



## Commitment to Community Engagement

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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### What community engagement means for the College of Education and Human Development

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to working with our community partners to achieve goals of common interest and solve problems of common concern. Our foundation is built upon the synergies that result from the integration of research, teaching and service. This synergy drives our commitments and results in extensive and impactful community engagement.

Partnerships between the College and local and global communities result in enhanced real-life experiences for our students and in the creation and delivery of services/programs that are effective, informed and mutually beneficial to all entities being served, including:

- Children, youth and adults, including those with disabilities
- Families and caregivers
- Educators and practitioners
- Community and educational leaders
- Researchers and policymakers

### How community engagement relates to the mission and responsibilities of the College

Community engagement is woven into the foundation of our college.

Our vision statement affirms that “The College of Education and Human Development will lead, inspire and engage our students, the citizens of Delaware, the nation and the world in solving critical educational and social problems, and in promoting learning and development in all children and families.”

Our three-pronged mission advocates for a positive impact on society through education, service and research. The College of Education and Human Development:

1. Advances knowledge and develops solutions to the problems that face our schools and the challenges encountered by children, adults and families and the communities in which they live;
2. Prepares leaders in education and human services through programs of superior quality; and
3. Serves the citizens of Delaware, the nation and the world through the application of rigorous, interdisciplinary research that addresses critical social needs of our time.

Our students, faculty and staff embrace this mission, making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable populations. We have established connections in the community that:

- Advocate for survivors of domestic abuse.
- Provide long-term support for teachers and children in inner-city Wilmington schools such as Stubbs Elementary School and the Early Learning Center in the Southbridge Neighborhood House.
- Support young adults with intellectual disabilities as they attend classes at UD, participate in social activities and internships and develop life skills through our Career and Life Skills Certificate (CLSC) program.
- Help residents in Delaware nursing homes regain forgotten memories by implementing the therapeutic Music and Memory program.
- Conduct research and provide professional development in all 19 Delaware school districts, introducing improved instruction in math, literacy, social studies and science to children from preschool to high school.

## How community engagement relates to the strategic priorities of the College

Engaging with our community partners is always top-of-mind for the College of Education and Human Development; it is built into our five strategic goals and a natural outcome for each of our departments and centers.

Our fourth goal spells it out clearly: Impact the lives of children, adults and families through community engagement.

Incorporated into our other four goals are directives to: conduct research that will improve life outcomes for our citizens, cultivate multicultural and global learning opportunities, design field experiences for students to help high-needs populations and provide professional development to support students with economic, cultural, medical, or emotional challenges.

Each of our College centers and departments engage in community service through their education and research initiatives:

- **Academic departments:** In addition to educating our students to become highly skilled professionals, our faculty conduct research to improve academic outcomes for children from birth to college, offer anti-bullying support to Delaware schools, develop early childhood intervention programs for children in transitional housing (homeless shelters) and provide professional development for education professionals throughout their career—from novice teachers to school superintendents.
- **Research centers:** Federal and state agencies rely on our centers to coordinate, evaluate and implement services benefiting the community. Our research centers have partnered with USDA to increase access of healthy food alternatives for low-income families, implemented parental interventions with Early Head Start aimed at reducing stress in low-income children and served as advisors on research and policy issues for state and national organizations.
- **Service centers:** Many of our centers support State initiatives. We operate the New Castle County Assistive Technology Resource Center connecting people with disabilities with the tools they need to participate in community life; oversee Delaware's Quality Rating and Improvement System for early childcare providers and provide grant writing assistance to help schools obtain funding for development training.
- **Children's campus:** Our three children's programs service more than 250 children and their families of diverse backgrounds by providing high quality, early care and education in Newark and Wilmington. They actively participate in state and national initiatives to advance research, service learning and best practices in the field of early care and education. And the children engage in service projects supporting the Food Bank, DFRC Blue-Gold and Adopt-A-Family.

These are just a few examples of how our students, faculty, researchers and staff are providing services and support to children, families and the community. The College of Education and Human Development is committed to making a difference by helping to solve the most critical education and social problems in Delaware and around the world.

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