

Delaware Tech Students Trained as Certified Peer Educators



WILMINGTON - Thirty Delaware Tech students completed Certified Peer Educator (CPE) Training at the Wilmington Campus on March 7-8. Funding for the 12-hour training was provided through a Delaware Tech Student Success Grant submitted by Cara Stanard, Academic Counselor at the Wilmington Campus, and colleagues Mike McCloskey and Robin Williams.

According to Stanard, the goal of the training was to enhance student engagement and student leadership skills to create a core of new, active peer educators on all Delaware Tech campuses. "I really look forward to seeing what these new leaders will accomplish," Stanard said. The 30 participants represented the Stanton/Wilmington and Owens campuses and a wide variety of majors. Students were selected for the training program through an application process.

CPE training, developed nationally by the BACCHUS Network, prepares students to play an important role in encouraging their peers to consider, talk honestly about, and develop responsible habits and attitudes toward high-risk health and safety issues. Funding from the grant allowed for the purchase of a training kit so that the program can be offered annually and shared among campuses.

Assistant Campus Director Dr. Frances Leach welcomed the students on Friday and congratulated them on their commitment to campus leadership. The training was led by David Arnold, Director of Alcohol Abuse Prevention Initiatives for NASPA - a national organization for Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. Arnold noted at the conclusion, "The students were really engaged, memorable, and really committed to making Delaware Tech a healthier and safer campus."

Students had the opportunity to complete the national certification test online at the conclusion of the training. Successful students will receive a certification card and certificate from NASPA, along with a resume attachment to explain the certification to potential employers.

Trina Lucas, a Dental Hygiene pool student, reflected, "I learned how to react when you don't know how to react." She said her biggest take-away from the training was "to meet people where they are." Yaseen Abdullah, an Accounting and General Business major, said the training was fun and full

of energy and creativity. “At the end of the day, we are learning new skills to help others.”

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