

ignite

2020-21

THE MAGAZINE OF DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ME S. PARKER
TECHNOLOGY CENT

Life Changing

LOCAL PHILANTHROPISTS
ANDREW & SHARON KELLEHER
INVEST IN STUDENT FUTURES

ignite

THE MAGAZINE OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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President's message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Ignite*, Delaware County Community College's new magazine. We chose to name this annual publication *Ignite* because it means "to fire up or awaken." The year 2020 will be remembered for many awakenings. We experienced a pandemic and witnessed protests against the inequities and social injustices that have plagued our country for generations. We also experienced the historic election of the first female vice president of the United States, who also happens to be a woman of color. Each of these experiences served as an awakening, and I am proud of how the College has responded.

Our faculty and staff have embraced a virtual teaching and learning environment that supports our students both inside and outside of the classroom, and our students have adapted to this changing educational landscape while at the same time raising their voices to demand equity and social justice and turning out to vote in record numbers.

As we continue to embrace the future, know that the mission of Delaware County Community College remains unfaltering: to facilitate learning by providing quality educational programs and services that are student-focused, accessible, comprehensive and flexible to meet the educational and training needs of the diverse communities we serve.

We are the community's college, dedicated to the principle of providing equitable access to quality teaching and learning, but always evolving to meet the needs of our students, our communities and the businesses and industries we support. It is both our duty and our promise to help those who enter our doors to reach their fullest potential.

I hope this magazine not only introduces you to the amazing students, faculty and staff of the College but also ignites within you the flame of change.

Sincerely,



Dr. L. Joy Gates Black
President





Brothers Peirce and Braden Ellis

Gifted brothers earn college credits while still in high school

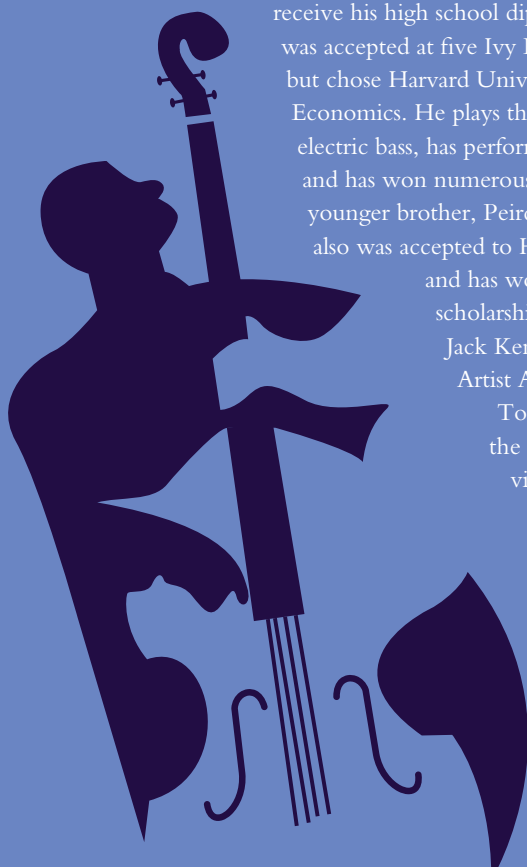
Brothers Braden and Peirce Ellis of Broomall earned more than 120 college credits while still in high school by participating in high school dual enrollment programs at the College and at Drexel University.

Barbara Ellis, who home schools her sons, says dual enrollment provided them with an opportunity to be evaluated by people other than their parents and helped them learn how to navigate a college environment. “The Delaware County Community College High School Dual Enrollment program was crucial to what they have been able to do academically,” she says.

Dual enrollment enables qualified high school students to take college-level courses at the College or through the College’s College in High School program in which certified high school/college-level instructors teach college-level courses at the high school. More than 500 students—taking more than 3,100 credits—are participating in the College’s dual enrollment programs this spring.

The Ellis brothers are award-winning, jazz and classical musicians and stellar students. Braden earned about 60 college credits, which was enough for him, under state guidelines, to receive his high school diploma last year. He was accepted at five Ivy League universities but chose Harvard University to major in Economics. He plays the double bass and electric bass, has performed at Carnegie Hall and has won numerous scholarships. His younger brother, Peirce, who plays viola, also was accepted to Harvard University and has won numerous scholarships, including a 2021 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award.

To learn more about the Ellis brothers’ story, visit www.facebook.com/ellisvillage. 📌



Free training for veterans offered

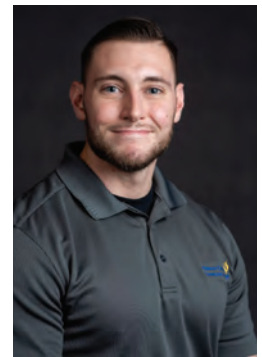
The College serves more than 400 student veterans and their family members, including 170 students who receive military education benefits. For this reason, the College received a 2020-21 Military Friendly® School designation from VIQTORY, publisher of *G.I. Jobs*® magazine and *Military Spouse*® magazine.

“This designation recognizes the important work we do at the College to create a welcoming environment for active, reserve and former members of the U.S. Armed Services and their families,” says Delaware County Community College President Dr. L. Joy Gates Black.

For instance, with the help of a Delaware County Workforce Development Board grant, qualified veterans can register for short-term certificate programs that can be applied to higher-level coursework or an Associate in Applied Science degree. Eligible training includes automotive

technology, CNC programming, electro-mechanical technologies, manufacturing operations, medical assistant, Municipal Police Academy, network engineering, paramedic, accounting, residential electric, web development and welding.

The College also offers career counseling, credit for military training and day, evening, weekend and online classes. Many faculty, students and staff are veterans, including U.S. Army veteran Darren Lipscomb, Director of Outreach, Recruitment and Enrollment Services, and student volunteer and 2020 Associate in Science in Nursing graduate Nicholas Delloso, one of 48 student veterans nationwide to receive a 2020 Student Veteran Leadership Award from *G.I. Jobs*® magazine. Delloso is now a licensed nurse studying to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from West Chester University (WCU) through a unique RN-BSN Concurrent Enrollment Agreement offered by WCU and the College. 📌



U.S. Army veteran Nicholas Delloso '20, who volunteers at the College and works with veterans, received a 2020 Student Veteran Leadership Award from *G.I. Jobs*® magazine.



From left: James Mearns, Director of Clinical Education for the Respiratory Therapy Program; Genny Cavanagh, Assistant Dean, Allied Health & Nursing; Patti Curran, Program Director for the Respiratory Therapy Program; Dennett West, Respiratory Therapy student; Cesira Giacomini, Respiratory Therapy student; Faye Meloy, Dean, Allied Health & Nursing.

In times of crisis, the College responds

As the COVID-19 pandemic escalated last spring, Delaware County Community College faculty and staff from Allied Health and Nursing, as well from Emergency Services, responded to the overwhelming community need. They collected and donated supplies from the College’s training facilities to area hospitals and county health agencies, including surgical gloves, disposable gowns, hand sanitizer, biohazard bags, surgical caps and other medical supplies.

Hospitals were quickly becoming overwhelmed with the number of patients with respiratory failure, a life-threatening complication of the disease. In addition to mobilizing much needed personal protective equipment and supplies for distribution to frontline healthcare workers, staff and the director of the Respiratory Therapy program quickly deployed a ventilator, used by students in the College’s Healthcare Simulation laboratory, to Crozer Medical Center for use in direct patient care. That one piece

of critical medical equipment offered life-saving respiratory support for numerous patients from the local community, and it is still in use today.

Dr. Faye Meloy, Dean of Allied Health and Nursing, also says that numerous faculty, staff, students and graduates have been, and continue to be, employed in direct patient care throughout this healthcare crisis. Meloy says their contributions are examples of healthcare professionals “at their best”.

The quick action of Allied Health, Nursing and Emergency Services faculty and staff is indicative of the College overall. Confronted by the challenge of state-mandated safety restrictions and building closures, faculty at each of the College’s seven locations quickly and adeptly transformed dozens of normally in-person courses to remote and online formats. Student counseling kicked into overdrive to make sure students had laptop computers as well as virtual advising and course registration opportunities. Information Technology staff labored day and night to make sure computer systems

and software could handle the mammoth task of switching from in-person to virtual operations. Enrollment services shifted to virtual information sessions for prospective students and their parents.

The College’s facilities staff, heeding the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, worked many hours to ensure a safe working environment for essential staff. The College also worked with the state to receive COVID-19 waivers so that first-responder, nursing and other students, who are required to do hands-on training in order to earn professional certification, could take in-person classes on a limited basis.

“This crisis has changed not only what we do but also how we do it,” says President Dr. L. Joy Gates Black. “Yet together we are facing these challenges and finding solutions.”

In all, it was a team effort unrivaled in the history of the College, and students and residents in the many communities the College serves in Delaware and Chester Counties were the beneficiaries. 🌟

Innovative Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Provides Tuition-Free Pathway for Students

A Pennsylvania apprenticeship program benefitting early childhood educators is gaining national attention for its innovative approach to improving the workforce. Delaware County Community College's Dr. Jean Allison, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, is leading the way in implementing the program, which provides students with a tuition-free associate degree and on-the-job learning.

BREAKING BARRIERS TO ADDRESS A WORKFORCE NEED

Though early educators are essential to creating high-quality learning experiences for children during their formative years, employees face a number of barriers, including financial challenges and work-life balance. The median pay in the field is very low at just \$14.67 per hour, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This presents a challenge in attracting college-educated employees and encouraging incumbent workers to further their education beyond the Childhood Development Associate certificate. This is where Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Apprenticeship comes in. Sponsored by Pennsylvania's 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund, the Southeastern ECE Professional Development Organization and the College, the program provides a way for early educators to earn an associate degree or bachelor's degree while working.

"The ECE Apprenticeship Pathway is a mechanism to reduce barriers to higher education for the early learning workforce," says Allison. "In this pathway, student educators are able to document



their competency in three courses (or nine credits) by learning on the job instead of in the college classroom. This helps to decrease seat time in college classes. More importantly, student apprentices are learning the competencies of the courses in real-life situations. This pathway also capitalizes on prior knowledge the student may have."

