Taking the Lead at Delaware Tech

College President Dr. Mark T. Brainard is ready for his new role.
TAKING THE LEAD AT DELAWARE TECH
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Mark T. Brainard
President

“With the wisdom, passion, and support of the College’s students and their families, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, partners, alumni and friends, together we can all enjoy greater success for our students, for Delaware Tech, and for our communities.”

Dear Delaware Tech Alumni and Friends,

I am honored to step into the leadership role of such an exceptional organization – one that has been a vital part of Delaware’s communities for nearly 50 years! Delaware Tech is an institution with an incredible history of excellence, collaboration and partnership. Our success – and the success of our students – has always depended on the excellent working relationships between the College and our partners in business and industry, in higher education and in government. Our success also relies on the teamwork within our organization – among faculty, librarians, staff, administrators and board members who have worked tirelessly to make Delaware Tech what it is today.

And by all accounts, the College is coming off its best year ever. Examples include completion of a very successful Middle States Accreditation process; steadily improving graduation rates; continued high pass rates on national licensure and credentialing exams; a record-high 181 connected degrees and transfer pathways to make it easier for our students to continue their education at four-year universities; and an increase in the employment rates of graduates from a majority of our academic programs despite an uncertain economy.

I look forward to a future that continues our tradition of excellence, collaboration and partnership, one that builds on our many accomplishments. I believe there are three immediate priorities going forward and invite you to read about them in this issue on page 17.

As the College begins work on these and other initiatives, I look forward to working with our stakeholders – both internal and external – as we lead our state into stronger economic times. With the wisdom, passion and support of the College’s students and their families, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, partners, alumni and friends, together we can all enjoy greater success for our students, for Delaware Tech and for our communities. ♦

Mark T. Brainard
President

Follow President Brainard on Twitter: @DrMarkBrainard
Dear Alumni and Friends,

As Alumni Presidents, we could not be more pleased to offer our warmest welcome to Dr. Mark Brainard as Delaware Tech’s new president. As a graduate of the College, his path to the presidency reflects what we know from our own personal experiences to be true … that a Delaware Tech education can take you as far as you want to go. Congratulations, Dr. Brainard! We wish you great success!

If you, too, are a graduate of Delaware Tech, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to share your success story. Help inspire today’s students on their journey to graduation. And don’t be humble, Alumni! We know that success comes in many forms and is not limited to the position you have earned. Have you overcome major obstacles? Earned additional degrees? Have you taken a leadership role in your community? Tell us! We want to hear your story.

Just visit go.dtcc.edu/alumni and click on the green button that says, “We want to hear from you!”

As we welcome an alum into the College’s highest position, we are excited about the future of Delaware Tech and its alumni association. Connect with us … there has never been a better time! ☀️
$125,000 Grant from JPMorgan Chase Foundation to Expand Pathways for Careers in Technology

The College is the recipient of a $125,000 grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to expand pathways for careers in technology through a CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Routing and Switching certificate program. The grant covers the program costs for instructors, student recruitment, and equipment, as well as textbook and certification exam fees for students. To support students in completing the program, the College is providing scholarships for eligible applicants to cover the cost of tuition and fees.

“This partnership is just one example of how Delaware Tech works with businesses to meet workforce demand through high-quality academic and training programs. We are grateful for this significant support from JPMorgan Chase to help Delawareans enhance their skills, increase their wages, and ultimately improve their life.” states College President Dr. Mark T. Brainard.

The grant is funded as part of JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s New Skills at Work Initiative, which is built on the premise that helping people gain the skills they need to compete for jobs, can transform lives and strengthen economies. Mike Zbranak, chief information officer at JPMorgan Chase states, “We know that helping people gain the skills they need is one part of tackling unemployment, but it is an area where we can make a contribution now and create greater economic opportunities in our community.”

The CISCO CCNA Routing and Switching certificate program, part of Delaware Tech’s Network Certification Academy, will teach students how to install, monitor, and troubleshoot network infrastructure. The program is designed for students who want to take the first step toward a career in networking, as well as for current network engineers who need to increase their value to employers and stay current with advances in networking.

The program will be offered in evening and weekend formats that will run April-August at Delaware Tech’s Orlando J. George, Jr. Campus in Wilmington. Upon completing the program and certification, students will be prepared to fill positions such as network specialist, network administrator, and network support engineer. According to Economic Modeling Specialists International (emsi), a national company which provides comprehensive labor market analysis, individuals with CISCO CCNA certification earn an average of $27.43 per hour.

For more information about the program, to enroll for the April session, and to apply for a scholarship, visit www.dtcc.edu/cisco.

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MISSION STATEMENT
Delaware Technical Community College is a statewide multi-campus community college committed to providing open admission, post-secondary education at the associate degree level. The College offers comprehensive educational opportunities that support economic development and are relevant and responsive to the needs of the community including career, general, developmental, and transfer education; workforce training; professional development; and lifelong learning. The College believes in the practical value of higher education as a means of economic and personal advancement. The College respects its students as individuals and as members of diverse groups and is committed to fostering student success.
Board Member Spotlight

The Board of Trustees of Delaware Technical Community College is the governing body of the institution. All members are appointed by the Governor of the State of Delaware with the consent of a majority of the State Senate. The Board of Trustees sets policy for the College and is responsible for ensuring that the institutional mission is carried out. Among its numerous responsibilities, the Board approves the College plan, is responsible for the management and control of the institution, has the power to appoint administrative and instructional staff, sets the tuition rate, and approves fees and budgets.

In this issue, you’ll find the final installment of a three-part series featuring interviews with the College’s board members.

