



2022 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Committed to **generational** transformation

DelawareState
University

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On the cover (left to right): Dr. Terrance Newton Scholars Jaron Hunt-Fletcher and Jaden Rivera and DSU Program Manager for Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Educators Darren Rainey read to students at West Seaford Elementary School. For more information on the Scholars program, go to page 20.



A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR FOR DELAWARE STATE

Each year is unique. Some years you plan for the future. Some years sink us into our past before propelling us forward again. And some years, the present delivers on its promise—beyond expectations. 2022 encompassed all of these at Delaware State University.

Over the past 18 months—and particularly in 2022—we made great progress on the four pillars of our strategic plan: Building the Whole Student; Enhancing Operational Excellence; Improving the Physical Plant; and Securing a Healthy Financial Future. Coupled with our elevated national ranking, unprecedented enrollment growth (33% increase over the past five years with the current student body at more than 6,200), the acquisition of Wesley College, and our enhanced statewide footprint—including DSU Downtown and the Cap One Building at Wilmington's Riverfront—I see promise delivered. And I continue to view my service as the proud president of Delaware State University as the best professional decision of my life.

We have made a significant mark in the public square though much more remains to do.

Our faculty and staff have delivered by bringing the \$31 million Early Childhood Innovation Center to life. A trans-disciplinary team of researchers landed a University-record \$18.36 million grant to establish the Interdisciplinary Health Equity Research Center, part of \$45 million in recent research awards. President Joe Biden visited campus this fall to discuss student debt relief; the Global Institute for Equity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights hosted its first high-profile IMPACT Conference; and Delawareans came out in force to raise \$1.2 million



in a single night at our Annual Scholarship Ball.

US News & World Report named Delaware State University the nation's #2 public HBCU and one of the Northeast Region's "Best Values" among ALL institutions in the region. These factors—and many more—culminated in the University becoming the #1 college choice for Delaware students of color. Support from the State of Delaware made it possible for us to offer free tuition to more than 1,000 local students.

As usual, however—as it has been in every year of our proud history—it was our students who truly delivered.

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Tony Allen, Ph.D., is written over the university seal.

Tony Allen, Ph.D.

President



\$22.4M IN ARPA FUNDING

The University received \$22.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to upgrade HVAC systems, classroom technology, and the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at our Kirkwood Highway location in Wilmington.

The funding included:

- \$8 million to upgrade Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioner (HVAC) systems.
- \$7.4 million to move toward the goal of equipping every classroom with a display screen, projector, TV/smart board, sound system, Apple TV, and Windows/MAC device to enhance SMART capability.
- \$7 million in support of the Molecular Diagnostic Lab at our Kirkwood Highway location. The lab has provided COVID-19 testing and analysis, as well as limited variant tracing to residents of Delaware and Pennsylvania.

“We are rethinking nearly every element of instruction and facilities management, and we are incredibly thankful to have partners like Delaware Governor John Carney who understand the critical nature of our mission and are willing to invest in helping us meet these challenges.”

—Cleon Cauley Sr., Esq.
Vice President of University Operations and Chief Operating Officer



Facilities Management was busy throughout 2022—just as it was throughout the pandemic—with nearly 65 major projects costing nearly \$2.4 million. Led by Assistant Vice President Bernard Pratt, some of Facilities’ largest projects included duct work and HVAC cleaning in Warren Franklin Hall; replacement of flooring in Zimmerman Hall and Malmberg Hall; exterior painting of Village 1, 2, and 3; restroom renovations in Evers Hall; and installation of a new dishwasher in Conrad Hall. Pictured: Qesi Bannerman from the HVAC shop in Facilities.

ACADEMIC FOCUS: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Catching up to Tony Boyle isn’t easy. An interview with the University’s vice president of strategic enrollment management and student affairs took place in the Atlanta airport as he waited for a flight to Jamaica to meet with the 250 students pursuing their DSU Ed.D. degrees from across the Caribbean country.

An earlier call had to be postponed because Boyle was in China meeting with some of the 1,275 students pursuing advanced degrees from the University in cooperation with Ningbo University of Technology (Accounting and Computer Science) and Changchun University of Science and Technology (Physics).

Seventeen DSU faculty members spent time on Mainland China during 2022 as the University added 75 additional Chinese students over the year. Delaware State is the only University in the United States with three programs—each with 400+ students—thanks to the Chinese government’s decision to award DSU with the Computer Science program when West Virginia University decided to drop it in Spring 2021.

The University offers U.S. students Research and Study Abroad opportunities in 17 countries, with in-person DSU faculty in China and Jamaica (the in-person faculty program in Poland was put on hold this year due to the war in Ukraine). In addition, more than 100 F-1 students from other countries attended classes on the main campus in 2022.

Boyle remains tight-lipped about what’s next for competitive reasons but concedes that there’s much more to come. The Jamaica program expanded in Fall 2022 with the addition of an associate-degree program that enrolled 200 recent high-school graduates, another first for Del State among U.S. universities. He’s particularly proud that the first group of 12 Jamaican master’s candidates graduated in August 2022 and the first 20 Ph.D. students will graduate in May 2023.

Where other schools are still focused on developing and executing current-year enrollment goals, Boyle says he and his “hard-working” team are already working on their 2024 plan.

“Some people thought we were crazy when we said we were going to acquire Wesley College,” said Boyle, who arrived at the University in January 2018 and has overseen 14 consecutive cycles (Fall/Spring/Summer) of enrollment growth—quite possibly making DSU the only U.S. school that can say that. “We do things people say we can’t do. We aren’t going to stop inspiring more kids to be successful and better their lives, and finding new ways to show that we’re an institution of access and opportunity committed to benefiting the world.”



JAN 2022

The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust Endowment created a \$10,000 endowment for education majors in memory of Lonaé A. Moore, a Criminal Justice major and an eighth-generation member of the family who passed away in a November 2018 car accident during her junior year.

The College of Business (COB) received a two-year, \$200,000 grant from the University of Delaware’s Small Business Development Center to be a part of its Community Navigator Program to help underserved businesses access critical resources.

The University received a \$438,000, three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health in support of research to combat Parkinson’s Disease. Dr. Y. Hwan Kim, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, is the principal investigator on the project.

“Our REACH strategic plan asks what we will be by 2030, and the truth is that 25 percent of our 10,000+ students will be based outside the country taking undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs, and we’re going to get there faster than you think.”
—Tony Boyle
Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Affairs



Kyle Sheppard '17, a DSU doctoral candidate in education, told attendees he went to two other colleges before finding a home at DSU, saying “the family, the tight-knit community here, and my own support systems who didn’t make it to college, gives me a reason to keep going.” Photo credit: Delaware State News

DSU DEDICATES NEW RIVERFRONT CAMPUS

The University community—along with politicians and other civic leaders—celebrated our University’s return to the state’s metropolitan center with the formal dedication of Delaware State University Riverfront, a \$4.7M facility donated by Capital One.

“HBCUs have long been the central driver for propelling people from low-resourced backgrounds—particularly Black people—into the American middle class,” said President Tony Allen. “To win together, our communities need to have a competitive education pipeline that rapidly prepares us for equitable economic opportunity, provides comprehensive and systemic support for the most vulnerable, and responds to an ever-changing workforce with intention and speed.”

The 35,000-square-foot Riverfront campus building hosts the School of Graduate, Adult, and Extended Studies, a new partnership with the Teen Warehouse for its workforce development center, and an incubation hub for micro and small businesses with a particular focus on minority and women-owned companies.

