**Our Mission:** Align and strengthen University of Delaware research, educational, and service capabilities to improve the health and well-being of Delaware communities and beyond through effective community partnerships.

**Our Focus:** We will focus especially on communities currently experiencing social inequities.

**Our Vision:** Healthy, Thriving Communities for All

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**What is a Healthy Community?**

A healthy community goes beyond quality medical care and is reflected in the social and environmental factors that promote well-being. It is a place where all are free from discrimination and oppression and there is equitable access to the resources needed for optimal health.
Dear Partners,

As we reflect on the second year of the partnership, and think broadly about the possibilities that a new decade brings, we are reminded of the power of civic engagement to address community and social inequities in a democratic society. Our commitment to ensure that engaged scholarship aims to both understand and be responsive to community experience, knowledge, needs, and expectations is reflected in our values, the partnerships we support, and the processes in which we operate.

This report highlights our efforts over the past year to:

- Advance statewide initiatives and partnerships such as Healthy Communities Delaware and the Delaware State Health Improvement Planning (SHIP) process that work to address priority health areas as determined by and with communities and stakeholders;
- Cultivate funding and enhance partnerships for students and faculty to work side by side to intentionally and purposefully address community-identified needs, such as our new mobile health unit and student fellowships in local health initiatives across the state;
- Expand educational opportunities that will strengthen the workforce from a public health frame; and,
- Develop organizational structures and activities like the PHC policy academy and policy briefs that are guided by research and have shared input from our campus and community partners.

As we advance for the year ahead, we are grateful for the dedicated, innovative, and agile faculty, staff, students, and state and community partners, who are committed to connectivity, overcoming silos and barriers, strengthening interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration, advancing research to results, and building an environment of inclusive excellence. We value and honor your work with us on this journey to healthy, thriving communities for all.

In Partnership,

Rita Landgraf

Rita Landgraf
Director,
UD Partnership for Healthy Communities
PHC BY THE NUMBERS

16 PUBLICATIONS

4 Journal Articles
Dover Micro Open Street Events: Evaluation Results and Implications for Community-Based Physical Activity Programming
Holding Course for Health Impact: All Aboard Delaware’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
UD Partnership for Healthy Communities: Expanding Campus-Community Channels for Delaware’s SHIP
Align and Invest for Impact with Our Communities

3 Policy Briefs
Structural Racism as a Fundamental Cause of Health Inequities
Delaware Focus: Health Inequities and Race in the First State
Community Reentry Barriers for Youth Transitioning Out of the Juvenile Justice System

5 Evaluation Reports
Delaware State Health Improvement Plan 2019 Annual Report
Wilmington Play Streets (2018, 2019)
Wilmington Wellness Day, Wilmington Health Planning Council (2018, 2019)

4 Resources
National Public Health Week Statewide Calendar of Events and Companion Guide
Glossary of Terms- Policy Academy and REACH Riverside
Reading List- Policy Academy

3 NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES
Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology
Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology
MPH in Health Policy and Management

15 PRESENTATIONS/MEDIA

3 conference presentations
Addressing Community Health through University-Community Partnerships: Evaluation Challenges And Early Lessons Learned
Building State Health Department Capacity for Health Equity through a Racial Justice Framework
Partnership for Healthy Communities: A University of Delaware Community Engagement Initiative

5 poster presentations
Dover Micro Open Street Events: Evaluation Results and Implications for Community-Based Physical Activity Programming
Partnership for Healthy Communities
Social Determinants of Health: Life Expectancy and the Relationship with Race, Education and Poverty in Delaware

7 media mentions
27 ENGAGED CAMPUS PARTNERS

18 Engaged Faculty
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources - Cooperative Extension
College of Arts and Sciences – Anthropology; Associates of Arts Program – Wilmington and Dover; Biden School of Public Policy and Administration; Sociology and Criminal Justice
College of Education and Human Development– Center for Research in Education & Social Policy, Human Development and Family Sciences
College of Health Sciences– Behavioral Health and Nutrition; Center for Innovative Health Research; Epidemiology; Employee Health and Wellbeing; School of Nursing

19 Student Fellows
8 sponsored by PHC: PhD Graduate Assistant; PHC Undergraduate Summer Fellow; Wilmington Play Streets Fellow; Westside Family Healthcare Summer Undergraduate Fellow, (2018, 2019); Westside Family Healthcare Summer Graduate Fellow (2018, 2019); Veggie Meter Graduate Research Assistant

40 events with 4,848 attendees

7 led by PHC:
- Reducing Inequities in Health and Well-being by Addressing Structural Racism in the U.S.
- 2019 Delaware SHIP Statewide Stakeholder Meeting
- Trauma-Informed Community Building
- The “S” Word Documentary and Panel Discussion
- Peace Week Delaware:
  - Trauma-Informed Community Engagement and Resilience
  - Ending the Silence: A Discussion on Mental Illness
  - Tools to Tap into Your Inner Peace and Promote Well Being

34 events co-hosted with 274 community partners
ADVANCING RESEARCH AND POLICY

As the Partnership for Healthy Communities entered its second year, we focused on the role of policy as a root cause for health inequities. Initiating a policy academy was identified as a core activity of the partnership. Results from the PHC launch conference (late fall 2018) action-planning segment established that the inaugural policy academy would focus on structural racism and health. In April 2019, “Reducing Inequities in Health and Well-Being by Addressing Structural Racism in the U.S,” brought together nearly 200 community residents, community practitioners, faculty, and students to provide a foundation for collective, multi-sector health equity efforts in Delaware that address policy, practice and research at the state and community level. The Academy was planned and hosted by the Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) and the Partnership for Arts and Culture (PAC), in collaboration with Delaware State University (DSU).

