven academic enterprise

# Under Development

- Diplomatic Academy
- School of Government and Public Administration
- School of Community and Public Health



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – August 26, 2009

# Community College

**Technical and  
Vocational  
Training**

**Workforce  
Development**

**Certificate  
Programs**

**Associate Degree  
Programs**

**Developmental  
Educational  
Programs**

# Community College Admissions Standards



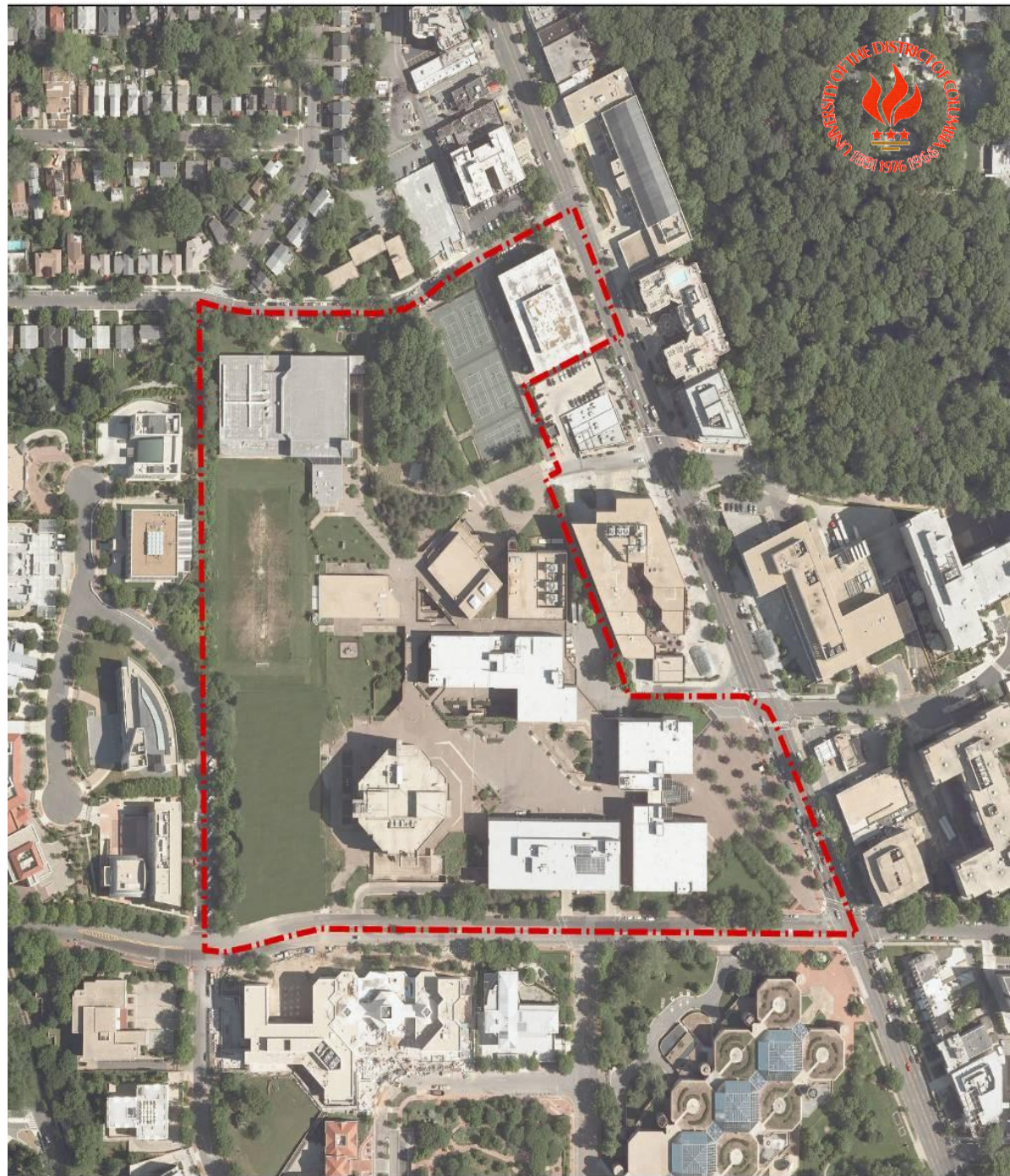
- ✓ Open admissions
- ✓ All entering students must take ACCUPLACER examinations

## **We are Building on Strengths**

- UDC has excellent programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels such as computer science, electrical engineering, biology, accounting, management and mass media, just to name a few.
- UDC has one of the best public interest law schools in America.
- We have assembled an outstanding senior staff of experts in higher education, finance and human resources.