Student apprentices receive educational support and mentoring, and relevant on-the-job experience counts for credit. Participants agree to continue to work for their employer for two years post degree attainment and, in exchange, receive a wage increase, which is built into the apprenticeship model. Students can also transfer their ECE associate degree to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's in PreK-4 teacher certification.

At the College, apprenticeship students work with an experienced teacher who serves as a coach. This coach helps students to document their competencies and learn missing skills.

Tuition for this program is fully funded by the Public Health Management Corporation and ECE Professional Development Organization. Additional benefits include on-site tutoring, mental health support and a laptop loan program.

"The Apprenticeship Pathway teaches the apprentice students the theory behind their practice," Allison says. "General education courses are also being contextualized to early childhood education. This interdisciplinary course delivery allows the student to make connections and be more successful in general education courses."

ALLISON, DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAD THE WAY

From the beginning, Allison has helped to lead the way in implementing and improving upon the ECE Apprenticeship. She serves as co-chair of the Higher Education Consortium, which is a group of two- and four-year institutions throughout Pennsylvania that collaborate to determine how the apprenticeship is delivered and to ensure a seamless pathway from the Child Development Associate to a bachelor's degree in PreK-4 teacher certification. "This group is formalizing our membership to expand our scope to include issues and barriers to higher education as well as to have a voice in public policy," she says.

Allison also serves as project director for a grant from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning that developed a web-based tool to assist apprentices and on-site coaches.

When Allison introduced the apprenticeship, the College was only the second school in the state to implement it. As more institutions add the apprenticeship pathway, they reach out to Allison for guidance. Other states are also looking to Pennsylvania as a model for introducing similar apprenticeships nationwide.

Through this program, the next generation of students will have benefitted from childcare centers staffed by more qualified and experienced educators, while early educators will enjoy more career opportunities and increased wages. 🌟

New agreements
with West Chester
University bolster
access & affordability

Pathways to WCU

Last year, Delaware County Community College and West Chester University (WCU) unveiled a new, enhanced transfer agreement that enables eligible graduates of the College to receive guaranteed admission, guaranteed housing, a renewable scholarship and success coaching at WCU.

The student-centered, dual admission agreement, which took years to bring to fruition, is the most ambitious accord yet between the two-year college and the four-year university, allowing students to map out their higher education trajectory, even while still in high school, saving them time and money. The agreement also provides significant benefits to current Delaware County Community College students interested in WCU where, on average, one of every three transfer students are from the College.

“Under this agreement, graduating high school seniors and Delaware County Community College students who wish to pursue a bachelor’s degree at West Chester University will, upon signing an Intent to Enroll form, receive conditional admission to the University... We are excited about what this means for our students and our communities,” said Delaware County Community College President Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, during a virtual ceremony held last November to announce the new agreement.

“At West Chester University, program participants will receive a renewable scholarship of up to \$2,000 per academic year, for a total of \$4,000 during the course of their studies,” said WCU President Dr. Christopher Fiorentino, who, during the virtual ceremony, said he graduated from Bucks County Community College and encouraged students to attend a community college prior to transferring to WCU, or one of the other 13 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities.

The new dual admission agreement is the latest in a variety of articulation agreements created over the years between the College and WCU.

In 2019, a first-of-its-kind nursing agreement allowed students to fast-track their attainment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by concurrently enrolling in the College’s Associate in

Applied Science Nursing program and in WCU’s Registered Nurse-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) degree program. Typically, RN-BSN programs require students to graduate from a pre-licensure nursing program and obtain licensure as a registered nurse before enrollment in BSN coursework. “At a time when skilled nurses are in demand, this concurrent degree program is of great benefit to our students and to the healthcare industry,” said Dr. Gates Black during the 2019 signing ceremony.

In 2018, WCU and the College created an on-site degree completion program that brings WCU faculty to the College’s Marple Campus to offer the third and fourth year of a student’s Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree. The first cohort of students graduated in 2020. “West Chester University is particularly proud of this collaboration given that the inaugural academic program is business management, which has been designated a high-priority occupation by the Department of Labor and Industry for both Chester and Delaware Counties,” said Dr. Fiorentino during the 2018 signing ceremony.

Both presidents say that giving students structured, affordable pathways to a quality higher education is well worth the work it takes to forge such complicated agreements because of the substantive benefits they provide to students and their parents.

During last November’s virtual ceremony, the two presidents were joined by classmates Meredith Adams, Delaware County’s 2020 Commencement student

speaker, and Frederick Shegog, a recipient of an All-PA two-year scholarship to any of the 14 PASSHE universities. Adams and Shegog, who were members of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society while at the College, now attend WCU and spoke about how students benefit from the close relationship between the two institutions.

“Before Delaware County Community College, I had a really difficult time with college and really didn’t know what to expect,” said Adams, a first-generation college student who attended two different four-year institutions before finding her home-away-from-home at Delaware County. Having earned an associate degree in liberal arts from the College, Adams is now majoring in accounting and finance at the University, with a minor in civic and professional leadership in WCU’s Honors



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY



LEFT: An aerial view of students enjoying the beautifully landscaped campus of West Chester University.

College. “Because of the existing agreement between the College and the University, I will be leaving school with very little debt, which will allow me to get ahead in my career.”

Shegog, who majored in communication while at the College and transferred to WCU after receiving the All-PA scholarship, is also majoring in communication at WCU, while minoring in leadership in WCU’s Honor’s College. “Not long ago, I was an alcoholic and homeless. Today, I am sober, blessed with a home, a wonderful family and a purpose,” Shegog said. “As a person in recovery, I am passionate about wanting to help others suffering from substance abuse disorder. During my time at Delaware County, I created The Message, LLC, a motivational speaking company that I use to share my story, which WCU embraces...WCU Communication Professor Dr. Elizabeth Munz is helping me obtain my first publication at a national conference, and Delaware County and WCU professors have offered to help edit my first book.”

Delaware County Community College and many of the state’s 13 other community colleges have noticed an uptick in interest from the 14 PASSHE universities and other four-year schools in pursuing or enhancing dual admission agreements.

“The academic preparation, success and focus of Pennsylvania’s community college students is appealing to many state and national higher education institutions, as these students are typically motivated and high-performing,” says Elizabeth Bolden, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges. “As Pennsylvania community colleges continue to strengthen their academic partnerships with other higher education institutions in the Commonwealth, they are able to offer current and prospective students more pathways to achieve their postsecondary education goals. Thousands of articulation agreements are already in place with higher education partners here in Pennsylvania and we fully expect those longstanding partnerships to continue. The future may hold a broader, system- or sector-wide partnership, and community colleges are very interested in engaging in those discussions.”



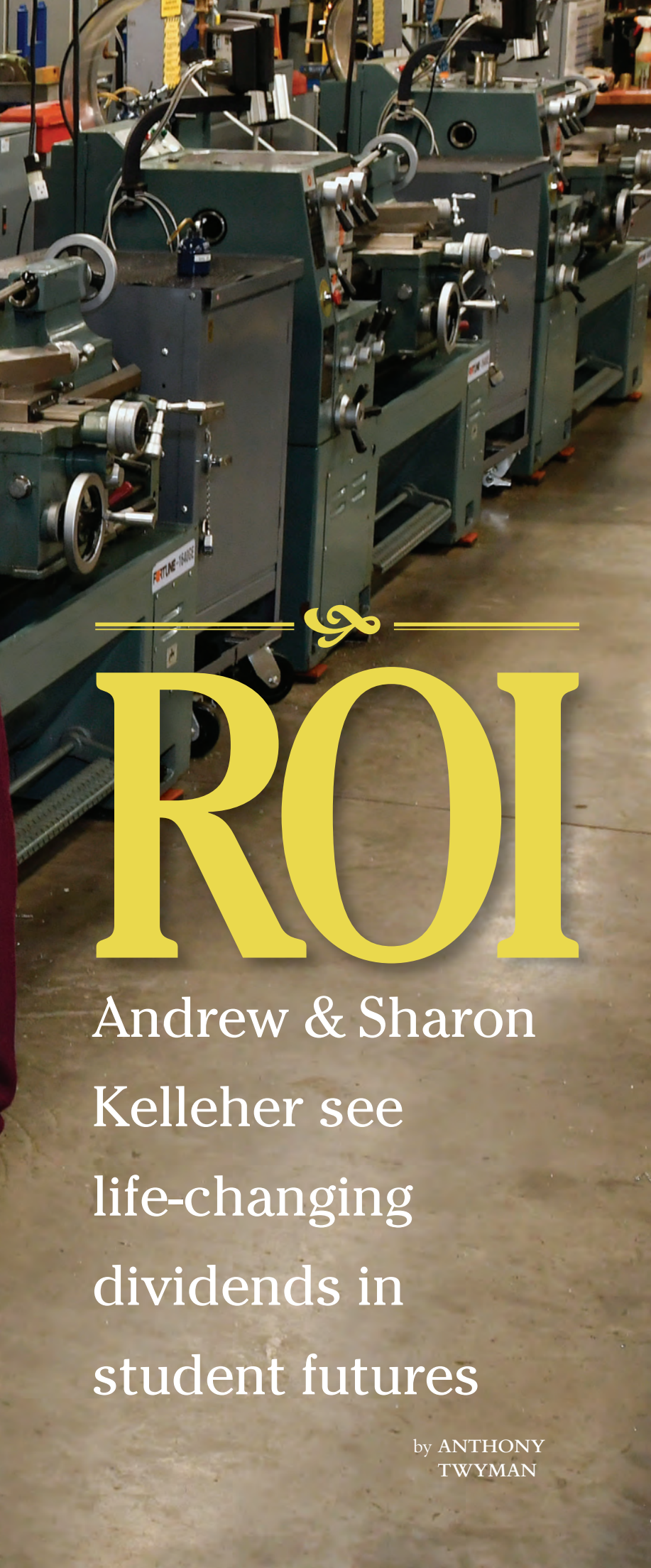
Delaware County Community College 2020 graduates Frederick Shegog and Meredith Adams, who also was the 2020 Commencement student speaker, transferred to WCU as juniors through one of the dual admission programs the College has with WCU.