At the event, PHC released two briefs, “Structural Racism as a Fundamental Cause of Health Inequities,” and, “Delaware Focus: Health Inequities and Race in the First State,” that were peer reviewed by both UD faculty and subject matter experts from the community. Several partners, including health and community development organizations are working with PHC to integrate an explicit focus on structural racism and health inequities in their organizational and community-level work moving forward. State government, planning agencies, and neighborhood coalitions are also using the policy briefs and a May 2019 PHC op-ed, “Housing segregation continues. And it is cutting short black Americans’ lives,” to provide context and advance dialogue around place-based approaches to address social determinants of health. Moving forward, PHC is supporting engaged research on the state of Black girls in Delaware through a partnership with the Delaware Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.
PHC provided support this year in developing several new UD public health degree programs. The University is now offering a Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology and Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology through the new Epidemiology program in the College of Health Sciences. A Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management is also available through the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration. The two MPH tracks share 15 credits of core courses, and diverge in specialized coursework based on primary student interest. Applicants to the MPH must apply to a specific track.

The new Epidemiology Program is collaborating with the University’s Disaster Research Center and community groups to conduct a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). The CASPER aims to assess residents’ perceptions of the health impacts of living near the Chester, Pennsylvania incinerator, where municipal waste, medical waste, and recyclables are burned. Self-reported mental and physical health was lower for households living closer to the incinerator. Households living closer to the incinerator were also more likely to be Black, aware of the incinerator, and perceive increased pollution. Complete results of the assessment will be shared with stakeholders to assess the potential for future research that could improve the health of residents.

Additionally, PHC leadership serve as faculty for a Public Health in Practice undergraduate course, and for population-health teaching modules as part of a UD Lerner School of Business Pocket Masters in Business Administration (MBA). The PocketMBA is designed for current and aspiring healthcare leaders who are selected by ChristianaCare to attend the program.
ENHANCING OUR SERVICE CAPACITY

Upstream Partnerships

PHC has been coordinating interdisciplinary research, evaluation and service partnerships across the state to support communities, systems and sectors with engagement in strategies to advance health and well-being. This includes implementation and evaluation support of programs such as the following: Open Streets Dover, Wilmington Play Streets, the Domestic Violence Community Health Worker Initiative, Westside Family Healthcare Student Fellowships, and an evaluation and research partnership to measure fruit and vegetable intake in community settings in Sussex and New Castle County.

“I feel like being part of the Partnership for Healthy Communities actually made me happier to have gone to UD and learn what I did because now I can give my education back to where I came from.”

PHC Student Fellow
Healthy Communities Delaware

As one of three partners providing managerial support to Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD), PHC serves as the operational partner. HCD is a collaborative place-based approach to address social determinants of health and make a significant and sustainable impact on health, by working in a more intentional way with communities, organizations and other funders. The tagline of HCD “Alignment. Investment. Impact” reflects the goal of HCD – to align resources and efforts with investments to achieve a greater impact. HCD aims to assist communities with the greatest need to address health equity.

This statewide initiative leverages resources from a variety of investors, including those in the banking, community development and health system arena. HCD supports and builds upon a variety of existing community-based planning initiatives, councils, and coalitions. The HCD Executive Director was hired in late 2019 as part of the PHC team and will be working with the Delaware Leadership Council, Community Investment Council, managerial partners, UD cross college, and communities across the state to implement and sustain equitable solutions. This partnership will facilitate broader UD engagement in opportunities for community-based research, evaluation, educational programming and student scholarship.
Building Infrastructure and Capacity (cont.)

Delaware State Health Improvement Plan

PHC leads Delaware’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) process in partnership with the Delaware Division of Public Health and in collaboration with the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. This process brings together campus and community stakeholders to work with the Delaware Division of Public Health in addressing Delaware’s most pressing health issues. According to the National Public Health Accreditation Board, the purpose of a SHIP is to “describe how the health department and the community it serves will work together to improve the health of the population of the jurisdiction that the health department serves. The community, stakeholders, and partners can use a solid SHIP to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies.”