Bill Bush is a Dover attorney who provides legal services to a variety of clients including Delaware’s State House of Representatives. He previously served as legal counsel to Governor Ruth Ann Minner. Bill is deeply involved in his community and serves on several boards including the Caesar Rodney School District board (president), the board of Dover’s Modern Maturity Center and the board of the Dover Boys and Girls Club.

Why did you decide to become a board member?
I’ve always been aware of the many Delaware Tech graduates who work in our local community – as police officers or health professionals – and the difference they make. It’s always been very clear to me how responsive the College is to the needs of local employers. Then I had the chance to hear a Delaware Tech graduate speak at a governor’s function; she told a moving story about how the College changed her life for the better. That’s when I knew that this was the kind of board I wanted to be a part of.

What do you love most about the College?
I love that the College has the ability to change lives … that it provides hope and opportunity to Delawareans and that it’s an affordable option. I want my own kids and the ones I know from the Boys and Girls Club to have the kinds of opportunities to succeed that Delaware Tech provides. Graduation is a time when you can really see how Delaware Tech makes a positive impact – especially when you watch those families who are incredibly proud of that graduate who is the first person in the family to earn a degree.

What do you feel is your greatest contribution to the board/College?
I think I bring a passion to make college education attainable for all Delawareans. I also have a great deal of experience serving on boards of organizations that represent a variety of stakeholders in the community. It gives me a perspective on how Delaware Tech can be a resource for diverse groups of people throughout the state.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?
I enjoy spending my free time with my wife, Carrie, and my three boys: Liam (12), Mason (10) and Jonathan (7). If I’m not working, you can usually find me on a soccer or baseball field somewhere in Delaware! 😊
Vice Chairman John Maiorano is an army veteran, Fulbright Scholar, business owner and Delaware Tech’s longest standing board member, serving since 1975. Having begun his career as a high school German teacher, he has since served in a variety of private and public sector roles including special project manager to the mayor of Wilmington, New Castle County School District job developer and operations manager at FIAT. Since 1981, he has been owner-operator of My World Travel which specializes in custom travel arrangements. His community service experience includes 10 years as treasurer of the Ionic 31 Masonic Lodge and five years as an Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) trainer in the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution for Men. In 2001, the College awarded him its highest honor, the Paul K. Weatherly Award for Excellence.

Why did you decide to become a board member?
It was an easy decision for me as I was raised with good family values and a strong belief in education as a way to advance in one’s career and better one’s life. I already had volunteer experience and wanted to continue to help make a difference in the lives of others. I enjoy working with a team and have a passion for helping people. Delaware Tech’s board provided the opportunity to influence many more individuals than I had previously been able to do.

What do you love most about the College?
My biggest joy comes each year at commencement – especially when the graduates move their tassels. Even after countless graduations, watching the joy that they express never grows old. I always think to myself this is what it’s all about. We have helped change their lives and the lives of their family members for the better. This is the “high” that has kept me going as a board member all these years. It helps fulfill my passion to serve others.

What do you feel is your greatest contribution to the board/College?
I have been called upon three times to serve as acting chair of the board. During these sometimes extended periods of service, I was able to provide the leadership necessary for the College to continue moving forward without missing a beat. As a member for nearly 40 years, I also carry an “institutional memory” that can be useful to our group. Overall, it has been a pleasure serving with the current board and many of those that have come before.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?
I enjoy any and all opportunities to speak German and Italian. And I love dancing or traveling anywhere with my wife, Paula, who shares my love for these things as well. When I can, usually in the summer, I enjoy reading books as opposed to the magazines and trade papers I read otherwise. I also consider myself an above-average stargazer; the vastness of our universe centers me as well as puts me in awe of the beauty and mystery of the cosmos. 

John M. Maiorano
Vice Chairman
Board Member, New Castle County
Owner, My World Travel
B.A. University of Delaware
M.A. Middlebury College/
University of Mainz, Germany

IPO is a full-service orthotic and prosthetic care and diabetic foot management company based in Newark. For the last 18 months, Jones and DEMEP have been working with the company to manage its staggering growth which at 25% per year was outstripping its supply lines and processes.

IPO founder John Horne was introduced to Jones through PNC Bank which recognized its client as one of its top-performing organizations and asked DEMEP to consult. Although IPO had experienced rapid growth – from six to 30 employees in just six years, Horne welcomed the opportunity to work with DEMEP to ensure the company was achieving its full potential.

Jones first recommended a LEAN seminar for Horne and about 15 employees. LEAN is a production philosophy – typically associated with manufacturing but useful in a wide range of industries – that encourages companies to eliminate all expenditures of resources unless that expenditure directly creates value for the customer. The seminar opened Horne’s eyes to the potential of the business.

It also introduced a new language to the company, one that Horne wanted all of his employees to know. “The training increased our vocabulary and our awareness,” said Horne. “It enhanced our communication.”

DEMEP expanded on the initial training by involving every area of the company in regular LEAN meetings to discuss what processes were working and what needed help. According to Crystal Slawinski, chief operations officer at IPO, “IPO employees have not only become acclimated to LEAN, but they take the initiative to look for ways to improve daily processes.”

In addition to LEAN training, DEMEP introduced value-stream mapping and 5S to IPO. Value-stream maps are the blueprint for LEAN transformation, helping users to analyze material and information flow, while 5S is the name of a workplace organization method that arranges a workspace for efficiency and effectiveness.

With four office locations in Delaware and the surrounding Philadelphia area, IPO has been able to use these methods to streamline and standardize its administrative processes. Complicated billing and insurance procedures had greatly increased the potential for mistakes, but now a training manual keeps all employees on the same page and allows new employees to get up to speed quickly. “This was the biggest benefit to our company,” said Horne. “Now we are focusing more on our biggest strength – our customer service.”