— To learn more, visit www.dccc.edu/wcu. —



Sharon and Andrew Kelleher standing on the manufacturing simulation floor inside the Collège's Marple Campus' Jerome S. Parker Advanced Technology Center.



Retired engineer Andrew Kelleher, 63, of Paoli, knows the simple principle of return on investment (ROI) can sink or launch a business. Now, he and his wife, Sharon, a retired registered nurse, are applying that ROI business principle to help Delaware County Community College students achieve solid careers in the skilled and technical trades, earning family sustaining wages. ▶



ROI

Andrew & Sharon Kelleher see life-changing dividends in student futures

by ANTHONY TWYMAN



Two years ago, the Kellehers made history when they created the more than \$8 million Kelleher Family Foundation, proceeds from which are the impetus behind the Kelleher Connect Career Opportunity Fund, which offsets tuition and other costs for students interested in careers in the skilled trades, such as carpentry and plumbing, advanced manufacturing and emergency response. The Kellehers' gift is the largest private donation in the 53-year history of the College.

Proud of the education they received at Villanova University, the Kellehers continue to donate to their alma mater. But it took an "aha!" moment for them to realize that because of the affordable tuition and the financial need of many community college students, their ROI would be exponentially greater if they expanded their giving to include their local community college.

"We wanted to do something for the community, and we are passionate about education," says Andrew, who has a chemical engineering degree and spent more than four decades in energy as a plant engineer, oil trader, trading manager and creating natural gas and clean energy companies in Canada, Mexico, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

After living in states across the country while an engineer and putting three children through college, Andrew and Sharon decided to take on new challenges. Andrew registered for an Emergency Medical Technician evening course at Delaware County Community College with an eye toward volunteering for a local fire department. Seated in classes with students from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds, he learned firsthand how difficult it is for many students to juggle college, work, rent, kids and other family responsibilities. He became aware of how a relatively small amount of money could make a big difference. "A lot of these students have full-time jobs," he says. "They were struggling to go to night school."

That aha! moment led to the Kellehers reaching

out to Delaware County Community College. Sharon thought it best to create the Kelleher Family Foundation and to approach the College's Educational Foundation. Having been a nurse, she understood the challenges of balancing a demanding career while raising three children and she wanted to help the students in a very tangible way. "If our contribution can take one component of life's pressures off a student's plate, then they can focus on what is most important to them," Sharon said. "It frees them up to build a career, not just a job; and in the end, their success will improve their own lives and make our community even better."

The Kellehers were especially interested in technical education to help students enter professions as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and nurses, as well as careers in advanced manufacturing, process control technology, welding and other Pennsylvania high-priority occupations. Because of the retirement of thousands of baby boomers, the Kellehers knew these fields would need a massive infusion of skilled workers. These jobs also pay well; for example, a computer numeric control machinist's starting salary can be from \$18 to \$30 an hour. "These are jobs that pay good wages," Andrew says, adding that careers in these industries also can be obtained with a short-term certificate or an associate degree. "These jobs help promote the American dream."

Since its inception in 2019, the Kelleher Connect Career Opportunity Fund has provided tuition assistance to dozens of students pursuing career and technical education. Awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 a semester and can be used for tuition, fees and books. Students must be enrolled in an eligible program of at least six credits, maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A unique aspect of the Kelleher Fund is it provides awards to students for short-term certificate programs of as little as eight weeks.

At the fall 2019 Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation dinner, at which students met their scholarship donors, Andrew said it was rewarding for him and Sharon to see how their gift has affected so many students and their families. "It gives us great pride," Andrew says. Later, a student approached him and said, "You saved my life," and thanked him for a \$5,000 Kelleher scholarship. The student had been homeless, living out of a car and was about to give up hope. The scholarship enabled the student to leave homelessness behind. "How can you not be moved by something like that," Andrew says, reflecting back on the moment.



Sharon and Andrew Kelleher in the lobby of the College's Jerome S. Parker Advanced Technology Center.





Generous donors like the Kellehers find that giving to the College enables them to help more students, particularly students of color and low-income students. In addition, the recent economic upheaval resulting from COVID-19 has heightened the need for education and training.

“Community colleges are well-positioned to support the economic recovery and help the country’s robust economy return,” Assistant U.S. Secretary for Employment and Training John Pallasch said recently. Harvard University Public Policy Professor David

Deming agrees, saying in a recent opinion piece in *The New York Times*, “Community college job training programs substantially increase participants’ earnings, and because tuition costs are relatively low, they typically provide a good return on public investment.”

For the Kellehers, their ROI is seeing the life-changing impact their investment is having on so many students. “A little bit goes a long way,” Andrew says. “I would encourage anyone who might be interested in donating any amount to visit Delaware County Community College.”¹³





by ANTHONY
TWYMAN

“That was a
**HUGE
HELP**”

Kelleher funding
improves economic
outlook for area residents

Delaware County Community College graduates Don Miller, 42, and Joe Anderson, 41, each took a leap of faith when they switched careers late in life, and it was the Kelleher Connect Career Opportunity Fund that enabled them to comfortably land new careers making better wages.

In August 2020, Miller, graduated from the College with a welding certificate, and is now a full-time orbital tech level 1 welder with AES Corporation, a Fortune 500 global energy company. After several decades of moving from job to job in the culinary industry, Miller sought a career that would provide stability and time to spend with his 8-year-old son.

“I wanted to find something else, something I would enjoy just as much as culinary and that involved using my hands,” he says. The Kelleher fund provided him with a scholarship over two semesters which helped him pay for classes, books and tools. “It certainly lightened a lot of the stress of paying for the courses and paying for the tools of the trade,” Miller says. “As a returning student, it’s a financial strain. Any time there is financial aid, it takes a lot of the burden off.”

In addition, using the general studies credits he had earned while previously a student at the College in 2016, Miller not only obtained a welding certificate, but also earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Skilled Trades in August 2020. “I kind of timed it out that they would finish at the same time,” he said, adding that he learned about the AES job opening from College staff who stay abreast of the latest job opportunities in the region so as to help inform students’ career choices.

Anderson of Garnet Valley can relate to Miller. He owned and operated his own landscaping business for more than two decades before he decided to make a career change that would

provide more stability and quality time with his family. Also, like Miller, Anderson had previously taken courses at Delaware County Community College, having graduated from the College’s Municipal Police Academy in 2004.

In 2020, because of the coronavirus pandemic, Anderson’s heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) in-person classes at the College were abruptly cut short.

But the College allowed him to continue his training at McLoughlin Plumbing and Heating, which had hired him, and the College counted his on-the-job training toward his HVAC&R certificate requirements.

Now, instead of cutting lawns or plowing snow, Anderson is working for McLoughlin installing HVAC&R systems in newly constructed, high-end, single family houses. “I love it. It’s a great company to work for,” he said of McLoughlin. Anderson says at his age it would have been difficult to

go back to school and make ends meet had it not been for the scholarship over two semesters he received from the Kelleher fund, which helped him pay for his courses, books and tools, which can be expensive. “That was a huge help to me,” he says.

Anderson and Miller both say they greatly appreciate the generosity of the Kellehers. “I think it’s great for anybody to have worked hard themselves and then to give back to others,” Miller says of Andrew and Sharon Kelleher.

“It’s just a great opportunity,” Anderson says. “They were very helpful to me.”

As a returning student, it’s a financial strain. Any time there is financial aid, it takes a lot of the burden off.



NEW
**High-Tech
Campus**
ENVISIONED
FOR DELAWARE COUNTY

ABOVE: An architectural rendering of the new facade the College envisions for the Lansdowne Avenue side of the former Archbishop Prendergast High School building. **RIGHT:** A look at the rear of the main building and the planned courtyard.





New Southeast
Campus will
better serve
residents in the
southeastern part
of the county ►

by ANTHONY
TWYMAN

The plan is for the new Southeast Campus to include computers and ample space for students to study and collaborate.





Delaware County Community College has embarked on an ambitious, multi-million-dollar, community-centered project that will transform the former Archbishop Prendergast High School in Upper Darby Township into a new, high-tech College campus for Delaware County residents.

“This is a great opportunity for the College to provide Delaware County residents with high-quality, affordable education and training that is conveniently located, easily accessible and responsive to the needs of the community,” says Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, president of Delaware County Community College. “We are incredibly appreciative of our sponsoring school districts for supporting this endeavor.”

In 2019, the College signed an agreement of sale with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the vacant, historic Prendergast building and adjoining land at Garrett Road and Lansdowne Avenue in Drexel Hill. Prendergast, a girls-only high school, which first opened in 1953 but closed in 2012, was consolidated with nearby boys-only Monsignor Bonner High School to form Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast High School.

After a series of community meetings and a close examination of the county’s needs, the College decided to create a master plan for a new Southeast Campus on a 7.5-acre portion of the approximately 30-acre property. Construction will allow the College to consolidate the existing Upper Darby and Southeast Centers into the new Southeast Campus.

The Prendergast building is 118,000 square feet, allowing

for the construction of a campus with approximately 30 classrooms, including chemistry and biology labs, culinary arts instruction kitchens, nursing and allied health facilities, an early childhood education center and hybrid computer labs that can be converted, if needed, into regular classroom spaces. In addition, there would be a cafeteria, featuring a courtyard with outdoor seating, and an annex that includes workforce training in Pennsylvania high-priority fields, such as advanced manufacturing, first-responder services and the skilled trades, such as machining and electrician training.

Considering that 60 percent of the College’s students transfer to four-year schools, the College would ensure that the new campus provides the coursework necessary for students to complete their studies prior to transferring. Associate degree and short-term certificate programs offered would include health studies/pre-nursing, emergency medical technician, early childhood education, culinary arts as well as electro-mechanical, machine tool and computer numeric control technologies.