At the same event, Capital One announced a series of initiatives to support its 2021 announcement of plans to deepen its recruiting partnership with the University and connect students to career pathways in business analysis, technology, and product development. The new initiatives include an executive mentorship program, \$270,000 in grants from its foundation for the University’s Career Services Experiential Learning program, a designated recruiter to match students with career opportunities with Capital One, and continuation of extended-skills training programs.

U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester noted that the Del State-Cap One partnership is a model for the nation—one that will impact people’s lives. “This is about jobs, strengthening our economy, making us competitive around the world, building wealth and generational wealth, and creating business,” Rep. Rochester said. “Don’t get it twisted; this isn’t just a building. This is our today—upskilling, reskilling, workforce development—and it is our tomorrow. This is about not just Hornets rising or Delaware rising, but also about the United States rising.”

TEACHER SHORTAGES HIT SUSSEX COUNTY

The University, along with southern Delaware school-district partners, is addressing the growing teacher shortage through our new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree and Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification program (ARTC).

Students who have earned their bachelor’s degrees in content areas taught at the secondary level can earn eligibility for certification through the programs. State regulations permit such individuals to teach in Delaware schools while pursuing their teaching credentials through an ARTC program.

MAT Program Coordinator Dr. Tina Mitchell said school districts are losing teachers due to retirements, some of which can be attributable to the COVID pandemic. In addition, colleges and universities haven’t been able to keep up with the growing demand for teachers.

“The partnership between Delaware State University and the Sussex County school districts is just one attempt to grow a diverse teaching force,” Dr. Mitchell said. “DSU students in the MAT program who work in Sussex County schools [like Rosetta Brickhouse, see page 21] are now able to take classes down in Sussex County, making it a more convenient process for these new teachers.”

Ned Gladfelter, supervisor of human resources at Cape Henlopen School District, said, “Having candidates to complete a program such as this, through the cohort model, will allow them to collaborate with others in a supportive environment as they complete their coursework and degree.”



Alyssa DeWolfe, a former paraprofessional, is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where she majored in Communications. Alyssa now teaches English at Seaford High School while pursuing certification through DSU’s MAT Program.

FEB 2022



The University unveiled its plans for the Schwartz Center for the Arts during an event held in the 118-year-old theater—a facility characterized as “an important revitalization tool” for Downtown Dover, the state capital, and the First State.

The University received an award for \$239,947 for a two-year grant led by Clarkson Aerospace Corp. of Houston, Texas, to work on new two-dimensional (2D) materials and devices development. Dr. Mukti Rana, professor of Engineering, is the principal investigator.

Dr. Gwendolyn Scott-Jones '97, dean of the Wesley College of Health & Behavioral Sciences, was selected as the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair (DPEC), which carries a \$200,000 grant. She was recognized for her work in understanding and addressing trauma-informed care for African American populations and the establishment of a Trauma Academy at the University.

AN ‘APPROACHING STORM’ SWEEPS THROUGH MSG

The Approaching Storm Marching Band debuted at Madison Square Garden on March 22 in front of nearly 20,000 New York Knicks fans, playing “Wish I Didn’t Miss You” during halftime as part of HBCU Night at the legendary arena.

The opportunity for the 30 band members to perform came through the University’s Alumni Association chapter in New York.

“An event like this helps with recruitment, notoriety, and exposure,” said Del State Director of University Bands Sidney Sessoms. “This is one of the best parts of this job—not just the making of music but

being able to provide students with opportunities that they otherwise might not have.”

Jaden Adkins, a Music Performance major from Dover and a tuba player, said, “Not many people can say that they performed at an NBA game on national television.”

Shawn Jackson, a senior Music Industry major from Staten Island, N.Y., and drummer, said the sell-out crowd was feeling the band. “Once we threw down on that DMX, it was over. They were really loving it,” he said. “I will remember mostly the arena, the electricity that was in the air, the energy from the people, and the experience overall. It was a lot to take in.”



ACADEMIC FOCUS: WESLEY COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (WCHBS)

In May, the Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (WCHBS) graduated its largest-ever class of nurses to a health care field that desperately needs their skills and commitment.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

Under the guidance of Dean Gwendolyn Scott-Jones, PsyD, MSW, CAADC, WCHBS is focused on creating new programs that will enable the University to help remediate the heartbreaking minority health and wellness disparities we see throughout the United States.

So it is focusing on the Dover community with the DSU Biomedical, Behavioral, and Allied Health Center (BBAHC) at 2 N. Capitol Park in Dover. The BBAHC offers evidence-based and clinical translational research and community-engagement services that include Sleep and Neuroscience research; walk-in primary care and referral services coupled with research that includes a focus on sickle-cell trait and disease; a trauma academy program; and collaborations with more than 30 local organizations including the Food Bank of Delaware, First State Community Action Agency, and Network Connect. The BBAHC also offers DSU students an opportunity to participate in experiential learning and research.

WCHBS is also supporting the community through monthly food distribution events, community liaison work with residents, and youth programming. It hosted a successful summer camp for local residents and is focused on a future that will include primary prevention for health disparities, tutoring, workforce development, healthy cooking workshops, a food pantry, and elder care.



MARCH 2022

The Delaware Health and Social Services’ Division of Public Health awarded the Department of Sociology a \$203,698 contract grant to provide community outreach around the COVID-19

vaccine, including engaging migrant-based religious organizations and African American-based denominations and door-to-door campaigns in selected census tracts in Kent and Sussex counties.

The University received a four-year, \$431,000 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences under the National Institutes of Health for a research project to build on recent advances in medical imaging analysis to contribute novel and non-invasive techniques for studying the human body composition and its changes, particularly for age-related metabolic diseases such as type-2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and osteoporosis.

Dr. Chereese Winstead, dean of the College of Agriculture, Science, and Technology, was chosen to serve as a member of the President’s Committee on the National Medal of Science. This Committee evaluates the nominees for the National Medal of Science.

Republic Airlines donated \$30,000 to the Aviation Program for mobile flight simulators and to offset fees and book costs for students.

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE: UNCONSTITUTIONAL SEARCH

The Women's Lacrosse Team landed in the national spotlight when it was subjected to an unwarranted search of its bus during its last road trip of the year. Deputies from the Liberty County (Georgia) Sheriff's Office stopped the bus and searched through the personal belongings of players and coaches but did not find anything illegal.

Many Commencement speakers referenced it in their remarks, including former Atlanta Mayor and CNN Correspondent Keisha Lance Bottoms, who said, "Each generation has its own cross to bear, and if you [graduating class] do your part, the battles fought by the next generation, and the one after that, and the one after that, will not be as difficult to overcome as the battles we endure today. That encounter on that highway in Liberty County, Georgia, reminded us all: The quiet, sometimes subtle war for equality, decency and respect still rages on, even in 2022."

She added that "the experience of the Delaware State University Women's Lacrosse Team has shown us that the most important battle, those that are often life-altering, those battles that define us, are often not the battle we choose, but the one that is chosen for us."

This incident reverberated through the University community for months. In May, we filed a formal complaint with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice over what President Allen called "a constitutionally dubious 'stop and search' of a charter bus transporting the University's women's lacrosse team."



Lacrosse fans across the world responded to a USA Lacrosse Magazine poll and elected junior Sydney Anderson as Best Advocate for articles she published about the unwarranted search and seizure of the team's bus in Georgia. In addition, the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) named her its 2022 Tina Sloan Green Award recipient for the pivotal role she played in focusing national attention on the incident.