DEMEP is a federally and state-funded non-profit organization affiliated with Delaware Tech, committed to helping Delaware’s manufacturing and business community improve their global competitiveness. The organization works directly with businesses to offer training and support to improve quality, productivity and profitability.

DEMEP’s Jim Jones (right), with IPO President Jim Horne (left).
DEMEP’s Board of Directors

DEMEP’s success can be largely attributed to the leadership of its board and the support offered by these partners.

Dr. Mark Brainard, Chairman of the Fiduciary Board
President, Delaware Technical Community College

Dr. Lora Johnson, Vice Chairwoman of the Fiduciary Board
Assistant Campus Director, Delaware Technical Community College

Mr. Jerry McNesby, Treasurer of the Fiduciary Board
Vice President for Finance, Delaware Technical Community College

Mr. Bradford Walters, Chairman of the Advisory Board
Operations, ILC Dover, Inc.

Mr. Allan Coletta
Director of Engineering, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Inc.

Ms. Beth Colbert
Regional Manager for Strategic Transition, NIST-MEP

Mr. Richard Heffron
President & CEO, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Kenneth Anderson
Director, Entrepreneurial and Small Business Support, Delaware Economic Development Office

Mr. John Martin
President, PAT’s Aircraft, LLC

Mr. Alan Levin
Director, Delaware Economic Development Office
Female Automotive Student Works on Cars and Stereotypes

Girls Auto Clinic founder Patrice Banks says that for most of her driving life, she considered herself an “auto airhead.” Like many women, she was hesitant to bring her car in for maintenance because she was afraid the mechanics would tell her she needed more work done, and she wouldn’t know if they were being honest with her.

Deciding to change that, Banks searched for female mechanics in the area and came up empty. Banks, who was working as an engineer at DuPont, said it was then that she came up with the idea to start her own female-centered auto shop. But first, she had to learn about the field.

She enrolled in Delaware Tech’s automotive program and dove right in. “The program was a great fit,” she explained. “I loved it from day one. I didn’t want to be an auto airhead anymore.” The flexible schedule and affordable tuition allowed her to continue working as an engineer while she pursued her interest in automotive technology. She said the instructors at Delaware Tech were supportive of her and excited for her aspirations to open an auto shop that catered to women.

“She’s definitely got a good head on her shoulders and knows what she wants and how to make her dreams come true,” said Lou Spinelli, an instructor in the automotive program. “We have a high regard for her and the work she’s doing.”

Taking what she has learned from Delaware Tech, Patrice founded the business Girls Auto Clinic (girlsautoclinic.com) in January 2013 where she shares auto tips with the tagline, “A mechanic that talks like you & thinks like you. Finally!” Banks also holds monthly car care workshops and maintains a presence on other social media like Facebook and Twitter. She recently appeared on 6ABC’s “FYI Philly” to talk about her experiences and the workshops she offers.

Banks does it all with a flair designed to motivate women. “I have a passion for education and women’s empowerment, so it feels really good to be able to help other women.”

Banks, who quit her corporate job to pursue her passion for fixing cars, said she will continue to grow Girls Auto Clinic. She is also looking to open an auto shop and mentor females in the automotive program at Delaware Tech. “I knew I had to pursue my dream when it was all I kept thinking about,” Banks said. “I can’t imagine living my life not doing what I love to do.”
When Paul Egnor, executive chef and brew master of Pizza by Elizabeths, learned he was named Delaware Today’s 2013 “Best Chef in Delaware, Upstate,” he said he was “shocked.”

“I was really surprised and honored that I had been given this award,” said Egnor. “It was exciting to see some new chefs claim the prize.” He said that it was especially meaningful given that the recognition was based on reader votes, a nod of approval from the many Delawareans who flock to the Greenville, Delaware restaurant for brick oven pizzas, salads and specialty entrees.

Asked how many copies he kept of the Best in Delaware issue in which he was bestowed the honor, he laughed and said, “Maybe two.” It’s this humility that made Egnor a favorite student in Delaware Tech’s culinary arts program. Chef Dave Nolker, chair of the Culinary Arts and Food Service Management programs at the Stanton Campus, said he remembers Egnor as a quiet but passionate student who was focused on achieving his goals.

Egnor started in Delaware Tech’s program after several years in the corporate world. He knew he wanted a change, and he found his passion in cooking through a volunteer program called Food Not Bombs. Delaware Tech’s program was close to home and affordable, and he was able to work full-time while he pursued his degree. Egnor graduated with his associate degree in 2006, and he credits the connections he made at Delaware Tech for starting him on the path to where he is today.

Chef Ed Hennessy, one of Egnor’s instructors and now chair of the Terry Campus culinary arts program, recognized his work ethic and positive attitude and helped him land his first upscale restaurant job at Restaurant 821, which has since closed. It was there that Egnor worked his way up from line cook to sous chef and then moved to Home Grown Café in Newark where he advanced to executive chef.

In 2009, he found his home at Pizza by Elizabeths working alongside another Delaware Tech graduate, Executive Chef Amporn Vasquez. Today, Egnor manages a staff of 25 and enjoys cooking some of his favorite dishes like the Betty Boop pizza, made with herbs from an on-site garden and homemade mozzarella cheese. He’s constantly looking for ways to grow and recently took a passion of his – brewing beer – and brought it to the restaurant. For the past six months, he’s been brewing on-site and serving up a rotating variety of beers, a welcome addition to the local brewing scene in Delaware.