It is envisioned that the new Southeast Campus would also include dedicated space for a community empowerment center, complete with a computer lab. The center would give residents access to a broad array of county resources and community education programs. The College also would partner with the nearby YMCA of Eastern Delaware County to create an early childhood education center. The center, which would be operated in partnership with the YMCA, would provide childcare and serve as a learning lab for students in the College’s early childhood education program. ♪



ABOVE: An aerial view of the historic Prendergast white steeple facade, the new glass main entrance and (on the left) the annex which would include workforce training programs in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades.

RIGHT: A look at the outdoor chairs and seating walls where students could enjoy the courtyard just outside the new cafeteria.

BELOW: An aerial view of the rear of the main building, the annex and the courtyard.



We are incredibly appreciative of our sponsoring school districts for supporting this endeavor.





PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLY SHIPYARD, INC.

Innovative Consortium's job training benefits the region

In the early 1990s, when the Philadelphia Naval Base and Shipyard closed, a scramble ensued to help the hundreds of displaced workers at the huge South Philadelphia facility. With the aid of a National Science Foundation grant, a new organization was created, the Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, which has been meeting the job training needs of employees and employers throughout the region ever since.

The Consortium includes Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia community colleges, Camden County College in New Jersey, and Drexel University in Philadelphia. For multi-state/county employers, the Consortium is useful because it is a single point of contact, alleviating the need to seek assistance from training providers and workforce agencies in different states. It offers regional employers access to 60 locations, 470 certificate and degree programs, 6,000 courses and 4,000 faculty and subject matter experts.

"The Consortium has the ability to quickly and effectively contour its job training programs to meet the needs of its business and industry partners," says Consortium Chair Dr. L. Joy Gates

Black, president of Delaware County Community College.

The Consortium has served more than 16,000 people, partnered with 23 colleges in 10 states and received the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning national award for Outstanding Institutional Service to Adult Learners.

Currently, the Consortium provides apprenticeship training to Philly Shipyard, Inc., a commercial shipyard, and to the U.S. Naval Foundry and Propeller Center, which makes propellers for the U.S. Navy. The Consortium also provides orientation services and job and apprenticeship training to Boeing, PECO Energy, UPS, Sunoco, PhilaPort, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and other regional employers.

"This special partnership between UPS and the Consortium has been recognized by our corporate staff as a model for other regions throughout the country to follow," says UPS Area Human Resource Manager Larry J. Moulder.

Last year, the Consortium's close relationship with labor and industry at the shipyard, now a multi-use, government and civilian facility, was instrumental in helping Philly Shipyard win a \$630 million contract to build national security vessels. The Consortium

— To learn more, visit: www.collegiateconsortium.org. —



2019 Citizens Bank Regional Maritime Training Center ribbon cutting, from left: Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney; Patrick Eiding, President, Philadelphia AFL/CIO; H. Patrick Clancy, President/CEO, Philadelphia Works Inc.; Dan Fitzpatrick, President, Citizens Bank, Mid-Atlantic Region; Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, Chair, Collegiate Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development (CCWED) and President of Delaware County Community College; Bruce Van Saun, Chairman & CEO of Citizens Bank; U.S. Representative Mary Gay Scanlon; Rich Lazer, Philadelphia Deputy Mayor of Labor (behind Congresswoman Scanlon); Dr. Donald Generals, CCWED Trustee and President of Community College of Philadelphia; Jeff Theobald, CEO of PhilaPort; Daniel Astolfi, Citizens Bank EVP and Commercial Banking Executive; State Representative Elizabeth Fiedler; Dave Saunders, Business Agent, International Longshoremen’s Association; and Rocky Bryan Jr., President, Teamsters Local 929.

helped U.S. Representative Mary Gay Scanlon and the region’s congressional delegation advocate on behalf of Philly Shipyard winning the contract, which is expected to create 1,200 jobs.

Another successful Consortium initiative involves a unique public, private, labor partnership with Citizens Bank, the ILA, PhilaPort, the City of Philadelphia and other entities, to provide job training for longshoremen at the Port of Philadelphia. In 2019, the Consortium officially opened the Citizens Bank Regional Maritime Training Center. Citizens Bank has donated \$225,000 to the Center, which the Consortium operates.

“We thank Citizens Bank and our other partners for enabling us to go forward with this wonderful initiative,” said Dr. Gates Black during a 2019 ribbon-cutting ceremony. “The training provided by the Center is tailored to the regional needs of labor and industry, will increase the global competitiveness of Greater Philadelphia’s maritime industry, and will support good family-sustaining wage jobs.”



2018 Citizens Bank announcement of \$100,000 donation for maritime worker training. From left: Leo Holt, president of Holt Logistics; Daniel Fitzpatrick, President, Citizens Bank, Mid-Atlantic Region; Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, Chair, Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and President of Delaware County Community College; H. Patrick Clancy, President/CEO Philadelphia Works, Inc.; and Philadelphia Deputy Mayor of Labor Richard Lazer. Photo courtesy of Carol Feeley.

Housed in the Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Delaware County Community College's new Center for Equity and Social Justice is a catalyst for community engagement, education and enlightenment around issues of inequity and social justice. It also addresses a need, voiced by local organizations and employers, to have an accessible community resource for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, College President, conceived the vision for the Center and entrusted Simuelle Myers, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, with the task of making it a reality. Launched in summer 2020, the Center is open to the entire community and all are welcome to participate in its events. Funding is provided through sponsorships from area businesses and corporations secured by the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation.

"As a leader in education, the College is committed to helping our community heal, to bring people together, and to let voices be heard so that we begin to eradicate the issues of inequality and injustice," says Dr. Gates Black.

"There is a lot of inequity in our society, in our communities and in higher education," adds Myers. "However, the barrier to starting to make positive change often comes from lack of conversation around different social issues. Having the Center is important because it allows us to help begin these conversations and equip those who participate in our events with the knowledge and language to hopefully continue these conversations on their own."

The Center hosts a "Dialogue for Diversity" event every other month, with rotating topics and formats. Due to the pandemic, initial events have been held virtually. In September 2020, *New York Times* bestselling author Austin Channing Brown hosted an online dialogue on "Discussing Race in Our Communities." Brown, who wrote *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, is a public speaker and media producer who provides inspired leadership on racial justice in America. Her dialogue explored how to start meaningful and productive conversations about race within our communities.

In July 2020, the Center's first Dialogue for Diversity event focused on "Policing in Our

Communities" and aimed to provide a space for courageous and respectful community discussion about social injustice. The topic was selected in response to the May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd, and other recent events involving police officers, which highlighted the importance for law enforcement, community leaders and citizens to come together for open discussion. "Policing in Our Communities" focused on this goal, and the panel included several members of law enforcement, a pastor, attorneys and a college president.

"This dialogue provided an opportunity for local officers and community leaders to discuss issues and concerns from multiple perspectives. Additionally, the dialogue allowed for an open question-and-answer session with panelists," says Dr. Gates Black. "It is so important that our local law enforcement hear the voices of the people of Delaware and Chester Counties."

Both events were well received and drew an engaged audience of community members, College staff and students. As the Center grows, the hope is that it will become a lasting resource for the community so there is always a space to discuss inequality. Myers says it is essential to have these discussions beyond when an event draws media attention and especially as inequalities evolve.

"I am hoping that we help to normalize uncomfortable conversations around inequality, race and other topics that people may think they aren't supposed to talk about," Myers says. "When we can ask open and honest questions and give open and honest answers, then we can begin to develop new foundations for understanding between people and groups. This year has shown us that there is a lot of work to be done but I think there are tangible steps that can be taken to start to influence positive social change. I hope that for many, the Center is an important part of that journey and that we can grow with the community."

Dr. Gates Black adds, "Delaware County Community College is an institution where ideas can be respectfully shared and debated; where understanding and compassion help to bridge our differences; and where education leads to true and meaningful change. We will continue to open our doors to everyone, and we will continue to be an institution committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, valuing the contributions that each of us has to offer." 🌟



by MICHELLE
TOOKER



New Center for Equity & Social Justice launches

Community Dialogue



New York Times bestselling author Austin Channing Brown and Alumnus Enrique Latoison Esq. '01, a television legal analyst, spoke during separate Dialogues for Diversity discussions on the topics of "Discussing Race in Our Communities" and "Policing in Our Communities," respectively.

— To learn more about the Center, visit dcc.edu/center-equity-social-justice. —



Delaware County Community College students in the new Student Resource Center.

Student Resource Center provides centralized place to access

Support

by MICHELLE
TOOKER

To address students facing homelessness and food and housing insecurities, Delaware County Community College opened a Student Resource Center in early 2020. Though the services offered by the Center were previously available at the College, they are now housed in one place, providing students with convenient access to the assistance and resources they need.

Administered by the Office of

Student Outreach and Support and Dr. Kendrick Mickens, the Student Resource Center provides students with resources in a welcoming, judgement-free space. “Students receive support from a caring, compassionate team of College employees, and the goal of the Center is to provide outreach, advocacy and holistic support to meet the unmet needs of Delaware County Community College students,” says Mickens.

ADDRESSING A NEED

College students nationwide grapple with food and housing insecurities, and it’s essential for institutions to address these issues so students have a solid foundation for educational success. When students worry about where their next meal will come from, or where they will sleep, they cannot focus on studying and succeeding in class.

Unfortunately, research has found

— To learn more about the Student Resource Center, visit dcc.edu/student-resource-center. —

that housing and food insecurities are a growing problem among college students, especially at community colleges. According to the #RealCollege survey administered by The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice at Temple University, of 167,000 college students surveyed in 2019, 39 percent were food insecure in the prior 30 days.

In 2018, the College conducted its own survey of a thousand students and found that more than 27 percent indicated they were experiencing some level of food insecurity. Of those surveyed, 50 percent indicated that they would use a food pantry on campus if one were made available. These results highlighted the need for the College to create a centralized space where students could access support resources and assistance.

