

June 12, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin to prepare for the 2014-15 academic year, I hope you join me in feeling both proud and excited to welcome the largest-ever incoming class to UD! Indeed, thanks to your great work, UD is in high demand: 26,517 students applied, representing the second-largest applicant pool in UD history.

Students applied to the University from 48 states and 82 countries, with international student enrollment growing 26 percent. We have the largest and most diverse group for the Honors Program in UD history with 19 percent coming from historically underrepresented groups. Moreover, we increased yield across nearly every college, overall reaching 26 percent, up from 24 percent last year—with even larger gains in yield for Honors students.

The first year class is also extremely talented—with an average SAT score of 1817 and average GPA of 3.62. I am especially proud that our resident students are the strongest class of Delawareans in our history.

As higher education institutions in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic continue to confront challenges associated with the declining population of high school graduates and pressures related to costs and affordability, we are fortunate to find ourselves in the enviable position of exceeding our goals. This says a great deal about UD's academic reputation, the commitment of our faculty and staff, and your collective efforts to provide high-quality experiences for our students, whether it be in classrooms, laboratories, or recital halls, on athletic fields or in residence halls.

I also realize that with great success come great challenges. We have some hurdles to overcome as we prepare for this large influx. I am confident that through collaboration, flexibility and dedication, we will be well prepared to provide all our students with the excellent experience that is the hallmark of a Delaware education.

Looking ahead, when he arrives July 1, incoming Vice President for Enrollment Management Chris Lucier and his team will engage colleagues across campus to carefully consider this year's success and ensure the experience informs our plan for next year's enrollment and beyond.

As we prepare to warmly welcome our new flock of Blue Hens, I know that "DELAWARE WILL SHINE" because of YOU!

Go Hens!



Domenico Grasso
Provost