ACADEMIC FOCUS: COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CAST)

The College of Agriculture, Science and Technology (CAST) kicked off 2022 with a \$2M grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Then in September, CAST received a multimillion-dollar commitment from Agilent Technologies to increase the share of underrepresented students entering STEM fields and broke ground on a new 15,000-square-foot, \$10 million Agriculture Building that is expected to open in 2024.

The USDA grant will help establish a Center of Excellence in Emerging Technologies that will enable CAST to lead the effort among 1890 land-grant institutions to train a multidisciplinary and diverse workforce in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science—linking agricultural, emerging technologies with underserved farmers and the agribusiness community.

CAST also elevated its status within the blue economy after receiving a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for Project ABLE, a Blue Economy Tech Center partnership between academia (DSU and the University of Delaware), commercial entities, and local, county, state, and federal agencies.

"Our awareness of the global nature of the major problems facing our planet is critical and demands global responses for which neither the academic nor scientific communities are well prepared, said CAST

Dean Dr. Chereese Winstead. "We need urgent new innovations to solve the global challenges of food and water insecurity as well as climate change. This is accomplished through the Big Idea of 'Convergence.' The agricultural, physical, mathematical, and engineering disciplines work with the behavioral, social, and life sciences to accelerate innovation. What will set one university apart from the others will be how we prepare our students to apply systems-level thinking to address tomorrow's global issues."

"SHELLFISH"

In the 1967 movie, *The Graduate*, the character played by Dustin Hoffman is advised there is a great future in "Plastics." For Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Professor Dennis McIntosh, the word he would have passed along was "Shellfish."

Working with the University of Delaware (UD) and Delaware Sea Grant, the University opened a shellfish hatchery in Lewes that will begin producing oyster larvae (seed) next spring.

APRIL 2022

The College of American Pathologists awarded accreditation to the University's Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. At the peak of the COVID-19 Omicron Variant outbreak, the Kirkwood Highway lab was handling close to 2,000 samples per day.

The University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council hosted its third annual Unity Day, working with the Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences' Kinesiology program and the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.



"We kind of came to the party late in Delaware," he says. "There's a ton of potential that we're not yet realizing in the state of Delaware that only requires some mindset changes, infrastructure changes, and financial support—and that discussion is taking place."

RECORD-SHATTERING NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATE DURING 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

A record 1,110 students graduated during the 2021-2022 school year, surpassing the past record of 946 graduates set the preceding academic year. The new record includes 175 graduates who came to DSU because of the University's acquisition of Wesley College in 2021.

University President Tony Allen told graduates at the Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement exercises that they have the "wherewithal" to be successful.

"Where'...here, at your University, where you found yourself, and have shown your grit and determination in some of the most challenging times in our

country's history," he said. "'With'...describes your tribe, who you found here—your classmates, your professors, the staff, who wrapped their arms around you, who will forever be in your life. And 'All,' meaning you are ready for it all. And it all matters."

The May 12 Graduate Commencement Ceremony honored 17 doctoral graduates and 219 master's degree graduates.

"Our birthright is our history," National Football League Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith told the audience. "There are three things that you have learned on your journey here that will ensure the championing



of our collective birthright: Keep our history, live our history, and be our history.

"Keeping our history means we never have to apologize that this country is more ours than almost anybody else's. We must keep that history when we fight school boards that want to sanitize our schoolbooks of the very history and context that made us the country that we are," Smith added. "What this diploma means, what your history means, it not only means that you have a key to the room, your birthright means that you own the room. With your degrees, you will be in the business of building, not begging; structuring, not asking; and demanding, not wishing."

The May 14 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony was held for a graduation class of 819, which included 76 Summa Cum Laude, 131 Magna Cum Laude, 126 Cum Laude, and 22 Honorable Mentions.

At the Undergraduate ceremony on May 14, keynote speaker Keisha Lance Bottoms crystallized what the graduates' University experience and diploma should mean to them.

"With the motto of the University etched into your DNA, 'Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve,' you can leave this University with your degree in hand and a solemn responsibility in your heart to live your life in a way that will make a difference in the lives of others," said Bottoms, a CNN correspondent and former Atlanta (Georgia) mayor.

Dr. Allen presented nine Presidential Academic Awards to graduates who maintained a cumulative 4.0 GPA throughout

their entire undergraduate years. The students, their major, and hometown are:

- Emily Campanelli, Political Science, La Grange, Ill.
- Adiah Janvier, Forensic Biology, Jamaica, N.Y.
- Amirah Johnson, Mass Communications, Jersey City, N.J.
- Anny Martinez-Velasquez, Kinesiology, Douglasville, Ga.
- Brandi Nichols, New Media in Arts, Magnolia, Del.
- Anilu Paneda, Nursing, Dover, Del.
- Stafanny Toala, Chemistry, Tucson, Ariz.
- Labrina VanCliff, Mass Communications/PR & Advertising, New Castle, Del.
- Kishaye Williams, Accounting, East Orange, N.J.

Labrina VanCliff, who earned her degree in Mass Communications/PR

and Advertising, became only the second student to win both a Presidential Academic Award and the Presidential Leadership Award, joining Leah Williams—the current president of the National Chapter of the Delaware State University Alumni Association—who won both awards in 2015.



“You've earned the right to celebrate life, to celebrate success, to celebrate endurance, to celebrate your hard work and perseverance, despite the distraction.”

—Dr. Devona Williams
Chair, Board of Trustees



Presidential Academic Award recipients

ACADEMIC FOCUS: DSU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Dr. Stacy Downing sees DSU Downtown as a “welcoming place where students choose to live and thrive and perhaps grab a shuttle to our main campus to have a different engagement experience.”

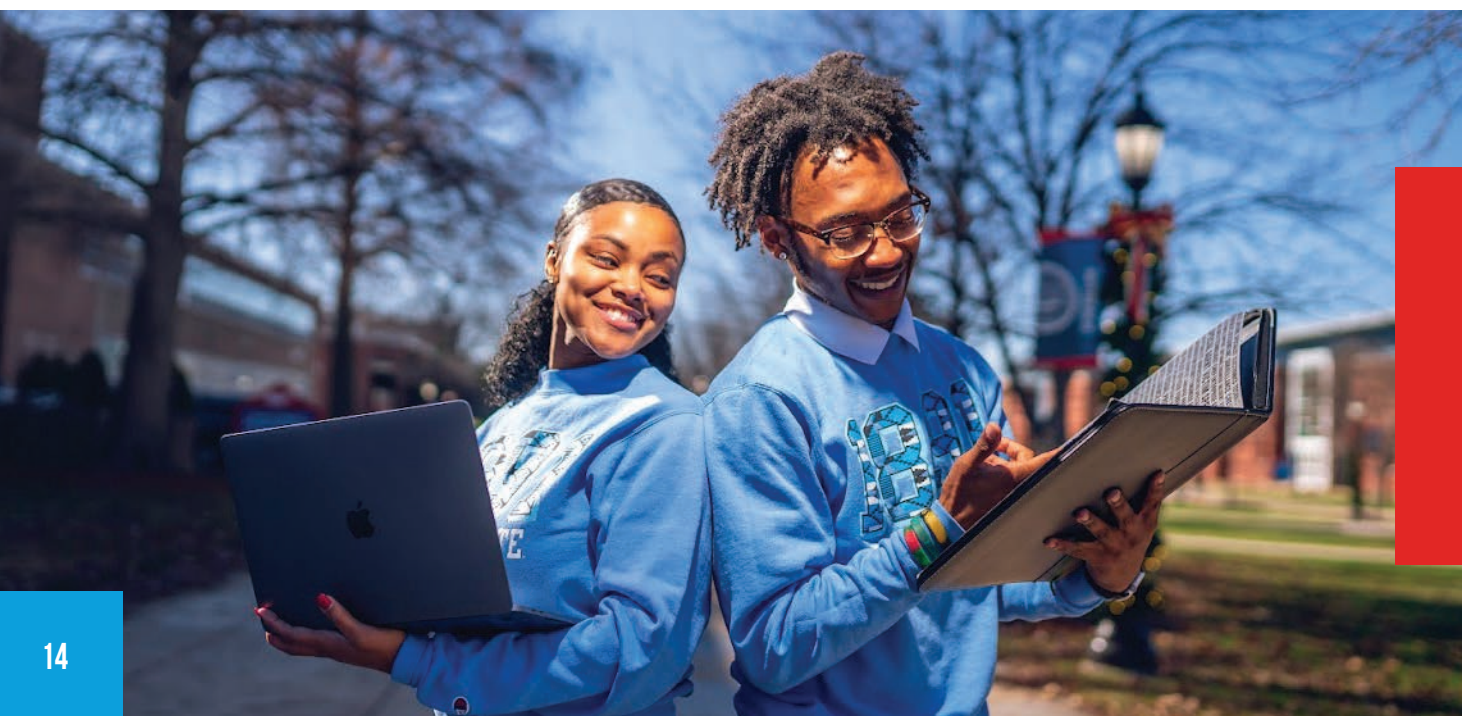
Downing, the chief administrator for DSU Downtown and vice president of strategic initiatives for the University, said DSU Downtown, located on the former Wesley College campus, is the home of the University’s Office of Strategic Initiatives and the Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (led by Dean Gwendolyn Scott-Jones). But it is also the hub of Delaware State University’s strategic effort to further connect the University with the surrounding Dover/Kent County community.