FOUNDATION FOR TODAY'S CENTER

The foundation for the Student Resource Center originated in 2013 from work done by students in the Social Work Club and Kathleen Schank, Assistant Professor of Social Work. After noticing a growing problem with food insecurity on campus, students took on the responsibility of building an outreach program, originally known as the Food Emergency Resource Bank. The goal was to serve College students with immediate food needs.

In Fall 2017, Schank took a one-year sabbatical and focused her research on solutions for food and housing insecurity. Working with counselor Jennifer Kalligonis, Schank was able to connect with Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, a leader in food insecurity on college campuses and Director of Temple University's Hope Center. Goldrick-Rab spoke at the College in spring 2018, and the discussions from this event prompted further conversation at Delaware County. A working group of administrators, student leaders, faculty and counselors collaborated to expand upon the Food



When students worry about where their next meal will come from, or where they will sleep, they cannot focus on studying and succeeding in class.

Emergency Resource Bank, leading to the creation of the Student Resource Center.

Shortly afterward, the College's Educational Foundation was able to connect the Center's mission with a variety of outside funding sources. Bolstered by an initial investment of \$100,000 from the Scholler Foundation, and augmented by support from the Foundation for Delaware County, Compass Group, Merakey, and others, the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation has been able to sustain a multi-year commitment to continue to fund the Center's operations, as well as support other initiatives that address unanticipated emergencies that threaten a student's ability to remain enrolled, such as funds to provide mental health services, and the Dreamkeepers Student Emergency fund.

"The local community has been extremely generous in support of the Student Resource Center," says Rachael Hunsinger Patten, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, "and our students tell us, through thank you cards and letters, how much the assistance means to them. In addition, our campus community has embraced this center as its own, and more than 70 members of our faculty and staff have made gifts through us to support its operations in recent months."

In addition to the resources previously

mentioned, the Center also provides students with academic advising, advocacy and recognition as well as opportunities to participate in a student mentoring program, interactive workshops, empowerment events and cocurricular programs.

"When and if needed, the Student Resource Center will refer and connect students to additional resources. This includes services or College departments where students can find assistance with personal, mental health, financial and emergency issues that cannot be addressed within the Center," says Mickens, adding that this includes the Dreamkeepers Scholarship program, external therapy services, the Family Advocacy Clinic and more.

HELPING DURING THE PANDEMIC

As COVID-19 has presented additional challenges for the College community, the Student Resource Center has served a greater role in assisting students, especially in lending out laptops and helping students access Wi-Fi internet.

"The College has done a great job assisting students with getting laptops," says Mickens. "Everyone has worked well together to try to get the students what they need as they request it, as much as possible." 💡



Empowering Women

Number of female Police Academy graduates smashes records

by LINI S.
KADABA

As a broadcast journalist in New York City, Melissa Harrington '17 covered her share of breaking news that demanded a police response. At one school shooting, she recalls watching as police officers worked to control the situation.

"I was wishing I could do more," says Harrington, 31, who lives in the West Chester area. "I decided that day I wanted to help, to be on the ground and do more."

Fast forward to December 2017, when she completed the Municipal Police Academy at Delaware County Community College. "It really changed my life," says the Chester County Sheriff's deputy who recently won its You Rock award for her compassion and for going above and beyond when off duty.

Harrington's not alone. A wave of women is entering the College's Police Academy. Over the last five years, the number of female graduates has nearly tripled, growing from 10 women out of 119 cadets in 2015-16 to 28 women out of 107 cadets in 2019-20. In fact, Harrington's class had a record 10 female graduates—the most in one term in the program's then 40-year history. Since then, that record has been broken multiple times, including as recently as the July 2020 term, when 15 women graduated.

"That was unheard of 10 years ago," says William Davis, the Police Academy's long-time director.

Those are welcome statistics. According to *Police Chief*, an online magazine published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, female police officers are in short supply and

Jennifer August, a 2008 graduate of the Municipal Police Academy, with her children.

in high demand. Over the last two decades, an April 2020 story noted, the percentage of women working as officers in the United States has stagnated at about 12 percent.

“Across the board, it’s always been a low number,” says Pamela McClaren, who teaches tactical medicine for the College’s Police Academy. “I’m glad to see the push. They’re definitely needed.”

Female officers are often requested in rape or sexual assault cases or to search female prisoners, McClaren says. Also, research has shown that, generally speaking, policewomen tend to help build greater community trust and have a calming effect during dangerous situations.

While Davis says he isn’t sure what’s driving the influx, he allows that he runs a “tight program ... They know if they come here, they are going to get a fair shake.”

Harrington, for one, appreciated the camaraderie of the whole class and support of instructors. “I felt like I had a seat at the table,” she says. “My voice was heard just as much as a man’s voice.”

While Jacqueline Roughton White ’01 of Wilmington, Delaware, says the academy was more of a man’s world in her day, her biggest hurdle was taking that first step to apply. She was working at a beauty products company when, at age 35, she decided to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a cop. “No one liked me for this decision,” she says. “My mother said, ‘Girls aren’t cops.’ I was facing a lot.”

She persevered, her mom’s concerns gave way to pride in



her daughter’s accomplishment, and eventually she became an undercover officer and then a patrol officer in Oxford, before she joined the Chester Housing Authority. In 2012, the Chester City Council recognized her for administering CPR to save a baby’s life. “He’s a healthy, beautiful boy,” says White, 54, who is now retired. “When I was on duty, I would check up on the family.”

Hannah Thomas ’20 of Downingtown, who made a career switch from managing a vet hospital, says she wants to make an impact. “I just think cops can honestly be a very positive influence in the community and with the people who live there,” says the 23-year-old who will soon hit the streets for a Chester County department. “I’m really excited. I’m antsy to start and learn.”

Thomas will be well trained. Delaware County Community College’s state mandated 919-hour, 23-week program teaches cadets everything from vehicle and criminal codes to how to fire a gun and respond to an emergency. Practical training hours cover firearms (112 hrs.), self-defense (58 hrs.), crime scene investigation (18 hrs.), court testimony (16 hrs.) and more.

“It’s pretty intensive,” Davis says. “We go eight hours a day, six days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It’s hard. It’s tough. It’s long.” Besides two full-time classes, the College also offers a yearlong, part-time course in the evenings plus several Saturdays.

Jennifer August ’08, 35, of Springfield spent nine years with Drexel University’s Police Department, leaving in 2018 as a sergeant to open a Jabz Boxing franchise in Ridley Township and to have more regular hours as a mother of young children.

She is not surprised so many women want to enter law enforcement. “Women really are saying, ‘I can do anything a man can,’” August says. “It’s a sense of empowerment.” 🌟

Chester County Sheriff’s Deputy Melissa Harrington, a 2017 graduate of the Municipal Police Academy.



Forward Focused

DURING A TIME OF CRISIS

Though the pandemic has caused uncertainty and fear across the nation and the world, Delaware County Community College President Dr. L. Joy Gates Black is feeling proud and hopeful. “As I reflect back on 2020, I am proud of the resiliency of our students. Despite the many challenges they faced, they refused to give up on their education. Many of them having to do their homework while also helping their children with their schoolwork. It has not been easy, but they have persevered. And I am also proud of the culture of caring that exists at the College and the commitment to meeting the needs of our students and our communities.

“I am feeling hopeful because, even as we saw the racial and social injustices played out on our televisions, we also witnessed the birth of a new generation of social activism,” Dr. Gates Black says. “These activists stood up for what they believed and took up the reins of nonviolent protests to demand that our country change. Many of these nonviolent protesters were college students, using what they have learned in their coursework to chart a new path for our country.”

To say that the last year has been a whirlwind for Dr. Gates Black and the College would be an understatement. “Historically, higher education has not been a sector known for moving quickly,” she says. However, the pandemic changed the way the College needed to operate in order to ensure the success of its students. “Our faculty worked together to make the switch to virtual learning, and they

have continued to develop new and innovative ways to engage students in this learning modality.

by H.J. COSTIGAN, Ed.D.

Our staff were able to quickly pivot, providing students with online support services and creating a laptop and mobile hotspot loan program to support students. The ability to quickly identify solutions to problems and troubleshoot to remove barriers proves that higher education can move forward with a sense of urgency.”

Dr. Gates Black believes that education will forever be changed by the pandemic. “We need to create a new College environment once the pandemic is over. We are now

forward focused, acknowledging the challenges experienced and lessons learned in 2020, and committed to using those lessons to make 2021 even better for our students and our communities.” As Dr. Gates Black looks ahead, she realizes that “the pandemic has provided us with the opportunity to really examine what the College should look like moving forward. If we do not learn from this experience, we will not be effectively prepared for the future.”

In response to the social unrest that gripped our nation this past year, last summer Dr. Gates Black established the Center for Equity & Social Justice. “As I watched the civil unrest and protests spread across the nation, I knew that as a leader, I had a responsibility to engage the College, our students and the broader community to bring about the positive change that we all want to see. This is why we created the Center for Equity and Social Justice. The mission of the Center is to contribute to the dismantling of systems of racism, discrimination and social injustice within our communities by acting as a convener to provide ongoing opportunities for education that leads to greater awareness, meaningful dialogue, common ground and transformational change. And while I knew that creating the Center might not be viewed favorably by all members of the community, I knew that creating the Center was the right decision and that this was the right time to move forward. Sometimes doing the right thing requires courage and conviction.”

Last year, Dr. Gates Black received the ATHENA Leadership Award from the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce and the Women in Leadership Award from The Main Line Chamber of Commerce. And yet, despite the accolades, Dr. Gates Black remains true to herself. “I come from humble beginnings. I’m a first-generation college student and I understand finding your way. I do not think of myself as a great leader, but I do aspire to be the kind of leader who leads with conviction, courage, honesty, sensitivity, integrity and compassion,” she says. “A leader should not be measured by what they have accomplished. A true leader should be measured by their ability to forge a road so that future leaders, stronger leaders, can carry on in the future.”

