



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Sussex County | November 2022

#UDengage

The purpose of the Community Engagement Report is to share with community leaders, stakeholders and citizens of the three counties the activities, projects and accomplishments of UD faculty, staff and students that impact the state.

UD's ECC Program Offers Education Opportunities in Sussex County

The Early College Credit (ECC) Program provides the unique opportunity for third and fourth year high school students to take dual enrollment courses at no charge. The courses are designed with open education resources so that students do not need to pay for textbooks or other class materials. This dual enrollment program is part of the University of Delaware's ongoing efforts to increase affordability and access to higher education for students in Delaware. By taking these courses, students simultaneously earn both high school and college credits, allowing them to get a head start on college while reducing the cost and time to completion of a college degree.

The Early College Credit Program is excited to be working with five high schools in Sussex County—Seaford High School, Sussex Academy, Sussex Central High School, Sussex Tech High School, and Woodbridge High School—to offer these courses to their students during the 2022-2023 academic year.

To learn more about the program visit:
<https://www.pcs.udel.edu/early-college->



Indian River High School, beneficiary of ECC

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Alison Travers

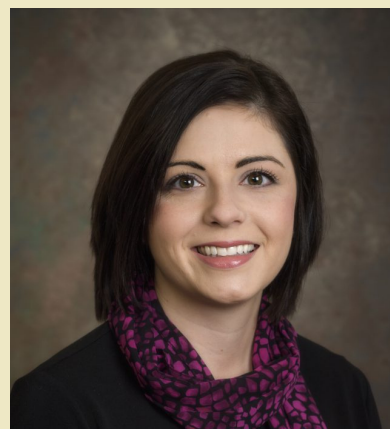
Dr. Alison Travers is the Sr. Leadership Specialist for the Delaware Academy for School Leadership. Dr. Travers coordinates an alternative routes to certification program that provides Department of Education certification for Assistant Principals and Principals in all three counties.

Dr. Travers stated "I love serving as a thought partner and coach to educators as we discuss their goals and opportunities related to school leadership. Delaware needs more educators to prepare for the role of school principal. Serving as the lead for the UD Principal Preparation Program in the College of Education & Human Development allows me to leverage my relationships with Delaware school district leaders in Sussex, Kent, and New Castle Counties to reach educators who are interested in becoming a school leader. I help them understand their options for becoming certified to lead a school, and provide support through the application process, and for those admitted into the program throughout their 4 semesters in the UD PPP, as well as when they graduate from UD PPP and become novice school leaders. I am based out of Sussex County, and spend time working in schools across all three counties talking with educators about their personal leadership development. To date, I have been part of over ninety educators' journeys to school leader certification (or principal certification), of which, 10 are serving schools in Sussex County and twenty are serving schools in Kent County."

She has recruited teachers to the school leadership program from Sussex County and partners with Sussex County School Districts to serve as mentoring districts and provide mentoring principals while the students complete the program.

Ann Hlabangana-Clay, UDEL PPP Cohort 2 Graduate (2017) says, "In addition to the mentorship and the action research projects, most impactful for me were the internships. Having the opportunity to work side-by-side with the experts in leadership during the school year as well as during the summer months trained me for how to prepare for each upcoming school year, how to effectively delegate, how to have crucial conversations and how to problem-solve, all in real time."

To learn more about the Delaware Academy for School Leadership visit <https://www.dasl.udel.edu>



Pictured: Dr. Alison Travers

UD's IPA Working with Sussex County's Local Government and Schools

The Institute for Public Administration (IPA) at the University of Delaware has been working with the Sussex County Community, developing comprehensive plans for many organizations.

At the request of the Sussex County Vocational Technical School District, IPA produced this report to analyze the career and technical education (CTE) programs in the district and provide key takeaways and recommendations the district can use for strategic planning. This analysis will assist district leaders and school board members with determining the best CTE programs to offer, help the district plan for expanded seats, and ensure all students who attend Sussex Tech are prepared to excel in their career or college path. The report provides an in-depth look at the 18 Sussex Tech CTE programs offered, focusing on enrollment and work-based learning trends, industry certifications, occupational projections, labor market analyses, key takeaways and next steps for consideration.

IPA has partnered with the Town of Bethany Beach to prepare a new ten-year plan for the municipality. Beginning in the summer of 2022, IPA Associate Policy Scientist William DeCoursey and Principal Planner, Jennifer Reitz, AICP, engaged with the Town to refine its vision for the future, as well as update key data points. The new plan will showcase hand-in-hand collaboration with DelDOT planners, as well as a bolstered environmental protection and sustainability element. It is due to be adopted early in 2023.

Fenwick Island is updating their 2018 Comprehensive Plan and has asked IPA to assist with the update in an unconventional way. In lieu of IPA leading the planning process and writing the plan with significant input from the town's Planning Commission, the town wishes to drive the process and retain primary authorship. IPA will serve as an advisor, providing an overview of best practices and innovations in the town's focus areas, assist with mapping, and review draft text to ensure alignment with the town's goals and objectives as well as the expectations of the Office of State Planning Coordination.

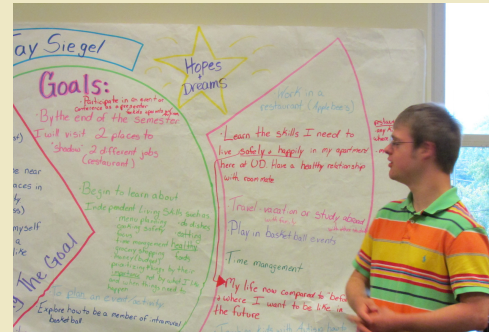
The City of Milford has retained the Institute for Public Administration (IPA) to facilitate an update of the City's 2018 strategic plan, Press Play: Vision 2023. IPA will work collaboratively with the city manager and council members to design and facilitate a community process to review, refine, update, and operationalize Milford's strategic plan. The process will include IPA-facilitated retreats for mayor, council, and city staff, as well as significant public outreach to assess how residents, businesses, and community groups perceive their City and its priorities for the future. The results of the scope of work will be an updated Strategic Plan, including an implementation plan and tracking matrix. These tools will help the City to consolidate and prioritize their varied planning efforts, including the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Development District Plan, Rivertown Rebirth Plan, and 2021 Bicycle Master Plan.