To those who aspire to make a career in cooking in Delaware, he believes Delaware Tech is a great place to start. “Get involved, take advantage of the opportunities presented. You will get out of it what you put into it.”
Modern high-performance buildings are dependent upon computerized control systems to operate HVAC, lighting, security and fire systems. These systems allow the facility to function reliably and efficiently while reducing environmental impact, and there is a growing demand for technicians who can assemble, install, program and maintain them.

In response, Delaware Tech recently became one of a handful of community colleges across the country to offer a building automation systems (BAS) associate degree program. Supported by a federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant, the program launched in fall 2014 at the Terry Campus.

“The timing is perfect,” said Mark D’Allesandro, an instructor in the College’s energy management program. “This is one of the most exciting innovations in the building industry because it has the potential to have the largest impact, economically and operationally, on the country’s infrastructure and building energy performance. Nationally, the entire scope of building automated systems is projected to be a multi-billion dollar industry next year, and Delaware Tech is at the forefront of preparing the workforce necessary to support it.”

At the local level, a recent survey of industries in the region conducted by Delaware Tech’s Center for Industry Research and Workforce Alignment (CIRWA) revealed a clear need for building control technicians and provided the data-driven evidence necessary to launch the program.

As always, the success of such a program is built on partnerships, and the region’s building control contractors and engineers are enthusiastically supporting BAS through many avenues. In addition to serving on the College’s program advisory committee where members share key insight and resources that help shape the curriculum, they are also supporting students by offering internships.

“The internships, which amount to about 144 hours of field work, are a huge asset and help students complete a required component of the program,” said D’Allesandro. “In addition, many of the companies offering an internship will hire that individual upon graduation because they know the person has been well trained and can make an immediate and positive impact on their business.”

Prior to their internships, students get plenty of campus-based training.

Thanks to simulation trainers and real-world experience using the control systems that run the campus Center for Energy Education and Training, graduates of the program will be able to do much more than simply perform basic operational functions. They will also have the ability to gather data on energy efficiency and building operations and then use that data to make recommendations for improved energy management.

“Computerized control systems are the nuts and bolts of high-performance buildings. Ultimately, our graduates will implement operational solutions that will result in greater energy efficiency, systems reliability, and occupant comfort and safety,” stated D’Allesandro. “The students who complete this degree are going to be the brains behind today’s smart buildings.”

For additional information on the BAS associate degree program, please contact Mark D’Allesandro at 302-857-1393 or Jennifer Clemons at 302-857-1308.
Delaware Tech Delivers Training to Improve Outcomes of Probation

Delaware Tech’s Workforce Development and Community Education division recently partnered with the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) in an effort to improve outcomes of the men and women on probation.

Motivational interviewing training, based upon the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) curriculum, was recently provided to more than 330 DOC employees, primarily probation and parole officers and management staff. More than 60 of those individuals completed additional advanced training while 22 others went on to complete “Train the Trainer” sessions.

“The MINT curriculum is designed to help the officers engage in effective conversations about behavior change with offenders so those individuals are able to successfully leave the corrections system at the end of their supervision,” said Rachel Anderson, assistant director of Workforce Development and Community Education at the Stanton/George Campus. “This was our first time offering it, but we have decades of experience in delivering training, and it fell in line with our mission of helping an agency or business increase productivity and performance.”

“The goal was to expose all our officers to motivational interviewing so they could incorporate the skill into their toolbox,” said Curt Shockley, deputy chief of the DOC’s Bureau of Community Corrections which oversees probation and parole. “We also wanted to have our own instructors trained so we could sustain the program internally. Motivational interviewing is now part of our initial probation and parole officer training, and we will be developing annual refresher courses for all officers.”

The MINT sessions were held across the state from October 2013 to May 2014. Upon completion of the program, officers were able to improve the quality and effectiveness of their meetings with probationers.

“We were pleased to partner with Delaware Tech for this significant initiative,” said DOC Commissioner Robert Coupe. “Our officers now have a valuable interview strategy aimed at improving offender compliance and cooperation with their supervision plan.”

Although it is hoped the training will result in better outcomes for the men and women on parole and probation, MINT has already had a notable impact on those involved.

Rosanna Brown-Simmons, senior special programs director for Stanton/George Workforce Development and Community Education, helped coordinate the grant that made the training possible, hired the adjunct instructors and set up the training schedule. She is also MINT trained.

“Motivational interviewing is about becoming a skillful and expert listener so you can engage in a collaborative style conversation that strengthens a person’s own motivation and commitment to change,” she said. “It sounds easy, but it is one of the hardest things to do. It changed my life, and I seriously believe it changed the DOC,” Brown-Simmons stated, citing the following e-mail that was received from a DOC employee:

“This training] has opened my eyes. At first I thought it was simply work-mandated training. Since I’ve embraced the concepts, I think it’s helped me to become a better husband, father, friend and probation officer. [It] has jump-started my passion for learning.”

Anderson believes other state agencies, organizations and businesses would find motivational interviewing beneficial.

“Moving forward, this certainly something the College would like to offer to other interested groups,” she said.

For additional information on customized training, please contact the Workforce Development and Community Education office at go.dtcc.edu/workforcedevelopment.
Congressman John Carney held a series of events and meetings with Delaware’s manufacturing community during Make It in Delaware week in June 2014 in an effort to gather ideas for legislative proposals that would bring more manufacturing jobs to Delaware and better prepare job-seekers to obtain manufacturing jobs that are currently vacant.

The events included a roundtable conversation with manufacturing employees at Delaware Tech’s Innovation and Technology Center (ITC) in New Castle where he talked to former auto employees and job trainers to discuss challenges faced by manufacturing workers as well as skills and training needed to take advantage of future job opportunities.