With Dr. Gates Black at the helm, Delaware County Community College is moving forward, ready for the students of tomorrow. 🌟



“We need to create a new College environment once the pandemic is over. We are now forward focused, acknowledging the challenges experienced and lessons learned in 2020...”

DR. L. JOY GATES BLACK



NSF Grant Helps STEM Students Shoot for the STARS

by JACK CROFT

An educational program for home schoolers at Philadelphia's Bartram's Garden planted the seed for Samia Cushing's interest in environmental science at an early age. And Delaware County Community College's STARS scholarship program, short for Supporting Talent in Academic Recruitment for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), nurtured that seed and helped Cushing get accepted into the environmental sciences program at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Cushing was just shy of 16 years old when she entered Delaware County Community College in 2018 through the College's High School Dual Enrollment program. She completed high school and graduated from the College with an associate degree in Mathematics/Natural Science in December 2020, having served as president of the Women in STEM Club in addition to earning a STARS scholarship.

Funded through a \$650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Scholarships in STEM program, STARS provides scholarships and support for two years to qualified, academically talented, financially underprivileged students interested in STEM professions.

Biology Professor Sandra Devenny, recipient of the College's prestigious Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award in 2020, is principal investigator on the five-year NSF grant. STARS launched in 2018 with five students in the first cohort and grew to eight students in the 2019 cohort. With the pandemic, this year's cohort started with two students, bringing

the total number of scholars currently in the two-year program to 10. But Devenny hopes more will join in the spring. The program seeks to prepare students for transfer to a four-year institution and a career in a STEM field after graduation.

Cushing says one of her favorite experiences in the program was the SCI 150 STEM Topics course, which featured the opportunity to work with classmates on a hands-on research


experiment "that wasn't out of a lab workbook manual." She adds, "We were designing the experiment and we had to write up a whole report on that."

"It was really cool because they worked together, they collaborated," Devenny says. "We want to build a sense of a cohort with the students, so here was a chance to work together to solve a problem."

Jack Durham, another STARS scholar and president of the College's Engineering Club, also cited the research project as his best experience with the scholarship.

"Beyond that, I've really enjoyed the cohort," he says. "It's really been valuable to me. A lot of my good study friends right now are in the STARS cohort."

Although the program is only in its third year, it has already sent graduates to outstanding four-year universities including Stanford, Drexel and Temple. "We know that it's making a difference," Devenny says. "We know that students are being helped by the program. It's a lot of work, but these students are so worth it."

Additional information, including eligibility requirements for applicants, can be found at www.dccc.edu/STARS-scholarship. 

We want to build a sense of a cohort with the students, so here was a chance to work together to solve a problem.

**BIOLOGY PROFESSOR
SANDRA DEVENNY**

At first blush, what Commencement speaker and 2020 Alumni Professional Achievement Award winner Enrique Latoison, Esq. '01 told last year's graduates seemed completely out of place for Commencement, traditionally a time when guest speakers impart wisdom to graduates before they embark on their futures.

Did he just tell the Class of 2020 to be rude?

But once Latoison—a criminal defense attorney and NBC 10 television legal analyst for high profile cases such as the trial of comedian, actor Bill Cosby, rapper Meek Mill and former movie producer Harvey Weinstein—spoke a little more, his advice made sense.

Rude, Latoison said, is what the graduates needed to be to the thought that tells them they will fail. “Be stubborn, loud, and rude,” Latoison said adding that, in order to be successful, it is necessary to be rude “to the voice in your head that tells you that you can’t.”

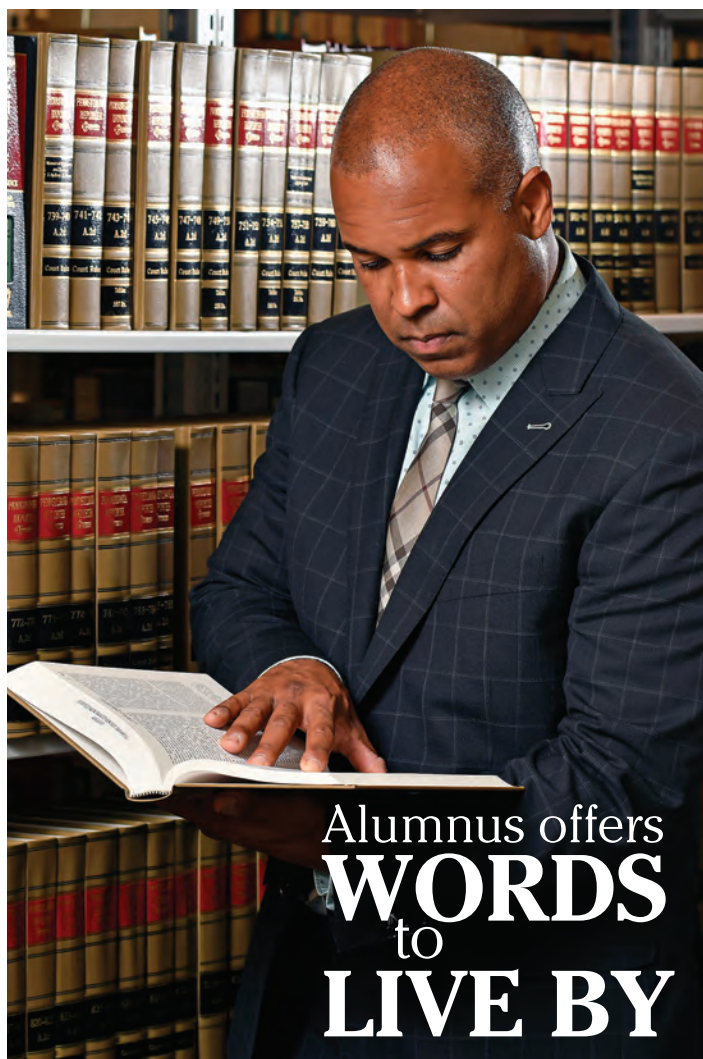
Latoison should know. A native of Chester, a city looked down upon by some because of its high crime rate, Latoison had to be rude to the thought that he would wind up incarcerated or dead, like many other African-American males he knew in Chester.

“I had humble beginnings but knew when I was standing in your shoes what I wanted out of life,” Latoison told the Class of 2020, the first class in the College’s history to receive a virtual graduation ceremony due to coronavirus pandemic safety precautions. “I have spent every day since Delaware County Community College building the life I wanted.”

The College was the springboard from which Latoison launched. In 2001, he transferred credits earned at the College to the University of Pennsylvania and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and with an Associate in Business Administration from Delaware County Community College. In 2004, he earned his Juris Doctorate from Temple University’s James E. Beasley School of Law. Eventually, the young man from Chester opened his own law practice and became founding and managing partner of Media-based Latoison Law.

A strong believer in giving back to the community, he recently created the Latoison Law College Assist Scholarship, which assists students interested in pursuing careers in law. The scholarship fund provides \$100 a week (\$1,600 a semester) to help a deserving student with financial need focus on school. He created the scholarship because he remembers struggling as a student to work and pay for college, while at the same time paying other bills.

In 2019, Latoison was named Lawyer of the Year



Alumnus offers **WORDS** to **LIVE BY**

by Delaware County Community College’s Paralegal Studies Program. After receiving the honor, which included a prize of \$500, he donated the prize to the College’s Paralegal Scholarship program.

No mistake there. But did he make mistakes along the way? Sure.

“We all make mistakes,” Latoison told the 2020 grads. “Mistakes are not the measure of character, how we handle those mistakes is the true arbiter of character.

“I learned three fundamental principles: Be stubborn, loud, and rude. Be stubborn in your goals, fight for what you want. Don’t take no for an answer. Be loud, take up space. Make an impact, don’t be afraid to be a leader. And be rude to the voice in your head that tells you that you can’t. Tell that little voice to shove it when it starts to make you doubt yourself.”

Did he just tell graduates to “shove it”?

Not really. Actually, he told them to cast aside any self-doubt. No doubt many among the Class of 2020 found successful attorney Latoison’s advice just the wisdom they needed to hear on their special day. ✨



by MATTHEW
RALPH

Award-winning faculty discuss caring for students while adapting to the times

We caught up with three award-winning faculty — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Professor Sandra Devenny, Business Associate Professor Lauren Donovan and Communication Studies Professor Susan Ward — to ask them about the secret to their success at engaging students and cultivating learning both in the classroom and beyond.

MATTHEW RALPH: What are some of the lessons you've learned along the way and, how have you been able to develop your skills as an educator?

LAUREN DONOVAN: Our student population is such a diverse mix of people who are working part time, people who are working full time, single parents, non-traditional students who may have been in the workforce and are now trying to return to learn or retool. As that mix of students has gotten more diverse, I've had to adapt. I'll give you a perfect example. I learned probably about five years ago that, even my face-to-face students, they want to have access to recorded lectures online, even though they're coming to class... I learned that I need to meet these students where they are, and that might mean recording a lecture where it's me and my slides, and you can watch that at 10 o'clock at night.

SANDRA DEVENNY: We have to be prepared to meet the students where they are. If we want them at a higher level, then we're going to help them do that and come up with strategies. For me, it's understanding that you can't just put an "F" on a test and wait for a student to call... that strategy doesn't work now because students look on themselves differently, and that "F" is more demoralizing, and it becomes harder for the students to come forward to get help. So, it's really important to say, "Yeah, I know you had a tough time on that first exam, but I have lots of strategies that can help."

SUSAN WARD: I think paying attention to the generational gap and adjusting is important. That means finding contemporary examples... that means asking them and doing my own research, such as knowing, who are the top five YouTube influencers. I didn't have to know who a YouTube influencer was in 2000, but now it matters. It helps my students when I can use relatable examples while teaching.



▲ Business
Associate Professor
Lauren Donovan



◀ STEM
Professor
Sandra Devenny



▲ Communication Studies
Professor Susan Ward

MR: How have you had to adapt in your approach to teaching and methods?