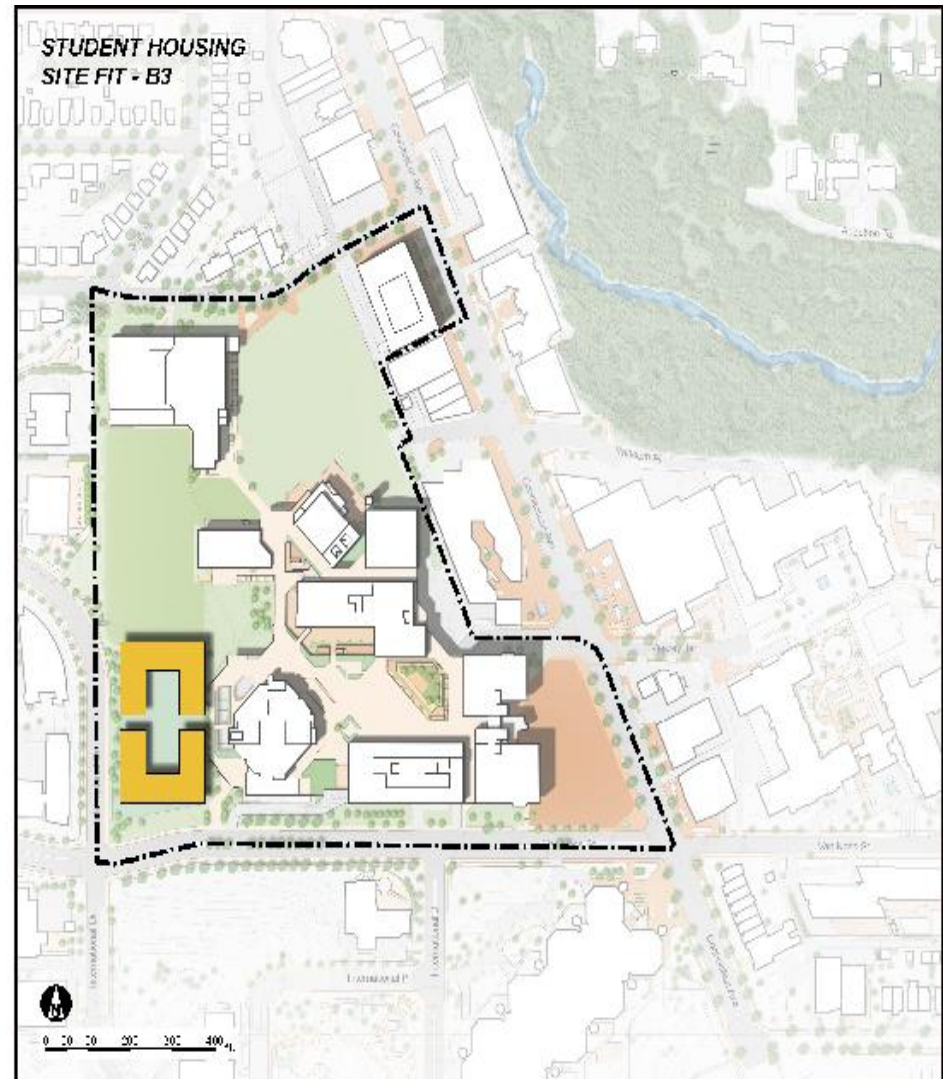
# Existing Campus

- Law School to be relocated downtown
- New Community College to be independent of “Flagship University
- Target Student enrollment 10,000 – 15,000
- New Student Center
- New Student Housing
- Plan falls within development limits



## Student Housing

- (2) 300 bed buildings with internal quad courtyard as amenity
- Adjacent to athletic and recreational fields
- Strategically located near Embassies in a residential setting and secure zone
- Connected to main campus plaza, to access Student Center and Academic Buildings
- Provides area for future expansion to the north