“We need to make things in America again if we’re going to continue to have a robust economy capable of competing in the global marketplace,” said Carney. “Talking to those who confront these challenges every day is critical to coming up with ways to revitalize American manufacturing.”

The congressman hosted a second roundtable later in the week in Georgetown at Delaware Tech’s Theodore C. Freeman Powerplant Education Building, the College’s new aviation education facility. The discussion focused on manufacturing opportunities for growth in the state and the federal role in revitalizing American manufacturing.

Congressman Carney’s Make It in Delaware plan is available on his website: johncarney.house.gov. Opportunities for manufacturing career training at Delaware Tech can be found at go.dtcc.edu/workforcedevelopment.
Dr. George was honored with a special presentation from keynote speaker, the Honorable Jack A. Markell, Governor of the State of Delaware, who signed Senate Bill 222 naming the Wilmington Campus the Orlando J. George, Jr. Campus.

Governor Markell also presented Dr. George with the Order of the First State – the highest honor that a Governor can bestow. “We could not be more blessed to have had a leader of this institution who has had the vision to create opportunities for our citizens, across all generations, putting them in position to make the most of their abilities and to contribute the full extent of their talents,” said Markell. “And at a time when the costs of higher education are rising much faster than inflation, and institutions across the country are raising tuition, Lonnie has had the conviction to keep costs low and to ensure that no student is denied access to opportunities at Delaware Tech because of an inability to pay. Because of that, his legacy is one not only of great accomplishment but also of improving access and opportunity.”

Upon acceptance of the night’s honors, Dr. George said, “I am humbled and honored and accept them on behalf of my entire Delaware Tech family - the talented and caring faculty, staff, administrators and board members as well as our partners and donors who are passionate about giving our students access to their future. When the College’s accomplishments and successes of the last 19 years are written, all credit should be given to this truly amazing group of people.”

On June 3, 2014, Dr. George was conferred the title of President Emeritus by Delaware Tech’s Board of Trustees through a resolution recognizing his outstanding career and leadership of the College. In addition, the Board named Dr. George the 2014 recipient of the Paul K. Weatherly Award Recognizing Excellence. The award was created in 1995 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Delaware Technical Community College and who exemplify the ideals of the community college spirit. Since its inception, this prestigious honor has only been awarded to 10 individuals.
When Delaware Tech drafting student Billy Wessell learned of the opportunity to travel to China with the college as part of the study abroad program, he was instantly attracted to the idea. His instructor and mentor Bruce Thorngate helped him to apply for the trip and for financial aid. Billy’s family supported the venture by providing additional financial support and helping him obtain his passport. This team effort paid off in the form of the trip of a lifetime.

Billy’s travels to China in 2011 represented his first time out of the country, and it opened his eyes to a wider world view. In the weeks that followed, he continually talked about his experience and the impact it had on him.

Tragically, Billy passed away on December 14, 2011, just a few months after his trip. His parents, Clay and Pat Wessell, established the Billy Wessell Foundation to honor his memory and give back to those organizations who had enriched his life – namely, Delaware Tech’s Study Abroad program and the Nemours Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to children’s health. As a child, Billy was a patient at A.I. duPont Children’s Hospital, which is part of the Nemours network.

In 2013, the Billy Wessell Foundation held a music festival called Big BreakFEST at the Wessell home. (Billy was often affectionately called by his nickname, “Big Breakfast.”) It honored Billy’s memory and love of music and was a special day for his family. According to Clay Wessell, the event helped them to focus on giving back in Billy’s honor. The family held a second Big BreakFEST this past fall.

Delaware Tech’s study abroad scholarships funded by charities like the Billy Wessell Foundation allow students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to see the world and broaden their educational horizons. In 2015, students will travel to Peru, Scotland, Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

“Billy was a great student and person,” said Thorngate. “He was excited to see the world and for the future. He is greatly missed, but his legacy lives on at Delaware Tech.”

This year, the Owens Campus made September 11 not only a day of remembrance but a day to help raise funds for a veteran pursuing his or her educational goals. The inaugural Run, White & Blue 5K was an unqualified success and raised over $5,000, providing a veteran with a scholarship to attend the Owens Campus.

The event started with a flag ceremony near the Student Services Center to commemorate 9/11. There was also a post-race cookout and customary awards ceremony for the top overall male and female finishers and the top finishers in each age group.

“Working with the 5K committee to plan and execute this event was a great experience. I am so proud of our students for leading the committee and helping the campus to support military-friendly initiatives,” said Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Melissa Rakes. “I felt the event brought the campus and community together. It was inspiring to have veterans and service members involved in the 5K both as volunteers and participants.”

Seashore Striders served as the event coordinator, marking the course, handling registration and check-in, and providing timing equipment for the run. World Gym Millsboro offered a Pump and Run where participants could bench press a set amount of weight and receive seconds off of their 5K time for each repetition.

The event was also sponsored by Froggy 99.9, the Delaware National Guard, Morgan Stanley, Karpin Construction, LLC, Mispillion River Brewing Company, Fat Daddy’s BBQ, Kona Ice and Atlantic Liquors.

“Nothing touches my heart more than people coming together to honor our military,” said Tina Huebner, occupational therapy student and co-chair of the 5K committee. “As a military wife and an Owens Campus student, I would personally like to thank each and every person who took part in this event. You will touch a life by helping someone attend school to achieve their dream.”

The 5K committee members are already making plans for the Run, White & Blue 5K to become an annual tradition. According to Rakes, “Many participants and volunteers approached me to say how much they enjoyed it and look forward to being a part of the 2015 event.”
Taking the Lead at Delaware Tech

When Mark Brainard stepped foot on the Stanton Campus of Delaware Tech in 1979, he was the first in his family to pursue a college education, had already held a full-time job, and was older than many of his peers. He was not what his high school teachers might have called an “academic all-star.” Yet, 35 years later, and now president of the College where he got his first degree, Brainard tells new students at orientation not to be discouraged if their situations are similar: “What seem like barriers to your success are actually opportunities.”