SD: I have my online courses set up as weekly modules and I have my lecture videos. I have the readings and then I have additional learning materials. I worry that I start providing my students with too much because they can look at this module and say, “There’s all this stuff. What do I have to do and how much do I need?” So, I started surveying students to find out what are the things that work best for them.

SW: When I first started teaching, we didn’t have the internet in our pocket, and now they do. That’s challenging, trying to compete with shorter attention spans and lack of interest in things that don’t provide instant gratification...(It) has meant adaptation in the classroom because they’re not immediately going to always get what they want right in the moment. One thing I’ve had to do is change some of the activities in the classroom so that you get more of an instant gratification in terms of the point of the activity, but then also coupling that with teaching them to spend a little bit more time processing information.

MR: How do you define success for your students and what do you want them to take away from your classes long term?

LD: I find that students come back and they say, “I love that we did things in your class. I love that you didn’t just come in and deliver a concept, but you created some sort of engaging activity around it that reinforces the point without just saying the same

bullet over and over and over again, or pushing through large amounts of content in 55 minutes. That’s what they remember is the engagement, how they felt in that class, how they felt in terms of their relationship with me in that class... when they come back to me and say, “I’m done my degree and your class was a ball, and I learned a lot,” to me that’s success.

SD: I have a number of non-science major students who come in and say, “I hate science. I had it in high school. I hated it.” And I say, “That’s a challenge. We’re going to turn you around.” Maybe, I don’t always make them love it, but hopefully they didn’t hate it... I got an email from a student who said he wanted to be a lawyer and he wrote, “I just wanted you to know that my interest now lies in environmental law as a result of this course.” I’m not out to convert all my non-science majors into being scientists, but for them to see that science plays a part in their lives and their career, no matter what they pursue, that’s important.

SW: It’s really important for me that students have an opportunity to question what they believe and why they believe it and that they articulate that process because I think that’s an important part of critical thinking skills... we can become entrenched in our views and what we think, and not really take a step back and ask ourselves: “Why do I still think this after 20 years?, Is there other evidence I need to consider?, Can I tolerate a different viewpoint?” One other thing I want them to be able to say when they look back on the class is that I cared about them, because I think that teaching is relational and students need to know that you care. 🌟

RIGHT:
Associate
Professor of
Art & Design
Jaime Treadwell
demonstrates
an assignment
for his Three
Dimensional
Design class in
a video.
FAR RIGHT: A
screenshot from
an instructional
video for an
online art class.



Back to the • Drawing Board

Pandemic hasn't slowed the art department's
creativity, ingenuity or output

As academic programs across the College have adjusted to the new reality of online instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty in the National Association of Schools of Art and Design-accredited Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.) programs have had to literally return to the drawing board to provide instruction for their students.

"I hadn't painted a self-portrait in a long time," says Assistant Professor of Art Matthew Sepielli, who started teaching at the College last August. "Now, I'm all of a sudden in a video painting a self-portrait to show students how to do it and I'm thinking, 'This isn't going so well. This is not the best self-portrait one can paint,' so I'm sharpening my skills."

Where art faculty typically work in a studio setting,

they have had to create instructional videos from start to finish from home during the pandemic.

"I usually do the starting point to get them going out of the gates," says Associate Professor of Art and Design Jaime Treadwell, coordinator of Foundations & Studio Art. "But now, to sit there and do it start to finish, and the time it takes to do it, and the pressure for the work to be at a certain level, you start to think how many takes is it going to take."

There have been advantages to this approach, however, as Treadwell and his colleagues have taken a fresh look at their curriculum and found ways to not only teach their students, but also to encourage community in an online setting that usually happens organically in an in-person setting.

One way they have done that is by moving Art

by **MATTHEW
RALPH**



Gallery exhibitions online. The first exhibition that moved entirely online was the annual A.F.A. Graduation exhibition last May. Another was the Rico Gatson Power Portraits exhibition that opened in the Art Gallery on the Marple Campus last March but closed just three days later due to the pandemic. Assistant Professor of Art History Dr. Olivia Gruber Florek recently held an online walkthrough of the exhibition.

“Keeping things like the Rico Gatson exhibition going is a way of letting students know that there are still ways they can come together as a group,” Sepielli says. “While they can’t work in a room together, there are still ways that they can find community and there are opportunities in class for them to see each other’s work.”

One tool Treadwell has used is a website called Padlet.com that has enabled students in his classes to post and critique each other’s work. Another has been

the iPads with electronic pencils the department was able to purchase through funding from the U.S. CARES Act. Treadwell said using the iPad, he’s been able to upload a student’s work and record a video of himself making notes on it and share the video file with the student through messages via the College’s online learning management system.

“That’s the closest thing I can get to actually being in the classroom and over their shoulder and saying, ‘Hey, try this,’” Treadwell says.

The A.F.A. program includes Studio Art, Photography and Graphic Design. It prepares students to seek employment in the arts or to transfer to schools like the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, which is where Sepielli graduated and taught before being hired full time at the College. To learn more about the College’s A.F.A. program, visit dccc.edu/afa. 🌟

Danielle Paoletti '20

Hydravolt Product Design/Advertisement, DIGITAL
West Chester University



Zifeng Zang '21

Smoking Man, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

Claire Buoni

Untitled, MIXED MEDIA
Pacific Lutheran University



Note: The institution listed beneath the artist's name is where they are currently attending, if applicable.

Student Art showcase

The Art Gallery at Delaware County Community College welcomes visitors from on- and off-campus communities to experience artwork created by students from the College and local high schools, as well as nationally recognized professional and regional emerging artists. Of the six exhibitions presented annually, two focus on the work of students taking art courses at the College. In the fall, the A.F.A. (Associate in Fine Arts) Foundations Exhibition showcases pieces by students taking first-year art courses. The spring A.F.A. Graduation Exhibition features the final portfolios of work created by students graduating from the College's NASAD-accredited A.F.A. degree program in Graphic Design, Photography and Studio Art.

The Purchase Award is a monetary award presented to a student artist in exchange for the chosen piece of artwork. Once the College "purchases" the work, it is then framed, prepared for display and becomes part of the College's nearly 500-piece permanent art collection. This work is loaned to and installed in offices, departments and common areas throughout the College's campuses. Annual funding for the Purchase Awards is made possible by the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation and the Campus Life office.

The artwork featured on these pages are Purchase Award-winning pieces from the previous academic year: the on-campus A.F.A. Foundations Exhibition, which opened in October 2019, and the online A.F.A. Graduation Exhibition, which opened in June 2020. The next student exhibition, which will be presented online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is the A.F.A. Foundations Exhibition, beginning in February 2021. 🍷



Martina Pettiford '20

Freedom Fest Poster Suite, DIGITAL

Tyler School of Art & Architecture at Temple University

Rainie May '21
 Altered Shadows
 Brand Identity, DIGITAL
 Delaware County
 Community College



Inez Oliveras

To Audra Book Design, DIGITAL
 Featuring original artwork by Audra Auclair.
 West Chester University



Note: The institution listed beneath the artist's name is where they are currently attending, if applicable.

Viet Le '21

Biker, DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH
Delaware County
Community College



Chrissie Fackenthall '20

Masks, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
West Chester University

Student Art showcase



Grace Miller '21

Still Life with Teapot, GRAPHITE ON PAPER
Delaware County Community College

Theo Martin '20

Portrait, PEN AND INK ON PAPER
Rhode Island School of Design



Emily Masuda '20

See You Soon?, POLAROID ON BRISTOL BOARD

Student
**Art
showcase**

Samantha Burns '20

Tuesday Poster, DIGITAL



Elijah Dreutt '20

SEPTA Still-in-Motion, SILVER GELATIN PRINT



Note: The institution listed beneath the artist's name is where they are currently attending, if applicable.

Late professor Thomas J. Anderson

A life well lived, an estate bequest that keeps giving

Faculty are the life blood of a college and can have life-changing impacts on students. The late Thomas J. Anderson, retired Biology instructor, took this to heart, even when planning his estate.

Because of his forethought, the College's Educational Foundation has received more than \$250,000 from his realized bequest for "faculty development for the professors in the Biology department in the name of Thomas J. Anderson." Colleagues are enormously appreciative and recall the man they knew, admired and whom Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students greatly appreciated.

**LINDA SUPPER, administrative assistant,
Recruitment & Enrollment, who
previously worked in the STEM division**

Tom was a kind and generous man. He always had interesting stories. I always remember him coming in about 7:30 a.m. He would say how he was up early working on his farm and feeding his animals. He sometimes had his overalls on, and boots covered in dirt. He was very fond of his chickens and many times brought eggs in to share with us! Many times, he spoke of hosting an outdoor gathering for his fellow church members. His students loved him, and I would often see them talking to him in the halls.

**DEBRA FUNK, STEM
administrative assistant**

Tom was a farmer throughout his life, being sure to feed the chickens and water the plants before coming in in his jeans and flannel to teach. He was brilliant but was not confident in his computer abilities. His last visit to the College was to enter missing grades. He was so nervous that he had missed them, so he planned to come to the STEM office to spend several hours to enter two grades. When he completed this task in under five minutes, he was so surprised he could do it. He was laughing with pride in himself and how silly he felt being nervous and losing sleep. His comment to me was: "Old men can learn new things."



