



## Commitment to Community Engagement

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*John Pelesko, Dean*

### What community engagement means for the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences is the intellectual and cultural heart of the University of Delaware. Social responsibility is one of our core values, and we believe that public engagement with local, national and global audiences strengthens our impact and influence in realizing a better world.

Community engagement connects closely to our mission to foster excellence in scholarship, creative work and public service. We educate our students to be thoughtful, ethical and engaged leaders. We engage with local, national and global communities to understand and address their needs and to share the insights and results of our academic and creative work.

We are especially proud to share in the leadership of the Community Engagement Initiative and the **Partnership for Public Education** in support of the University's role in cultivating active citizens through real partnerships that impact civic needs.

Our faculty and students exemplify global citizenship and pursue multiple forms of public service, engagement and scholarship. The following is a sampling of the many initiatives that reflect our commitment to engage local, national and global communities as part of the college's strategic priorities in the context of a shared vision with UD's Community Engagement Initiative

### Improving public education, health, and environmental quality

- **Delaware Teachers Institute (DTI)** at New Castle County is a partnership between UD and five school districts in the county designed to strengthen teaching and learning in the community's public schools. DTI offers seminars on subjects in the humanities, arts, sciences and social sciences.
- The newly formed **Biden Institute**, in the School of Public Policy and Administration, will expand our established research in public policy and engage our campus community in conversations centered on social justice, inequality and the environment.
- The **Center for Training, Evaluation and Community Collaboration (CTECC)** is an innovative program designed to advance clinical science in academic, public and community settings. In partnership with multiple community agencies and organizations, CTECC conducts research and evaluation; trains mental health providers; and builds capacity in mental health care systems.
- The Department of Physics and Astronomy (DPA) leads the IceCube Master Class, a joint project with the University of Wisconsin and 13 other research universities to expose high school students from the region to the physics of neutrinos.
- Students in material culture studies regularly share their research with public audiences in the Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning and other public venues. They have assisted with regional community and museum conservation projects in Newark, Smyrna, Dover and Wilmington and worked globally in the preservation of at-risk collections.

- Our Artist-in-Residence program with the Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children uses art to support wellness and health.
- Our departments and centers, including Women and Gender Studies, Sociology and Criminal Justice and the **Center for Political Communication**, serve as a central forum for discussions of public affairs, while the **Center for Community Research and Service** engages the University and broader community in health-related research that impacts population health and health disparities within the state, region and nation.
- The College of Arts and Sciences is a founding sponsor of the Community Engagement Initiative's **Partnership for Healthy Communities**.

## Encouraging economic development and improved government services

- Research in **Fashion and Apparel Studies** explores the impact of creative design on eldercare, constructing garments that are both personal and tactile, while strong partnerships and collaboration with government and non-government organizations and for-profit businesses address fields including international trade and policy, social responsibility and sustainability.
- Our **Disaster Research Center** conducts field interviews and extensive research projects on group, organizational and community preparation for, response to and recovery from natural and technological disasters and other community-wide crises.
- The **Institute for Public Administration** provides assistance to government and public agencies at all levels, including support for the Delaware General Assembly through the Legislative Fellows Program. **The Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research** is a primary source of data and analysis for planning and decision-making in all sectors. The **School of Public Policy and Administration** supports programs to improve professional development for those working in government and the nonprofit sector.

## Expanding arts and cultural programs that enrich quality of life

- From the **Resident Ensemble Players** to the **Colored Conventions Project**, we are a premier destination for arts and humanities programming offering artistic venues, performances and presentations that inform, excite and engage public and virtual audiences.
  - Our arts and humanities departments collaborate with leading cultural organizations and their constituents from the Delaware Contemporary to the Smithsonian Institution and the Arab Image Foundation to foster civic engagement and cultural understanding.
  - A rich partnership with **Art Conservation** and the **Salvation Army** brings art and science to after school programming and, in **ProjectMUSIC Opera!**, our students mentor Wilmington elementary students to produce a school musical.
  - The Department of Art Conservation holds a once-a-month, free-of-charge Conservation Clinic where the community is invited to bring their family treasures for preservation advice.
  - The Department of English engages students and the Newark community in "Random Acts of Poetry," an annual celebration that creates opportunities to encounter the beauty of literature in unexpected places and make poetry part of our everyday experience. Selected short works of poetry, prose and flash fiction are published in various locations, from student centers and dormitories to shop windows and service counters of local businesses.
  - The College of Arts and Sciences is a founding sponsor of the Community Engagement Initiative's **Partnership for Arts and Culture**.
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