“He understands students like me, and that’s what makes him well-suited to be president,” said Tearsha Morin, a 39-year old student at the Owens Campus who is juggling two jobs, two children and a criminal justice degree. Morin had a chance to meet Delaware Tech’s new president at a campus event. “He really embraced me and told me to keep him updated on my progress. I knew he meant it. And he gave me valuable advice on pursuing my childhood dream of becoming a lawyer.”

Morin hopes to follow an educational path similar to her mentor. After earning his associate degree in criminal justice from Delaware Tech in 1981, Brainard went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from Wilmington University in 1983 and ultimately a Juris Doctor from Widener Law School in 1994.

It was upon these academic accomplishments that he would build a 25-year career spanning higher education, business and government – a unique combination of experience that prepared him to lead an organization that is considered the lynchpin in the State’s workforce development efforts.

“Mark brings a deep understanding of both the private and public sectors in this state,” said John Casey, executive vice president of the Delaware Contractors Association. Rich Heffron, president of the Delaware State Chamber, agreed. “He knows that what makes Delaware work is jobs,” he said. “He understands the needs of the business community, how educational institutions can serve those needs, and what role government plays. He understands how all the pieces fit.”

Even before he finished law school, Brainard had served seven years in the public service arena as chief of staff for the House Minority Caucus in the State Legislature and then two more years as director of external affairs at the Delaware Department of Transportation.

After earning his law degree, he was hired as Delaware Tech’s assistant vice president for personnel and legal affairs. He left the College to accept the position of executive vice president at the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, he was called to serve as Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s Chief of Staff and helped develop aggressive agendas which included passage of landmark legislation such as the Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) scholarship, the Delaware Cancer Treatment program and workers’ compensation reform.
In 2008, Brainard returned to Delaware Tech as assistant campus director for the Stanton/George Campus and was appointed vice president and campus director in 2011. One of his key initiatives was partnering with Red Clay Consolidated School District to create a dual enrollment program that would prepare students to work in the construction field upon graduation from high school. The program is now being replicated at other high schools throughout the state.

“No one had tried this before,” said Dr. Mervin Daugherty, superintendent of Red Clay, “but Mark likes to think outside the box and trusted us to partner on a program that responded to what the labor unions were telling us the industry needed.” The construction program has recently graduated its first class and is now taking in twice as many students. “Even in his new role as president, Mark makes frequent visits to our program to check in,” said Daugherty.

Dr. Kathy Janvier, who succeeded Brainard as campus director, also finds him very engaged and hands-on. “He likes to get involved by listening and talking to the people who are the experts in their areas,” she said. Janvier believes it was these qualities – along with his “let’s-get-it-done” attitude – that helped make the recent construction of the Stanton Campus nursing facility a success. “Our nursing program had expanded twice since 2004 but within the same physical footprint. When a portion of the capital funds needed for the project became available,
Mark went into action and identified the campus fiscal resources to piece together the funding we needed to expand."

The credit side of the institution is not the only area where Brainard made an impact as campus director. Paul Morris, assistant vice president for Workforce Development and Community Education, says that Brainard has been a champion for the College’s non-credit offerings and developing pathways for students from non-credit into credit programs. "Mark realizes that short-term, non-credit programs are a gateway into higher education. He fully understands that responsive workforce development programs not only serve Delaware’s business and industry and those looking to build their resume, but it opens a student’s eyes to our academic programs and the opportunities that a degree could afford them."

While overseeing the Stanton/George Campus, Brainard also developed a reputation for balancing his administrative responsibilities with one-on-one time with students. "He’s very student-focused," said Dr. Kim Gregor, chairperson of the math department at the George Campus. "He started ‘Coffee on Campus’ where he could get to know the students, and they could get to know him. He regularly stopped by our math lab to say ‘hello.’ He personally thanked student volunteers who were giving their time to campus initiatives. These things speak volumes.”

One group of students Brainard has strongly advocated for are veterans. At the Stanton/George Campus, he initiated the Veterans Inspiring Progress or VIP program, a student organization for veterans, by veterans that connects military and veteran students with the resources they need to succeed while offering support and camaraderie. The program has since been expanded collegewide. Major David Strawbridge of the U.S. Air Force Reserve is working with the College to advance its veteran initiatives. "What impresses me most," said Strawbridge, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, “is that while Mark is not a veteran, he is incredibly proactive in ensuring the College creates a welcoming learning environment for those who are. It’s not surprising that Delaware Tech has recently been recognized as a military friendly school.” Major General Francis D. Vavala of the Delaware National Guard agreed: “Dr. Brainard truly embodies the term ‘military friendly.’”

In July 2013, Delaware Tech’s Board of Trustees appointed Brainard executive vice president of the College. He would work closely with then-president Orlando J. George, Jr. to provide strategic thinking and direction for all operational areas before becoming president in August of 2014. It was a decision applauded by Congressman John Carney who worked closely with Brainard in the Minner administration.

“I think Mark was the perfect choice,” said Carney. “I’ve worked with him for many years going back to our time in state government. He has a passion, a vision and a leadership style that will help Delaware Tech continue to grow and meet the many varied needs of Delaware students and businesses.”