Since acquiring Wesley College in 2021, the University has digitized Wesley’s academic records (making them accessible to students and

alumni); expanded its Career Services area to better connect students with internship and networking opportunities; and invested in upgrades to the physical plant. The DSU Downtown campus hosted 70 classes during the Fall 2021 Semester, 140 for the Spring 2022 Semester, and 200 for the Fall 2022 Semester.

DSU Downtown has hosted Community and Spring Festival Days and numerous Meet & Greets; supported the Downtown Dover Master Plan; and reached out to local businesses, nonprofits, schools, and religious leaders to expand the University’s vision of being a collaborative community partner.

“Looking out my office window at students, faculty, and staff walking across the DSU Downtown campus, I feel blessed that students are choosing to live on this campus, even if it means they need to grab a shuttle to get to an early-morning class, and that local residents see this as a place to learn, to create community-based centers, and to avail themselves of all that DSU has to offer,” Downing said.



Jordan Spencer, a senior Forensic Biology major, and Bralyn Page, a senior Biological Sciences-Health Professions major, were part of a group of 86 HBCU Scholars nationwide selected for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement from a competitive pool of 350 students.

DISTINGUISHED ALUM NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Sonel Shropshire '93, was hired to lead the Global Institute on Equity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights. He has more than 25 years researching, managing, and writing diversification and equity programs, and has created diversity strategic plans used by nearly 70 percent of all colleges and universities nationwide and counseled more than 250 college and university presidents on diversity, inclusion, and equity policies.

The Global Institute was founded in early 2021 with a mission to not only raise awareness about issues surrounding equity but to bring together people and organizations that can transform communities around the world.

With four centers that define the Institute’s priorities, the Global Institute is developing and sharing proven pathways for transformation, closing gaps, and creating a more inclusive economy.

“We can’t do this alone,” he said. “We all know there is an economic gap between cultures. We know there is a health disparity between groups of people. We all know there is an access issue. So, what we are trying to do with the Global Institute is find pathways that will help us close the gaps, so everyone can be on an equal playing field.”

In November 2021, the University announced a \$1 million investment from Barclays Bank into the Global Institute. It also hosted the IMPACT Conference in September 2022, covering topics that included key



Dr. Sonel Shropshire (r) talks to Los Angeles Lakers Vice President for Charitable Affairs Kiesha Nix during the IMPACT Conference.

elements in creating a diversity plan, addressing conflicts, retaining talent, and marketing effectively. Keynote speakers were Michael Strautmanis, executive vice president for external affairs for the Obama Foundation, and Los Angeles Lakers Vice President for Charitable Affairs Kiesha Nix.

JUNE 2022

The University received \$1 million in Community Project Funding for a Center for Urban Revitalization and Entrepreneurship (CURE) in Central Dover. The center, the first of its kind in Kent County, will promote entrepreneurship and community development in Central Dover, in partnership with NCALL, a nonprofit organization that promotes affordable housing.

DSU’s Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research has received a five-year, \$5.7 million National Institutes of Health grant in a significant financial expression of continued support. This is the third significant NIH grant awarded for the center. DSU has received \$27.1 million in NIH funding since 2012.

The University and St. Georges Technical High School established a satellite lab at the high school that will enable St. Georges science faculty to teach students protein analysis through the use of food science technology that the school recently acquired through a USDA grant.

Bob and Karen Fischer of Lewes, DE, donated \$100,000 to support the University’s Aviation Program, including assistance to Certified Flight Instructor student check-ride fees; installation of new cubicles for the program’s area at the Delaware Airpark; and painting of the maintenance area in the terminal building. The gift is the largest cash donation in the 36-year history of the Aviation Program. Bob Fischer is a retired pilot who flew 24 years for United Airlines and 10 years for the now-defunct Pan Am Airlines. Karen Fischer is a retired employee benefits manager for Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library.



HBCU PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM PACKS THE HOUSE IN D.C.

The University hosted our 12th annual HBCU Philanthropy Symposium for the first time in Washington, D.C., focusing on ensuring the sustainability and future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Organizers, led by Founder and University VP of University Advancement Dr. Vita Pickrum '16, created an agenda that included ways to drive student success; enhance student-talent pipelines and career pathways; grow alumni engagement; secure scholarship money; and build innovative partnerships with other schools and the private sector. Highlights included a panel with executives from The Walt Disney Company and the Propel Center on empowering the next generation of storytellers; keynotes by Thurgood Marshall College Fund and United Negro College Fund leaders; and a panel of HBCU Presidents.

More than 300 HBCU and Minority Serving fundraisers, funders,

leaders, community advocates, and philanthropists attended the conference. The presenting sponsors were the Propel Center, an innovation and learning hub for the entire HBCU community supported by founding partners Apple and Southern Company, and the Kresge Foundation, which works to expand opportunity in America's cities through grant making and social investing.

Dr. Harry L. Williams, president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and former president of the University, said, "Without HBCUs, the Black middle class would not be in existence as it is today. You are in this role because you understand the importance of what this is going to do—provide opportunities. Just look on our campuses at the historic buildings that our forefathers created because they knew the power of education and what it would do in terms of lifting up the community."

During the conference, The Walt Disney Company announced a new partnership with the Propel Center to work with HBCU faculty and other industry leaders to create curricula that will prepare students for future careers in arts, media, entertainment, and hospitality.

SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO CRITICAL DISCIPLINE

More than 60 students from Delaware State University and other schools capped off summer research projects by presenting posters that highlighted what they learned. The student projects were supervised by 36 faculty and post-doctoral researchers in nine different departments spread across the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology; the College of Humanities, Education & Social Sciences; and the Wesley College of Health & Behavioral Sciences.