# Additional locations



**Backus**

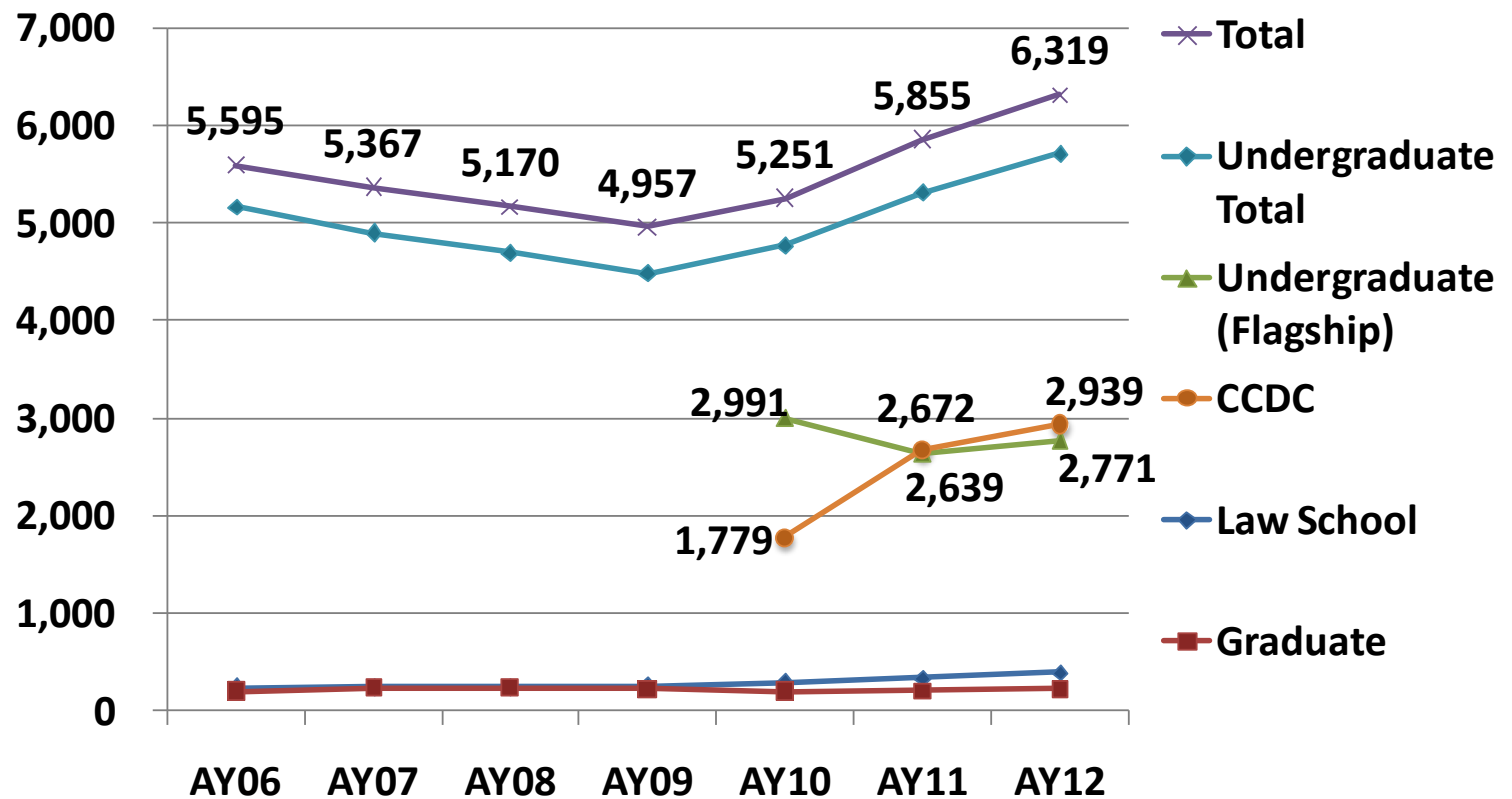


**801 North Capital St.**



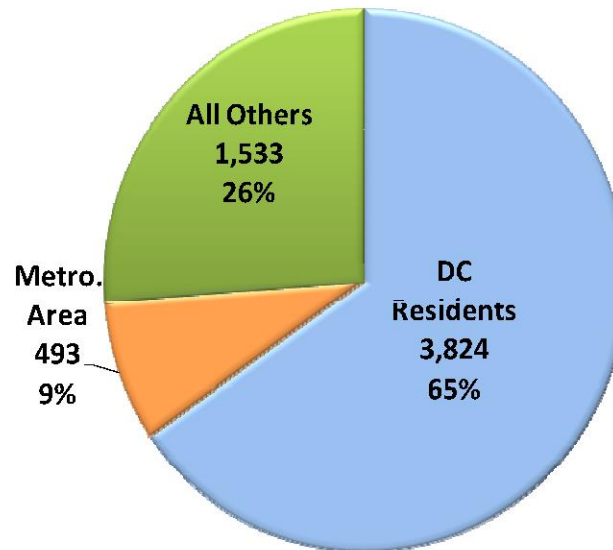
**PR Harris**

## UDC Enrollment (Headcount) Fall Semester



## Enrollment by Residency Status\*

### UDC Enrollment (Fall 2010 Headcount)



\*Flagship undergraduate, Graduate, Community College, and Law School are all included.

# Lessons Learned

- There is no silver bullet
- There are a myriad of solutions many of which may have be applied in a single case to achieve the desired outcomes

# The District Of Columbia (Our Town)



# THE FIREBIRD IS RISING!

