

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-275

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 1, 2022

To honor and recognize the impact that the University of the District of Columbia (“UDC”) has had on the education of students, particularly Black students and women, in the District of Columbia and across the country, and to celebrate the UDC Homecoming, held from November 6 through November 13, 2022.

WHEREAS, on December 3, 1851, abolitionist Myrtilla Miner founded the Miner Normal School, also known as the “Normal School for Colored Girls,” as a school for African American girls;

WHEREAS, when the school was founded, slavery was still legal in the District of Columbia and Myrtilla Miner served as a leader in teacher training for free African American women;

WHEREAS, in 1873, Washington Normal School, a white-only school for girls, was established in the District and was eventually renamed the Wilson Normal School in 1913 after the District’s first superintendent of public schools James O. Wilson;

WHEREAS, in 1929, through an act of Congress, both the Miner Normal School and the Wilson Normal School were converted into four-year teaching colleges and changed names to the Miner Teachers College and the Wilson Teachers College, respectively;

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, Miner Teachers College and Wilson Teachers College were the only accredited public higher education institutions in the District;

WHEREAS, Miner Teachers College has had an enormous impact in the Black community by educating young African American women to become teachers, many of whom would go on to work at schools across the country, spreading the impact of Miner Teachers College nationwide;

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WHEREAS, in 1955, one year after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Miner Teachers College and Wilson Teachers College were combined to create the District of Columbia (DC) Teachers College;

WHEREAS, in 1966, the District of Columbia Public Education Act was passed, creating the Federal City College and the Washington Technical Institute;

WHEREAS, in 1974, an act of Congress merged the DC Teachers College, the Federal City College, and the Washington Technical Institute, creating the University of the District of Columbia, which the Council of the District of Columbia affirmed its support for in 1975;

WHEREAS, today, the University of the District of Columbia, the only public higher education institution in, and for, the Nation’s capital, offers 81 academic degrees in both undergraduate and graduate programs, including the David A. Clarke School of Law, and maintains its place as an important Historically Black College and University (HBCU) by offering an affordable, high-quality education with a focus on the District’s Black and brown residents;

WHEREAS, UDC is a U.S. New and World Report Top 20 HBCU with a Top 5 Clinical Law program at the law school, and the University enrolls more D.C. public high school graduates than any other university, highlighting the impact that it continues to have on District residents;

WHEREAS, UDC offers several Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning programs for District residents over the age of 18, with a goal of reducing unemployment and underemployment among District residents, and at no cost to students, including programs in Construction and Property Management, Early Childhood Education, Healthcare Direct Care and Administration, Hospitality and Tourism, and Information Technology and Office Administration; and

WHEREAS, UDC Homecoming is being held from November 6 through November 13, 2022, beginning with the Golden Jubilee Celebration to honor the classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972, and ending with a Black-Tie Gala to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UDC National Alumni Society.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this Resolution may be cited as the, “University of the District of Columbia Historic Impact and Homecoming Celebration Ceremonial Resolution of 2022”.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia highlights and recognizes the role that UDC plays in providing educational opportunities and resources to the District of Columbia's historically disadvantaged communities and celebrates the UDC 2022 Homecoming.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.