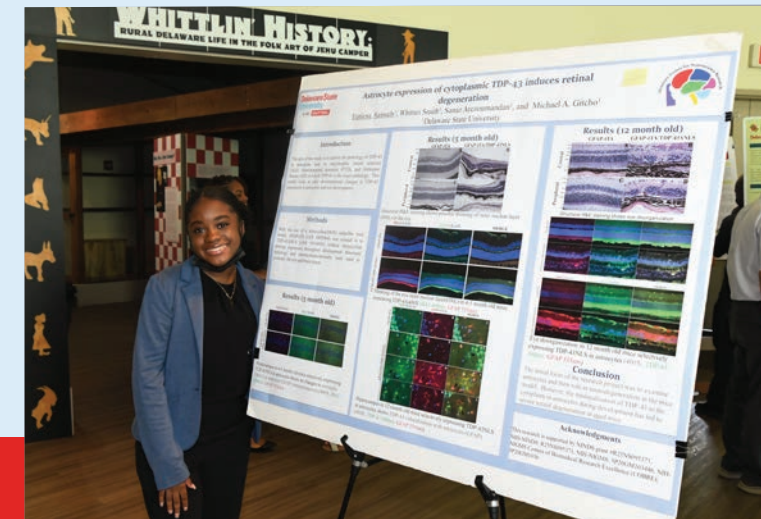
"Science is a relatively small community made up of disciplinary 'neighborhoods.' Staying in contact with them will help you keep up with the news of the neighborhood and open doors to educational and career opportunities," said Dr. Melissa Harrington, associate vice president for Research and director of the Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research.

The program was supported by the National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, Dept. of Defense, and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in seven different research programs.

First-place winners from Delaware State University were **Rianna Minter**, **Ian Smith**,

and **Zymir Robinson** (Biochemistry/Chemistry/Microbiology category); **Lawrence Taylor** and **Berl Eddlie Brilliant** (Physics/Engineering); and **Victor McMillian** (Neuroscience).

The University established the program in separate departments in 2004 and organized it into a single symposium in 2009.



Eunicsa Samuels, a sophomore Forensic Biology major, worked on a mouse model for Alzheimer's disease with Dr. Michael Gitcho. Samuels was part of the Neuroscience Research program funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke.

JULY / AUG 2022

The Marketing and Communications Department launched DSU HUB, a new University-branded application that provides greater connectivity and a personalized experience for students, faculty, alumni, parents, and the community. The DSU HUB app can be obtained free from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. **Curtis Winslow** led the development and implementation efforts.

The University received a \$488,200 grant from the U.S. Army/Department of Defense for a Raman Microscopy System (RMS) to enhance our material and device characterization capabilities and accomplish research goals for various ongoing projects supported by the Department of Defense and other funding agencies. Physics Professor **Dr. Mukti Rana** is the principal investigator.

The University brought together members of the campus community to discuss best practices in connection with marketing and branding for our first-ever L.I.F.T. (Leverage, Inform, Focus, Transform) Conference on July 27.

Zhang Wei, M.S. '92, established a \$10,000 endowed scholarship that will support Pre-Law students. "I want to see more African Americans and Asian Americans represented among attorneys in the legal system," said Zhang, who is considered the University's most prominent Chinese graduate in part due to his legal victory in an American discrimination case affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

Great universities conduct research that impacts their communities and the world around them. At Delaware State University, innovative research occurs across and between all colleges and departments, but we've also established our faculty as national leaders in critical areas that have attracted major funding support.

Of equal importance, our research always incorporates students, and consistently works to prepare the nation's next generation of scientists.

QUANTUM SENSING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE EXPLORES THE FRONTIERS OF PHYSICS

Under the leadership of Drs. Gour Pati and Renu Tripathi, the center began with a \$7.5 million Department of Defense grant in 2020 and has consistently expanded both its mission and support to develop applications ranging from inertial navigation to understanding the human brain while training students from underrepresented groups to enter the field.

The Center collaborates with Northwestern University, CCDC Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), and Harvard University on these efforts. The majority of the research focuses on cold-atom-based systems such as ultra-precise atomic clocks, atomic and solid-state spin magnetometers, and atom interferometric gyroscopes/accelerometers that have multiple uses in inertial navigational aids and better understanding the operation of the human brain.

IBM-SPIE's HBCU Accelerator Awards recently recognized Dr. Tripathi with a \$100,000 award in part for ensuring that "the field is open, accessible, and inclusive for the current and future generations of optics and photonics students."



Dr. Renu Tripathi and Dr. Gour Pati share a laugh with Andrew Elliott and Mariela Suarez, who work in the Quantum Sensing Center for Excellence as they pursue their thesis research for their M.S. (Applied Optics) degrees.

RECORD \$18 MILLION GRANT WILL IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

HBCUs have a special mission in terms of improving the lives of people living in low-resource communities of color.

To help DSU realize this mission, the National Institutes of Health has awarded DSU an \$18.36 million grant (the largest research grant in our history) to establish the Interdisciplinary Health Equity Research (IHER) Center. The IHER Center will develop the University's leadership in health equity research by funding innovative research and robust, collaborative community partnerships. Innovative research ongoing in the Center includes development of a personalized medicine approach to treat triple-negative breast cancer, studies of the role of social factors in disparities in sleep health, and AI-based

approaches to identifying biomarkers for metabolic and age-related diseases.

Our IHER Center is built on a foundation of existing research and development initiatives, including the state's first and only Molecular Diagnostic and Human Genomic testing lab for which the University has received more than \$22 million in state funding to establish the lab and upgrade the infrastructure supporting it.

Among other partnerships and programs already in place that will be expanded and joined by new efforts are a collaborative effort with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services to combat COVID vaccine



Dr. Melissa Harrington, director of the new NIH-funded IHER Center, meets with users of the OSCAR Imaging Facility, which is getting state-of-the-art microscopes for biomedical research with funding through the IHER Center. From left, Drs. Amir Khan and Hwan Kim; Dr. Harrington; Bessem Mariette Akonjue, a student in the Food Science M.S. program; and Dr. Jianli Sun.

hesitancy, investigations into the impact of bullying on gay young men of color, the Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research, the Delaware Community Well-being Initiative, and the certificate program in Healing Trauma from an African Centered Healing Approach.

INBRE RESEARCH TACKLES BIG QUESTIONS

Dr. Melissa Harrington, associate vice president for Research, has provided the leadership and drive behind the Delaware IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), whose research creates jobs, improves the health of Delawareans, provides biomedical research opportunities for undergraduates, develops early-career investigators into becoming independent researchers, and improves the state's biomedical research infrastructure.

That research tackles real-world issues: Dr. Mohammed Khan's student researchers use exhaled human breath analysis for early diagnosis of life-threatening diseases like lung cancer. Dr. Michael Gitcho's research focuses on breakthrough clinical understandings of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, Dr. Hwan Kim is examining state-of-the-art approaches to Parkinson's Disease, and Dr. Karl Minetti and his students tackle Breast Cancer. Dr. Harrington, her colleagues, and students at the

Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research measure the function of nerve cells/neural tissues to model neurological disease.

These and many other endeavors have been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, other federal programs, and the state of Delaware, in amounts exceeding \$50 million over the past decade.

FILLING BIG SHOES: HUNT-FLETCHER AND RIVERA NAMED AS FIRST DR. TERRANCE NEWTON SCHOLARS

Senior Education Majors **Jaron Hunt-Fletcher** and **Jaden Rivera** were named the first Dr. Terrance Newton Scholars, a scholarship named in honor of a Del State alumnus and respected educator who passed away in March 2022 at the age of 47 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

“I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Newton’s school and seeing the magic happen with his children—he gave each one of them a look filled with hope and belief,” said Dr. Shelley Rouser, chair of the University’s Education Department. “He made such a huge impact on aspiring leaders in our graduate programs as well. Terrance is deeply missed, but it is our intention to inspire and support the next

generation of aspiring teachers to be just as impactful.”