Governor Jack Markell has also strongly supported the decision. “[Mark has] extraordinary talent and experience, as well as a firm commitment to the College from which he himself graduated,” said Markell. “His ties to the College, combined
Dr. Brainard is active in the community, participating in numerous and varied fundraisers and charitable events throughout the year. He serves as chairman of the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership Board, a member of the Wilmington University Public Policy Advisory Board and a board member of the St. Patrick’s Day Society. He is a former volunteer for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, HOST mentor and a member of the state Strategic Economic Council.

with his years of service and work in both the private and public sectors, will be an asset as he continues to build on the strong foundation Delaware Tech has built throughout the state.”

Soon after his appointment, Brainard began building on that foundation of success by outlining three immediate priorities for the coming year: taking student success to the next level, enhancing employee work/life balance programs, and telling the Delaware Tech story through an aggressive marketing campaign targeting employers and residents across the state.

Mary Doody, an assistant dean of instruction and co-chair of the task force who is working on the president’s student success initiative, is excited about the approach the task force is taking. “Mark made it clear that he doesn’t want our work to be a top-down process,” she said. “He wanted people on the front lines to be involved from all areas of the College, and that’s exactly what’s happening.”

Brainard understands that it’s the people on the front lines that are touching students’ lives every day, helping them to achieve their dreams. After all, they were the ones who helped him get his start. “Many years ago, Delaware Tech provided me the foundation to pursue and accomplish my educational and career goals,” Brainard said, “so I am honored in this new role as president to support our students and serve the college that has done so much for me over the years.”

*We wish you well, Dr. Brainard!*
If you attended an event at the Owens Campus in the last year, chances are you heard a musical performance from the 2014 Owens Campus Student Club of the Year, the Music Notes.

The club performed at events ranging from Black History Month to Employee Recognition and just about everything in between. It was a huge step for a club that had previously been two organizations – one about social gatherings and impromptu instrumental sessions (the Music Club) and another about a cappella singing (DelNotes). Merging the two provided the musicians with singers and the singers with the opportunity to perform with live music.

“When I took over as advisor last year, I was made aware of the club’s admittedly lackluster history,” said Club Advisor Cory Dunt who teamed with DelNotes advisor Maribeth Dockett to merge the two clubs. “Having played in bands for years myself, I knew much more was possible. I sought to use my show-running skills and experience performing to motivate the members toward greater passion and output and guide them toward what a band should be.”

The band’s coming out party was at intermission of a theatre performance of the Performing Arts Club, playing at all three of the weekend performances and returning that Monday for an encore for Owens Campus employees at an employee update.

“It was the gig we needed to motivate us toward making ours a viable and active club,” Dunt said. “The response was overwhelming. The whole campus had seen what we were capable of, and the offers came flowing in for us to play school events.”

The excitement motivated the members of the club to become better musicians and singers and gave them an outlet for their talents. Tyler Meding, an elementary education major, had joined Music Club in his first semester and saw the evolution to Music Notes firsthand. In the spring, he teamed with another student to write an original song.

“Everyone stepped up and worked harder than they ever had before,” Meding said. “It was a good feeling knowing how far the club has come. The best moment had to have been winning Club of the Year. Seeing our hard work finally pay off was incredible and felt like winning a Grammy.”

Michael Wingate, a business major, always had a passion and love for beat boxing but had never performed in front of a large group before.

“The very first time I performed I couldn’t hold the mic still,” Wingate said. “I had to beatbox while holding the mic with two hands. The club helped me get involved. I started going to more student activities and events as well as meeting awesome people within the College.”

This year, having welcomed a new co-advisor, Development Director Jason Bentley, the club is running an open mic event at the campus coffee shop. “This year, we’re going to focus more on vocal coaching,” Dunt said, “and we’ve introduced an audition process for our bigger performances to encourage our members to really practice their craft – both during club time and on their own.”

Top: Music Notes members Justin Gabbard, a civil engineering student; Caitlyn Timko, a medical laboratory technician student; Jenaro Vela Olguin, a criminal justice student; and Taylor Phillips, a general business student, perform during the 2014 Black History Month Recognition event.

Left: Tyler Meding, an elementary education student, joined what was originally known as the Music Club during his first semester and has seen the club positively evolve into Music Notes.

Right: Michael Wingate, a general business student, is an accomplished beatboxer and credits Music Notes for getting him more involved on campus.

- The Owens Campus House Band
In early March 2014, all three Delaware Tech campuses held events to support “Spread the Word to End the Word,” a national Special Olympics campaign that focuses on ending the use of the word ‘retard(ed).’ The events were organized to raise awareness and provide an opportunity for students, staff and campus visitors to sign the following pledge to not use the R-word or other hurtful words:

“I pledge and support the elimination of the derogatory use of the R-word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.”

Buttons, stickers, wrist bands and T-shirts were distributed to help pledge participants share and show their support with others. Thanks to our community partners, Special Olympics and Mosaic, and to our student organization Aevidum, a mental health awareness club, for their participation.

For additional information on the campaign, please visit www.r-word.org.

Left: Each Delaware Tech campus held a “Spread the Word to End the Word” awareness event in March so students and staff could pledge to not use the word ‘retard(ed)’ or other hurtful words. Banners were available at each site for individuals to sign to show their support for the elimination of the derogatory use of the R-word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.
When Delaware Tech exercise science student Rob Harper was exploring options for his program’s required internship, a laboratory was the farthest thing from his mind. But when Carol Malkin, program coordinator for the allied health/exercise science program at the George Campus in Wilmington, suggested he look into a research internship, he was intrigued. He learned more about the INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) undergraduate research program in which undergraduates carry out mentored biomedical research at Delaware INBRE partner institutions, including Delaware Tech.

“I was nervous because I had never done research before,” said Rob. “But I decided to just go for it.” With help from Dr. Mark Lafferty, instructional director for the allied health/exercise science program, he began his research project, studying the effects of pre-workout supplementation on resting metabolic rates. The project and the INBRE program taught him about basic research and built upon his scientific understanding and communication skills.