The Career and Life Studies Certificate Program

The Career and Life Studies Certificate program, administered by UD's Center for Disabilities Studies, offers students with intellectual disabilities academic, career and independent-living instruction that prepares them for future employment or further education.

The program is recruiting applicants from Kent and Sussex counties in an effort to diversify enrollment across the state. Students from outside New Castle County wishing to live on campus may be eligible for additional funding. The program is also open to day students who choose to live away from campus. The application fee is waived for all applicants who apply by Dec. 1. Learn more about the certificate program at cds.udel.edu/clsc.



CLSC student presenting their goals

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Delaware Sea Grant collaborated with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays to write, produce and release a report that determined the economic value of the bays to the state and especially the Inland Bays watershed.

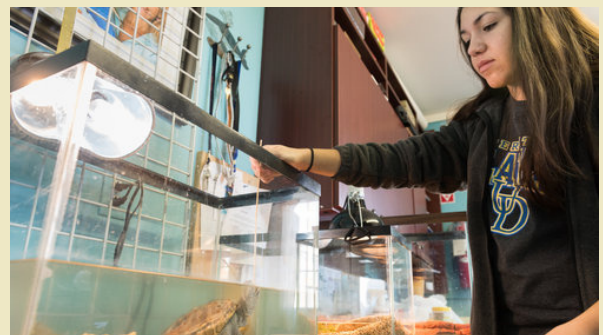
The report found the Inland Bays contribute \$4.5 billion to the local economy every year and support 35,000 jobs. Economic activity within the Inland Bays study region provides tax revenue to federal, state, and county governments estimated at \$458 million.

The report, "Economic Value of the Delaware Inland Bays," was authored by Christian Hauser, associate director of Delaware Sea Grant (DESG), which is based in the University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, and Christopher Bason, then executive director of the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB).

Hauser said the report provides important information to the public, resource managers, and policy makers.

"Delaware Sea Grant is committed to helping Delaware's coastal stakeholders make informed decisions about resource management," he said. "This report demonstrates the importance of the Inland Bays as the base of a sustainable and resilient coastal economy in Delaware."

For more information about the findings of the report and to download a copy, visit the Delaware Sea Grant website.



UD student engaged with Delaware Sea Grant program

University of Delaware Carvel Research and Education Center hosting Field Days

At the Carvel Center's 347-acre research farm UD faculty, extension specialists and agents presented weed science, agronomic field crops, fruit and vegetable field crops and nematode field days. These tours provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders to observe real-time growing conditions and make strategic decisions to manage their crop planning.

Field tours are the hallmarks of any land-grant institution committed to the tripartite mission of research, outreach and teaching.

One of the strengths of the Carvel Research and Education Center is having a team of Cooperative Extension State Specialists located at the facility which serves as the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' southern agricultural experiment station," said Mark Isaacs, associate professor of plant and soil science and director of the Carvel Center. "These tours allow for direct and timely access to conduct applied research and outreach on field crops addressing the needs of our clientele."

Video recordings of the Agronomic Field Crop and Nematode Tours are available, with some continuing education credits. for details and viewing visit: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/carvel/current-research/2022-field-crop-tours/>



Sussex Citizens participating in a program at University of Delaware Carvel Research and Education Center

UD's School of Music School Entertains Sussex Community at Freeman Arts Pavilion

In September, the second annual University of Delaware's School of Music Spectacular brought more than 400 students to the Freeman Arts Pavilion in Lewes, Del. There, students played to a ninety-minute variety set for an enthusiastic audience from throughout the region. The free, open-air concert spotlighted eight different musical offerings representing programs at UD. Among those included were the Jazz Band, the Abeo String Quartet, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Chorale, Marching Band and much more.

Mark Clodfelter director of UD's School of Music said, "Music is for everyone," says the interim director for UD's School of Music. "We want to make it accessible to all."

"We wanted to offer a "sampler platter" featuring everything we do," says Clodfelter. "We aspire to saturate the region with great music in order to enrich the lives of those around us. We feel certain that here, in the UD School of Music, there is something for everyone!"

To learn more about Freeman Arts, visit <https://www.freemanarts.org>



Celebrate our Community

UD's Partnerships for Healthy Communities Supports Spanish Speaking Families in Sussex County

Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD) is a collaboration among the UD Partnership for Healthy Communities, the Delaware Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Community Foundation. With the goal that all people and places in Delaware are thriving, HCD works with community partners to address resident-driven priorities related to the vital conditions/social determinants of health—humane housing, a thriving natural environment, lifelong learning, basic needs for health and safety, meaningful work and wealth, reliable transportation, and belonging and civic muscle.

HCD is supporting our community partners in Sussex: La Esperanza to provide resource navigation for Spanish-speaking families; Southeast Regional Community Assistance Program (SERCAP) to improve housing in New Hope/Ellendale; Seaford Community of Hope to do a community assessment; Town of Bridgeville & Cornerstone Community Center to obtain input from underserved populations on their community master plan; and the Springboard Collaborative to provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

For more information visit, <https://healthycommunitiesde.org>



A La Esperanza family