**DR. SANDRA DEVENNY,
Biology Professor**

Many would consider Tom Anderson's teaching methods to have been old-fashioned. He didn't use PowerPoint® presentations, videos or animations but he didn't need those tools. He was able to keep his students engaged with his presence. He had decades of experience and his enthusiasm was truly infectious. Every semester, he would have an entourage, a group

of students who remained after class, would walk with him through the halls and stay late in lab. The students would be asking questions, sharing stories and engaging in discussions. I would always smile when I saw them and think to myself, "This is what learning is all about". He was financially generous to the College and helped support the construction of the new STEM Center. He was also extremely generous with his time. He

continued teaching for us long after many faculty would have eased into a comfortable retirement. I remember one summer when he took on a grueling schedule of day and evening sections and I asked him how he was able to manage it. His response was simply that he loved teaching our students. Thanks to Tom Anderson's love of teaching and generous nature, students at the College have had access to a learning experience that they will never forget. ♡

Educational Foundation Annual Report

2019-20



Delaware County
Community College
Educating Delaware and Chester Counties



A LETTER FROM THE **FOUNDATION CHAIR**



Dear Friends,

I am honored to lead the strategic fundraising initiatives as the Chair of the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation for the 2020-21 year. Our Board of Directors represents a talented team of local business leaders, alumni, and administrators inspired by the leadership role the College provides to the community.

Under the tremendous leadership of Cynthia Aigeltinger during the 2019-20 year, the Educational Foundation provided more than \$1.7 million in financial resources to assist the College in achieving its mission to facilitate learning by providing quality educational programs and services that are student-focused, accessible, comprehensive and flexible to meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves.

We are always seeking new partners that share the Educational Foundation's commitment to educational equality and access for all students by supporting the College. Your contributions are a critical investment in our community during these challenging times.

Warmest regards,

Brian Wilbur Coyle

Educational Foundation Board 2019-20

L. Joy Gates Black, Ed.D., President
Delaware County Community College

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VICE CHAIR

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2019-20 DONORS

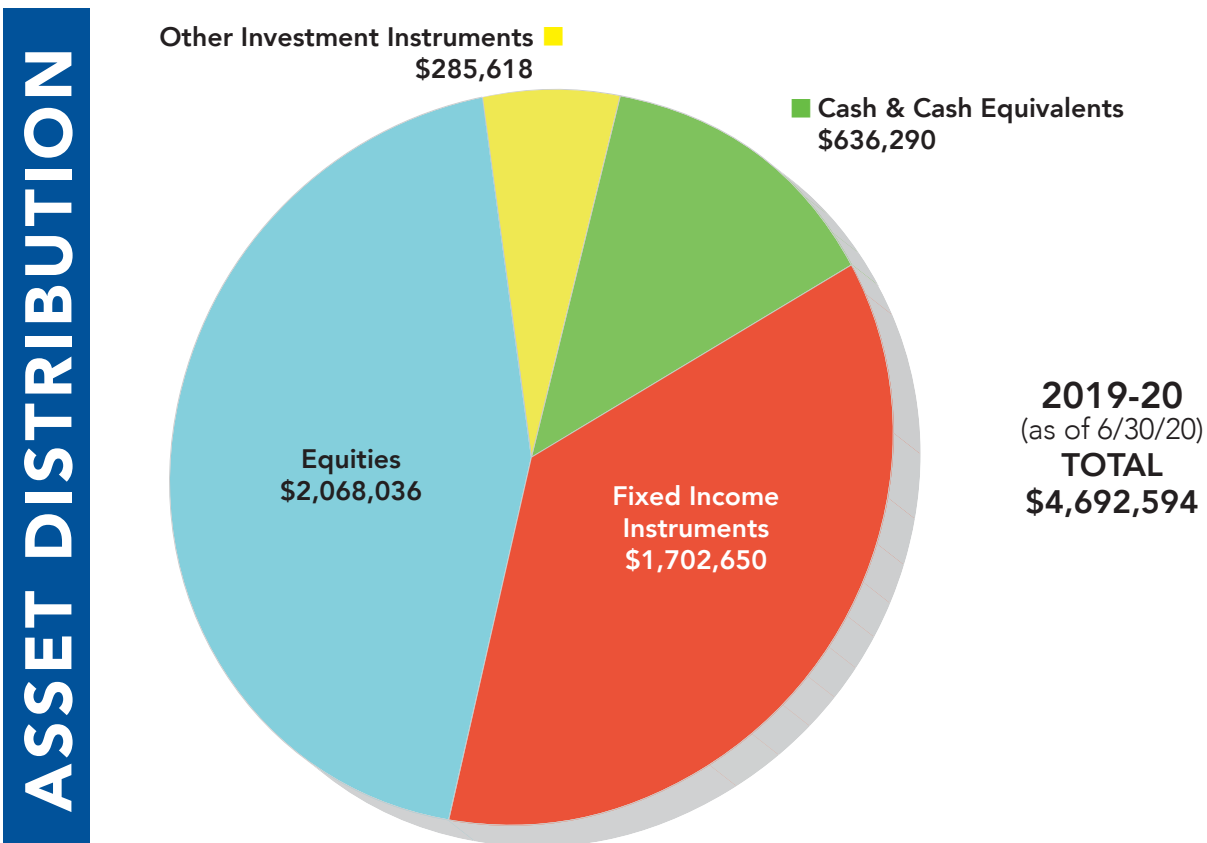
For a complete list of the 2019-20 donors to the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation, please visit www.dccc.edu/foundation.

CONTRIBUTIONS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Fund | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$214,587 |
| With donor restrictions | \$1,580,810 |
| Total | \$1,795,397 |
| Special Events | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$2,600 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ — |
| Total | \$2,600 |
| Investment Income/(Loss) | |
| Without donor restrictions | (\$20,927) |
| With donor restrictions | (\$39,516) |
| Total | (\$60,443) |
| Total | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$196,260 |
| With donor restrictions | \$1,541,294 |
| Total | \$1,737,554 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Scholarships & Awards | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$615,365 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ — |
| Total | \$615,365 |
| Programmatic Support | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$1,014,242 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ — |
| Total | \$1,014,242 |
| Operations | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$143,875 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ — |
| Total | \$143,875 |
| Total | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$1,773,482 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ — |
| Total | \$1,773,482 |



WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE VISIT DCCC.EDU/MAKEAGIFT.

The Next Generation of GIVING

Millennial Donors Make an Impact

Donations through Delaware County Community College's Educational Foundation provide a lasting impact for students. Donors are essential to the continued success of the foundation, and millennial donors Rachel Smith and Phelicia Laffredo '15, '18 are paving the way for the next generation to step up and make an impact.

"I'm one of the oldest millennials (born in the early 1980s), and my generation knows how important it is to give back," says Smith. "Each year, I create a personal goal in terms of how much of my own income I will give to organizations and people in need. I truly believe that strong communities are built by people helping each other in big and small ways—every bit counts."

Smith, a Manager of Retirement and Equity Programs for TE Connectivity, recently launched the Caroline B. Dilorenzo Memorial Nursing Scholarship. It's a ten-year scholarship that is awarded annually to a nursing student in good academic standing, with preference for a nontraditional age student.

The scholarship is named in honor of Smith's best friend who passed away in fall 2018. Dilorenzo was a nurse and had attended nursing school part time in her twenties. Smith saw how difficult it was for her friend to manage her education while juggling work and family responsibilities. "Creating a scholarship to ease that burden on current nursing students felt like the right thing to do to honor Caroline," says Smith.

Though Smith is not a Delaware County Community College alumna, she has an affinity for the school, especially since she passes the Marple Campus during her commute. "I know how incredibly expensive higher education has become for American students, and financial constraints are frequently a huge barrier to opportunity. Community colleges provide a fantastic education while still being affordable. Since Delaware County is where I call home, Delaware County Community College felt like the right home for the scholarship."

For others considering becoming a donor, Smith says, "Reach out to the DCCC Educational Foundation and start asking questions. Rachael Hunsinger Patten and her team are fantastic and will walk you through every step. They answered all of my questions with patience and sensitivity. You aren't too young to be a donor, and every bit helps."

Laffredo echoes Smith's sentiment. "I have seen firsthand how much good it does to give to those who can't necessarily always provide for themselves. It teaches those that have less access to resources to believe that there is a strong force at work in the world that will always make sure we have exactly what we need, exactly when we need it. And on the flip side, when we have our needs met and have excess or extra, we can use it for the greater good and not just ourselves."

A Registered Nurse Case Manager at Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care, Laffredo started the SHARE Foundation Scholarship. SHARE stands for Single, Hispanic, Ambitious, Ready and Educated and benefits single parents pursuing a nursing degree. Laffredo herself earned two degrees from the College: one in general studies in 2015 and a nursing degree in 2018.

"I decided to give back to Delaware County Community College because if it weren't for the generous scholarships that I was awarded, I wouldn't have been able to continue or complete my nursing education," she says.

For those considering becoming a donor, Laffredo adds, "Start small, with any amount, and watch the ways that it multiplies in your life on all levels."

To learn more about how to become a donor, visit dccc.edu/educational-foundation. 🌟



Above: Rachel Smith
Below: Phelicia Laffredo '15,'18
and her daughter



Creating a **legacy** is easy.



Did you know that you can plan to assist students who have not yet been born, who will be taught in classrooms not yet built, to learn material that has not yet been discovered?

Your planned gift to the Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation leaves your lasting legacy and benefits our communities for years to come.

There are many ways to put your values into action.

Bequest—You may name the Educational Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or trust for a specific amount, a set percentage of the total value of your estate, or for the remainder of your estate after you have provided for family.

Retirement Plan—Even easier than changing your will, you can indicate the Educational Foundation on the change of beneficiary form for your retirement plan, including IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, and Keoghs. By designating the Foundation to receive a portion of the funds left in the account at your passing, select heirs may receive tax advantages.

Insurance Policy—Fully paid, existing life insurance policies may be donated. Some restrictions apply, but in general you benefit from a charitable tax deduction and the Educational Foundation liquidates the policies to fund the College's strategic priorities.

Contact the **Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation** at **610-359-5131** or **advance@dccc.edu**.



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Downingtown Campus STEM Wing

Opened in fall 2018, the 16,000-square-foot STEM Wing expanded the Downingtown Campus' facility, making STEM educational opportunities even more accessible for Chester County residents. The improvements also included a renovated Learning Commons that supports modern educational trends, including small group collaboration, hands-on learning, multimedia tools, smaller class sizes and multidisciplinary learning.