Rivera graduated in December 2022 and plans on teaching physical education. Hunt-Fletcher is majoring in elementary education and hopes to teach second grade after graduation in Spring 2023.

The new scholarship reflects the importance that the Education Department is placing on educators being representative of the children they teach. Rouser said, “It is worthy to emphasize that this is important and changes the trajectory for children of color, but it is just as important for all children to learn from teachers of various backgrounds and respect that knowledge and support can come from those who may not look like them.”

“Young Black boys tend to mirror what Black men model,” said Darren Rainey, who joined the University in 2022 to recruit and retain well-prepared educators of color. “They can’t be what they can’t see. It’s the ‘I want to be like him!’ mindset. We want to reframe who they see in the classroom, so teaching is impactful, cool.”



Jaron Hunt-Fletcher and Jaden Rivera



Dr. Terrance Newton ‘99, M.S. 05, was a groundbreaking school and community leader who attracted national attention for his revitalization of Warner Elementary School in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. He was also an adjunct faculty member at the University.

Newton was known for his skills not only as an educator but also as a barber. He set up shop at the school to give young men haircuts and boost their self-esteem. His innovative approach to nurturing students was recognized often over the years, earning Newton airtime on local and national news channels and even on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* in 2020.

“Dr. Terrance Newton was an inspiration from the moment I met him more than two decades ago,” said University President Tony Allen. “We will hold up his legacy at the University and make sure young Black male educators find their voice in the power of his example.”

Delaware Governor John Carney said, “This is such a heart-wrenching loss for our community. Dr. Newton was everything a school leader should be and more. He was selfless, dedicated, enthusiastic, and cared so deeply about his students and staff. That was clear every time you walked in the front doors of Warner Elementary. I was inspired by him and will continue to be, every time I see his students walking to and from school, just a few blocks from my house. He will be greatly missed.”

CLASS IS IN SESSION FOR NEW EARLY COLLEGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

More than 150 students have enrolled at the Early College Middle School, continuing the University’s vision of helping students be successful at both the high school and college level and make college more affordable.

The new middle school is an extension of the Early College High School, which opened in 2013. Both

schools are now known collectively as the Early College School (ECS).

A student at the Early College School can earn high school credits while in middle school and up to 60 college credits—two years’ worth of study—for no charge while in high school.

The middle school opened with 153 students registered, bringing total enrollment to 541. Many of the middle-school students have older siblings that have attended the high school, said Dr. Marsha Horton, president of the Early College School’s board of directors.

“We want to start the college-going culture one step earlier,” said Head of School Dr. Evelyn Edney. “By opening a middle school, we can work together to combat obstacles that many students face to better prepare them for high school success.”

Dr. Nyia McCants is principal of ECS and Dara Savage is associate principal.



Mrs. Karla Bell, Chorus Director and Mr. Darrynn Harris, Science Teacher

SEP 2022

The University is partnering with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to expand a program offering a direct connection to community members struggling with opioid use disorder and other behavioral health issues to treatment, recovery, and prevention services. The Community Well-Being Initiative (CWBI), which began in 2021 in high-risk areas of New Castle County, will be expanded to serve targeted neighborhoods in Kent County.

The University was named one of 18 Fulbright Historically Black Colleges and Universities Institutional Leaders by the U.S. Department of State. The honor recognizes the strong partnership between the J. William Fulbright Program and these HBCUs.

The National Science Foundation awarded DSU two three-year grants totaling nearly \$1.6 million to use data science and machine learning to identify and analyze biomolecules and to conduct research on acetylcholine, a brain chemical that plays a critical role in how we learn and remember. Dr. Hacene Boukari is the principal investigator on the \$600,000 data-science project while Dr. Hakeem Lawal is the principal investigator on the nearly \$1 million acetylcholine project.

2022 HOMECOMING



“

There's a lot of people that might be wondering why I'm here at Del State. It's because you're an HBCU and you play an important role in creating opportunities and possibilities across the country. We're here at Del State because it holds such a special place in my heart. There is no better example of a university that has changed so many lives.”

— President Joe Biden during an Oct. 21 visit

OCT 2022

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research awarded a \$1 million grant to the University to develop and investigate ultra-thin materials for use in various electronic, optical, and magnetic devices. Dr. Mukti Rana, professor of Physics & Engineering, serves as the principal investigator of this five-year grant to find alternatives to larger, slower silicon-based materials.

The College of Business (COB) held a Women's Entrepreneurship Week event that provided DSU-connected women an opportunity to share their business pursuits and successes. Sponsored by the College of Business and its Delaware Center for Enterprise Development (DCED), the event was held on Oct. 18 in the Bank of America Building.

The Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (WCHBS) received scholarship support through an \$18,000 donation from the AT&T Foundation for first responders who enroll in the WCHBS Trauma Academy's certificate program in Organization Trauma and Resiliency Training Program.

Representatives from the DuPont Company and the Delaware Sustainable Chemistry Alliance (DESCA) met with students to discuss STEM-related macro-trends, innovations, and career pathways. Delaware has 47 chemistry establishments and ranks 4th in the U.S. in average annual pay in these industries.



COB Dean Michael Casson in the classroom with business-school students

ACADEMIC FOCUS: COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (COB)

The College of Business (COB) kicked off the year with a successful extension of its accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in April and ended it with a busy fourth quarter that included successful events and fundraising efforts and the launch of new programs.

With AACSB, the focus during the accreditation process was on demonstrating excellence in teaching, research, curricula development, and student learning.

In July, COB introduced a very successful two-week residential financial literacy camp geared toward high school-age students.

DEEP Day (the Delaware Executive Exchange Program) in October is always a highlight of the school year, with 901 student participants; \$220,000 in sponsorships from 22 corporate partners including Vanguard, JPMC, Subaru, and Barclays. October also saw Women's Entrepreneurship Week with 64 attendees, including 18 students, and partners from the Delaware Prosperity Partnership, the Small

Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, the Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Center for Urban Revitalization.

Alumni engagement efforts under the March to 1k campaign flag blew through its goal, attracting financial commitments from nearly 13,000 alumni.

During the year, the College of Business launched its student-led Innovation Café, a unique collaborative partnership between academics and industry to ensure a comprehensive student entrepreneurship experience, and opened its Center for Urban Revitalization and Entrepreneurship incubator.

In addition, COB ensured its place in the regional innovation ecosystem via its inclusion in the NSF I-Corps Diverse Emerging Entrepreneurial Partnership (DEEP) technology hub. This \$15M investment by the National Science Foundation has charged the College with leading the Hub's effort in bringing diverse communities to the ecosystem.

Finally, efforts are under way to open the PAVER (Professional Augmented and Virtual Engage Reality) lab in Spring 2023 with support from private partnerships.

HBCU WEEK ATTRACTS TERRIFIC APPLICANTS



Created in 2017 by Wilmington native Ashley Christopher, HBCU Week continues to introduce Black and Brown students to public and private HBCUs. This year's HBCU Week in Wilmington attracted 7,000 students who met representatives from 25 HBCUs and 10 corporations and were offered a tour of the University's Early College Middle School. HBCU Week then moved to Orlando, Florida, where nearly 10,000 students from across the country had an opportunity to apply for on-site admission from 53 HBCUs.