In 2019, PHC prepared the SHIP Annual Report and hosted a SHIP Statewide Stakeholders meeting that convened nearly 200 policy makers, public health practitioners, students, faculty and stakeholders from across the state. Participants communicated their respective progress, identified gaps, and worked together to refine the plan. Priority areas include chronic disease, maternal and child health, mental health, substance use disorder, and adopting a policy, systems and environmental approach. A SHIP is also a required process for health department accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Additional information and upcoming stakeholder engagement efforts can be found on the newly launched website, www.DelawareSHIP.org.
Mobile Health

In collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor’s office, and Saint Francis representatives, PHC secured funding from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware to support a partnership with Saint Francis Healthcare mobile health van. The van will enable faculty, staff and students to support improvements in health outcomes in Wilmington’s most vulnerable neighborhoods, through Community Health Services Outreach. The van will also be devoted to community Health and Wellness Outreach (HWO). On HWO days the van will visit sites identified in collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor Challenge, a public health initiative to address community health needs, promote healthy living choices and wellness. Site activities will include physical and behavioral health screenings and education. A Mobile Health Coordinator was hired in late 2019 as part of the PHC team and will be working with partners to have the first cohort of students on the mobile health unit in spring 2020.

“To learn that they had a whole initiative to partner with people in different communities all over Delaware to try and make us healthier, changed my perspective about what it means to be a Blue Hen.”

PHC Student Fellow
PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Rita Landgraf
Director

Erin Knight
Assoc. Director

Barret Michalec
Faculty Advisor

Noël Sincere Duckworth
Program Coordinator

Paulette Hussey-Kasten
Administrative Specialist

Christine Sowinski
Mobile Health Coordinator

Katherine DuPont Phillips
Executive Director, Healthy Communities Delaware

Sachi Braithwaite
PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Graduate Fellow

Sarah O’Brien
PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Undergraduate Fellow

Kelsey Coulter
PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Undergraduate Fellow

Inaya Wahid
PHC SHIP Student Intern

Penelope Velasco
PHC Teaching Assistant

Amanda Kopetsky
PHC Veggie Meter Graduate Research Assistant

Elizabeth Ngugi
PHC REACH Riverside Health, Wellness
and Safety Committee Student Intern

Nolwazi Gumbi
PHC Graduate Independent Study
Student in Disability

Ed Williams
PHC Play Streets Evaluation Graduate Student

Amy Tullo
PHC Wilmington Wellness Day Student Volunteer

Debbie Mack
PHC Wilmington Wellness Day Student Volunteer

Meredith Hyland
PHC Policy Academy Student Volunteer

Deborah Ziomek
PHC NPHW Student Volunteer

STUDENT SUPPORT

Kalyn McDonough
PHC PhD Graduate Assistant

Sydney Rendon
PHC Graduate Assistant

Adaeze Ashiedu
PHC Wilmington Play Streets Fellow

Keani Craig
PHC Undergraduate Summer Fellow

Delaney Luman
PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Graduate Fellow
The UD Partnership for Healthy Communities is guided by a Steering Committee with leadership and membership from both the community and the university, including all 7 colleges.

**STEERING COMMITTEE FY 2018-2019**

**Internal Co-Chairs**

**Kathleen S. Matt**  
Dean, College of Health Sciences

**Mark Rieger**  
Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

**External Co-Chair**

**Robert Laskowski**  
Professor of Clinical Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University; President and CEO, Christiana Care Health System (retired); Principal, Laskowski Advisors

**MEMBERSHIP**

**University of Delaware**

**Estella Atekwana**  
Dean, College of Earth, Ocean and Environment

**Elizabeth Farley-Ripple**  
Director, Partnership for Public Education, School of Education

**Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long**  
Professor, School of Nursing

**Kristi Kiick**  
Deputy Dean, College of Engineering

**Sheryl Kline**  
Deputy Dean, Professor of Hospitality Business Management, College of Business

**Barret Michalec**  
Associate Dean, Interprofessional Education, Joint Appointment in College of Health Sciences and College of Arts and Science

**Julia O’Hanlon**  
Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration
University of Delaware (cont.)

Lynette Overby
Dep. Director, Community Engagement Initiative; Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture, Professor of Theater

Steve Peuquet
Emeritus, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration

Dan Rich
Director, Community Engagement Initiative, Professor, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration

Michelle Rodgers
Assoc. Dean, UD Cooperative Extension

Michael Vaughan
Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Engineering; Interim Vice Provost of Diversity

Christy Visher
Director, UD Center for Drug and Health Studies

Valerie Yancy
Program Coordinator, Student Central

Community Partners

Cassandra Codes-Johnson
Associate Deputy Director, Delaware Division of Public Health

Bernice Edwards
Executive Director, First State Community Action Agency

Cara Gomez
Asst. Professor, Dept. of Public and Allied Health Sciences, Delaware State University

Omar Khan
President and CEO, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

Megan Rothermal
Asst. Professor, Dept. of Public and Allied Health Sciences, Delaware State University

Karen Speakman
Executive Director, National Council on Agriculture Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL)

Brian Rahmer
Vice President, Health and Housing, Enterprise Community Partners
“UD’s Partnership for Healthy Communities is a truly amazing resource connecting students and faculty with the broader communities outside of the university. In a very short time, they were able to connect me and my students with more than a half-dozen organizations with whom we will partner for healthcare-related service learning opportunities working with Spanish speaking communities here in Delaware. These interactions will be invaluable to my students, and will ultimately help to create engaged healthcare professionals with the tools to address health inequities in their communities and beyond. ¡Mil gracias, PHC!”

Faculty Fellow