DSU alone admitted more than 300 students and offered

\$6M+ in Academic Merit Scholarship funding through the two HBCU Week programs.

"HBCU Week has had a tremendous impact on our enrollment efforts because it encourages many high-school students in Delaware who believe they can't go to college to take a second look and provides a pipeline for employment from college to corporate America," said Executive Director of Admissions Kareem McLemore.

SIX DSU ALUMNI ELECTED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

S tell Parker Selby '71 joined five other DSU alumni who were elected to the Delaware General Assembly in November. Selby, who was a member of the Board of Trustees before her election, joins Reps. **Nnamdi Chukwuocha '99, MSW '06; Stephanie T. Bolden '69; and Sherae'a (Rae) Moore '12** in the House and Senators **Darius Brown** and **Marie Pinkney, MSW '14**, who was the first DSU alumnus to be elected to the Delaware Senate in 2020.

NOV 2022

The University's Department of Wellness and Recreation (WellRec) has established an eSports Lounge and Tech Center that will provide new video game league outlets as well as internship possibilities for STEM majors interested in exploring the gaming industry as a career possibility – an important opportunity considering that people of color are significantly under-represented in the gaming industry.

The Florida Chapter of the Delaware State University Alumni Association donated \$5,000 in support of the Aviation Program and to have a plane named after the late Lt. Col. Leo R. Gray, a veteran Tuskegee pilot who flew for the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group during World War II.



The Women's Volleyball team won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship for the first time in nearly four decades and qualified for the NCAA Division 1 tournament.

NEW ACADEMIC MAJORS

The University approved new majors during 2022, most of which will be introduced in 2023.

- The Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance launched the Financial Planning & Wealth Management (CFP-board registered) major under its Finance bachelor's program in Fall 2022. This College of Business program is preparing students to sit for the CFP® Certification and become a Financial Planner. The program will be aligned with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards and will be built around the eight Job Task Domains.
- The Department of Education's Master of Arts in Equitable Curriculum and Instructional Leadership (ECIL) is a graduate program designed with teachers in mind and focuses on advancing social, racial, and educational justice. This degree program develops candidates in three distinct strands: equity literacy, pedagogical practices for cultural responsiveness, and authentic engagement through a social justice lens. The first cohort of the ECIL program is anticipated to launch in Spring 2023.
- The Psychology Department will launch an online Bachelor of Arts degree program in Alcohol and Drug Counseling and a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology with subspecialties in Neuropsychology and School Psychology in Fall 2023. The Alcohol and Drug Counseling degree program will be unique in the region and robustly support students to become proficient in the four domains of the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) credentialing examination.
- The Nursing Department will launch two online programs in Fall 2023 – a Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner program and a Family Nurse Practitioner program.
- The Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) program will launch in Fall 2023,



The Early Childhood Innovation Center (ECIC) is supporting early childhood professions thanks to \$31.6M in funding from the State of Delaware. The ECIC is committed to ensuring that children of color and those children living in poverty have opportunities to engage in high quality early childhood experiences. The center is scheduled to open with a newly constructed building in 2024; however, the ECIC is now redesigning and implementing a statewide scholarship program to obtain nationally recognized credentials and associates and bachelor's degrees. Pictured (L-R) Initiatives Officer Dr. Dannae Sewell, Executive Director Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski, and Operations Officer Marcie Pate. Not pictured: Senior Administrative Assistant Jasmine Passwaters.

building on the University's status as the only accredited social work program in Delaware. Course study for the DSW program differs from the Ph.D. program, which goes beyond research to focus on the exploration of complex societal and organizational planned change processes.

- The College of Business will introduce a cooperative education program track in its Business Management bachelor's program with a concentration in MIS/ERP. The launch is scheduled for the Spring semester, pending final approvals, to help address information technology labor shortages throughout Delaware.

SCHOLARSHIP BALL RAISES \$1.2M FOR STUDENTS

The Delaware State University Scholarship Ball on Dec. 10 at the Chase Center in Wilmington raised \$1.2 million to help students (and prospective students) achieve their goals for a better life and the University to build on our commitment to access and opportunity. Board of Trustees Chair John Ridgeway '75 and Vice Chair Dr. Devona Williams hosted the event, which featured a performance by Boyz II Men, the No. 1 best-selling R&B group of all time.

Honorees included:

- Alumni Award: **William "CJ" Charlton '95**, a product of the Aviation Program and a 17-year pilot for United Airlines.
- Community Partner Award: **Jim and Jocelyn Stewart**, a former and a current member of the Board of Trustees, respectively.
- Corporate Partners Award: **JPMorgan Chase** for its commitment to student success at the University, including more than \$2.3 million in funding and its ongoing student engagement and financial-literacy programs.



DEC 2022

Lee Hull, offensive coordinator at 2022 MEAC co-champion Howard, has been named DSU head football coach. Hull spent two years as head coach at Morgan State, where he was MEAC coach of the year in 2014.

Fifteen primarily first- and second-year University students from the departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry presented their research findings at a symposium in the Luna I. Mishoe Science Center. The students applied for and were selected to participate in this laboratory experiential learning project sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence Grant project. Students enrolled in the program were paired with STEM faculty mentors and worked at least 10 hours per week over the course of the 16-week fall semester.

MILESTONES

Faculty Excellence Awards



Three DSU professors received 2021-2022 Faculty Excellence Awards in the categories of advising, teaching, and research.

- **Dr. Yanfeng Yue**, an assistant professor in Chemistry within the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, received the Research award.
- **Dr. Kalpalatha Melmaiee**, an associate professor of Plant Breeding and Molecular Genetics in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, received the Advising award. Melmaiee also served as a Fulbright specialist in her native India during the summer of 2022.
- **Dr. Cara Gomez**, an assistant professor in Kinesiology in the Department of Public and Allied Health Sciences, received the Teaching award.

Alumni

- **Maxine Lewis '73**, a trailblazer for women in sports and DSU's first full-time sports information director, was featured on the MEAC website and is the 2023 DSU MEAC Distinguished Alumna.
- **Gary Laing '90** was named the 2021 Delaware Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association. Laing has been the radio voice of the

football and basketball Hornets since 2018 and is an adjunct professor in the Mass Communications department.

- **Pamela Hall '94**, the global head of Philips' sleep division, is leading a project focused on working with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to support HBCUs working to increase health outcomes for communities of color.
- **Dr. James L. Moore III '95** was named to head the Directorate for Education and Human Resources at the U.S. National Science Foundation. Since 2018, he has been annually cited by Education Week as one of the 200 most influential scholars and researchers in the United States.

- **Dr. Latoyia Bailey '96**, principal of The Arts Academy At Benjamin Rush, was 2022's sole Philadelphia recipient of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education. She was featured on the Kelly Clarkson Show along with Quinta Brunson of Abbott Elementary.



- **Jamahl C. Boyd '97**, who serves as CEO of the Crossroads Center in the Cincinnati area, was honored with a "day" by Hamilton County (Ohio) County Commissioners for his dedication to providing addiction treatment services to underserved populations.
- **Dr. Quincy Rose-Sewell '04, '07**, was named vice president of academic support for Pueblo (Colorado) Community College. In 2015, she was one of 50 women worldwide selected to participate in Harvard University's Women in Education Leadership Program.

- **Sharita Peterson '08** was named vice president of Brand Creative under MTV Entertainment Group.

- **Stephon Fitzpatrick '10** was hired as executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence, which reports jointly to the Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and Education.

- **Devin Wilkins, '11** has published the Black Baltimore Renaissance Coloring Book as part of his Meeting You Where You Are mentoring program for male youth in Baltimore City detention facilities.

- **Eric Brown '13** received the Intellectual Contribution Award for Technology, Innovation, and Education during the Harvard Graduate School of Education's May Convocation exercises.

- **Jannah Williams '18** was one of four local artists who created a mural for a Wilmington business owner in the wake of the brutal death of George Floyd. Williams (also known as J the Artist) created her mural over the shuttered windows of the Nomad Bar on Orange Street. The mural became part of a Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs collection that was shared with other states.



- **Cassandra Boltman '21**, a four-year letter winner for the Hornets' women's tennis team, received the \$10,000 Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship from the NCAA for the 2022-23 school year.

Athletic Successes

- **Jahsha Bluntt '07**, a two-time MEAC Player of the Year in basketball was named to the 2023 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.

- Baseball head coach **JP Blandin** was named the 2022 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Coach of the Year after the team won the regular-season conference championship.

- Freshman running back **Marquis Gillis** of Milford was selected as the 2022 MEAC Rookie of the Year. Gillis was one of 12 Hornets named to the three All-MEAC football teams, including first-teamers **Isaiah Williams, Brooks Parker, Romell Harris Freeman, and Matt Noll**.

- The American Volleyball Coaches Association honored head coach **Dr. Bruce Atkinson** and the Hornets as a recipient of the United States Marine/AVCA Team Academic Award, which honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.

- **Kyle Adams** was named to the newly created position of Deputy Director of Athletics, where he is responsible for areas related to student-athlete welfare, risk management, compliance, and recruiting.

- **Emanuel Davis '91** was one of 20 Philadelphia-area basketball and media greats to be inducted into the Philadelphia Black Basketball Hall of Fame on Sept. 24. Davis competed for the Hornets from 1988-1991, scored 1,269 points, and was an All-MEAC performer during his collegiate career.

- The Delaware State women's 4x200 meter relay team of junior **Lakendra Harpe** and freshmen **Khaliyah White, Dianna Koger, and Aaliyah Robinson** took home first place in the prestigious Penn Relays.



Faculty/Staff

- **Dr. Marlene Saunders '67** was honored by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) as a Social Work Pioneer in recognition of her years of service and contributions in the field. Dr. Saunders is a 30-year faculty member in the University's Department of Social Work.



- **Dr. Francine Edwards**, the University's deputy chief administrative officer, was named by the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions as a 2021 MSI Aspiring Leader, a two-year program in which mid-career leaders from the education, nonprofit, and business sectors will mentor them in an effort to prepare the next generation of MSI presidents.

- Adjunct Associate Professor of Chemistry **Dr. Esosa Iriowen M.S.'10**, received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award, the highest honor presented by Lions Clubs International and a Ted Reiver Fellow Award from the Dover Lions Club for his leadership in providing eyesight screening for preschoolers in Kent County.

- **Dr. Donna Bain Butler**, an adjunct professor in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Bilingual Education Master of Arts Program in the College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, was selected to participate in an English Language Specialist project focused on training police officers in the Philippines in early 2023.

- Director of Athletics **Alecia Shields-Gadson** has begun a four-year term as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Council.

- **Dr. Charlie Wilson '84**, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, released his autobiography *During Racism's Remission - From Colored Fieldworker to Black Professor*.

- **DSU President Tony Allen** was included in the 2022 Class of Academy Fellows by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that develops, adopts, and implements solutions to government's most significant challenges.

- **Kamesia M. House** was named associate vice president of Strategic Enrollment Management and executive director of financial aid and scholarships. In this role, Ms. House oversees financial aid and scholarships, Veterans' Affairs, the Dover Air Force Base Campus, and enrollment academic services and compliance.

Students

- **Maya Bythwood**, an International Studies major from Dover, and Donovan McNatt, a Criminal Justice major from Camden, Del., traveled to Ghana with Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Chair Dr. Raymond Tutu to conduct data collection fieldwork as part of a National Science Foundation grant titled "Excellence in Research: Scaling Social Capital and Health Across Space."

- **Bryce Banks**, a Natural Resources/Wildlife Management major, was one of four students nationwide to receive \$25,000 toward his college expenses from Bimbo Bakeries USA (BBU).

- Sophomore **Maria Garcia Rabago** won two gold medals in the 20-24 age group at the 2022 World Triathlon Championships Series in Montreal, Canada.

- Six Mass Communications students—**Chelsea Abrams, Michelle Crockett, Gwenna Gentle, Nia Pope, Carlos Vasquez, and Isaiah Williams**—and their professors Dr. Reneé Marine and Zachary Kimball, received a Sports Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) for their seven-minute documentary, "Once a Hornet. Always a Hornet. The Past, Present and Future of Delaware State University Football."



LEADERSHIP

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The July/August cover story of Delaware Business magazine—"The New Power of WE—Emerging Female Leadership at Delaware State University"—traced the evolution of the University's Board of Trustees from two out of 15 a decade ago to eight out of 14 when the story was written. In addition, women constitute nine of the 15 members of the vice-presidential level Administrative Council and three of the five academic deans. Written by Dr. Steve Newton, professor emeritus of History and Political Science and former presidential fellow for media relations and executive communications, the article tells the stories of Dr. Devona Williams, Dr. Wilma Mishoe, Dr. Sandra DeLauder, and others and how they changed the organizational culture at the University.



DSU Scholars at Work (L-R) Yeabsina Haliu, Marayah Webster-Johnson, Alexander Portilla, Tiffany Gray, and Omar Parker.

THANK YOU!

I hope this report has given you a sense of Delaware State University's commitment to generational transformation and how we're transforming students' life trajectories.

None of this would be possible without the support of our alumni, our faculty and staff, our partners, and local, state, and federal governments.

In 2022, we saw record levels of donations from corporate and nonprofit partners, a record 20% alumni participation rate (a nearly 18% increase over 2021), and \$45 million in research awards.

We continued to raise the bar and solidify a foundation that will propel the University to greater heights. We saw record numbers of research and private grant awards; and consecutive

and major gift donors. We distributed a record number of student scholarships.

We want to thank ALL the companies, foundations, and individuals who supported our efforts, including:

- Agilent Technologies launched a partnership with the University to increase the share of underrepresented students entering STEM fields, contributing \$1 million for new lab instrumentation; committing \$3.5 million in research instrumentation; and providing additional scholarship, mentorship, and internship opportunities.
- JPMorgan Chase provided \$709,000 (on top of state support) for the Early Childhood Innovation Center.
- PNC, TD Bank, and Wells Fargo

continued their support of the Center for Urban Revitalization and Entrepreneurship (CURE).

- Delmarva Power continues to support students, renewable energy solutions and the Center for Research and Renewable Energy.
- The Strada Education Network continued its support of scholarships and professional development opportunities through its Strada Scholars program starting the second cohort of students this year.

At Delaware State University, the student success story is compelling and attracts individual donors, corporations, and governmental entities to become more engaged about supporting the future diverse workforce.



Junior Forensic Biology Major **Jahmyah Robertson** was the first recipient of the "Words are a Creative Force" Scholarship, a full-tuition award in honor of President Tony Allen's mother, R. Leatha Allen, who passed away in 2022.

We welcome your partnership in this journey. You can make a gift anytime online at desu.edu/givenow. You can also contact us by email at DSUFoundation@desu.edu or by phone at 302-857-6055 to learn how you can help our students impact the world.

With Deep Gratitude,

Dr. Vita Pickrum

Vita Pickrum, Ed.D. '16
Vice President, University Advancement
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