“When opportunities like these become available to our students, we strongly encourage them to take advantage of them,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Stephanie Smith. “Many of our programs prepare students to work in highly technical fields with specific standards of practice which have been established, in part, through research. Participating in research helps our students understand how those standards of practice came to be and enlarges their perspective.”

At the end of the summer, Rob presented his research at an INBRE poster session and found that he enjoyed talking to people about his work and learning about theirs. Continuing to pursue his research project, he submitted an abstract to the American College of Sports Medicine’s regional conference where he introduced his research to a wider audience. This led to the recent publication of his abstract in the International Journal of Exercise Science Conference Proceedings, an accomplishment of which he is very proud.

Rob graduated from Delaware Tech in 2013 and is currently pursuing a B.A. in Health Behavior Science at the University of Delaware. He continues to be involved with the INBRE research program, sharing his experience with students currently in the program.

“When students are involved with research, student engagement is increased and this leads to increased student success,” said Lafferty. “Rob is a shining example of how a small research project can lead to big results.”
When Instructional Director and biological sciences Department Chairperson Barbara Wiggins began teaching at Delaware Tech’s Owens Campus in Georgetown 35 years ago, the department consisted of five full-time faculty members and a handful of adjunct instructors. Three and a half decades later, the biological sciences department offers four associate degree programs and provides required science courses for a host of other majors, making it the largest department outside of nursing on campus – with a team that includes ten full-time faculty members, two educational lab specialists, and 30 adjunct instructors.

Majors offered within the department include the original medical laboratory technology associate degree as well as degrees in biotechnology, biological sciences and food safety. “We have the only food safety degree in the country,” said Wiggins who has since been promoted to instructional director. “There are some colleges that offer degrees in food science but not food safety which was a need expressed by local employers. And with a new $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program, we’re now able to offer a certificate in food safety as well as the degree program. The grant also funds the renovation of a commercial kitchen on campus to provide our students with hands-on, real world experience.”

The biotechnology program was also created in response to a regional need. Developed in 2003, it prepares students to work as biotechnicians in a variety of laboratory settings in the medical, environmental, industrial and agriculture industries and is offered at both the Owens and Stanton Campuses.

According to Wiggins, “We have students that graduate from our biotechnology program and immediately go to work in labs, and we have some that transfer to Delaware State University or the University of Delaware to get a bachelor’s degree in the field. We also have students who go on to become pharmacists, physician’s assistants, and physical therapists—all careers that require advanced degrees. And they got their start at Delaware Tech. One of our graduates is now working on his Ph.D. in Biomedical Science. Another one is currently in medical school in Philadelphia.”

The addition of two new state-of-the-art laboratories and preparation rooms in the spring of 2013 has helped the College provide more courses in the biotechnology and food safety programs as well as classes needed for other majors such as general biology, anatomy and physiology and microbiology. Students experience a real world working environment which better prepares them for future employment.

“Our highly-qualified faculty combined with modern lab facilities allows us to meet a very important need for all students in majors related to biological sciences,” said Wiggins. “It’s great for our students, the College and local employers. I feel very fortunate to work with such a fantastic group of faculty and students every day.”
Diana Nardozzi, instructional coordinator for the education department at the George Campus, regularly encourages her students to become involved with the Delaware State Education Association (DSEA). DSEA represents the over 12,000 classroom teachers, specialists and education support professionals working in Delaware public schools, and its student program helps aspiring educators develop relationships and connections. So when the student DSEA chapter learned of a national student conference in Denver, Colo. taking place over the summer, Nardozzi who is also Student Education Club advisor wanted to help them find a way to take part in this valuable experience.

Enter Jane Checchi and Gabby Barone, president and secretary of the Student Education Club. With Nardozzi's help, they began a “Donate for Denver” campaign, fundraising at the Delaware Tech campus and in the community. Having successfully raised $650 for their trip, Jane and Gabby traveled with other student DSEA members to the conference where they attended workshops and networked with students from across the country. On the last day of the event, they participated in the Outreach to Teach program at a local elementary school where they helped to decorate and remodel the school by painting murals and helping with other small projects.

“I was hooked on the idea of Outreach to Teach which involves the effort of future, current and retired educators to refurbish elementary schools in need,” said Jane. “I also enjoyed the opportunity to travel on my own and network. I learned so much from the conference.”

The students are hoping to attend the next conference in Orlando, Fla, and Nardozzi hopes that with more time to prepare, additional students will have the same opportunity.
Every year since 1984, Delaware’s Secretary of Education has honored top seniors from the state’s public high schools for their outstanding academic achievements. Nominated by their principals, they are selected for academic excellence and community service. This year’s elite included several students who chose to continue their education at Delaware Tech – among them, Alexander Mintan.

Mintan, a graduate of Seaford High School, is currently attending the Owens Campus in Georgetown as a criminal justice major. Mintan plans to graduate with his associate degree and pursue a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He hopes to have a career with the Capitol Police or Federal Bureau of Investigation.
There is nothing more satisfying for a starting softball pitcher than to see a zero on the score board. And for Mykala Steele of the Owens Campus Lady Roadrunners, a zero was what the opposing team put up against her in almost every game last season.

“I didn’t want to give up one run,” Steele said. “No earned runs would’ve been nice.”

In her freshman season, Steele pitched 10 complete games, recorded seven shutouts and had an Earned Run Average of 1.09. In the 89 innings she pitched, Steele recorded 129 strikeouts and gave up just 41 hits and 21 walks. At the end of the season, she was named the team’s most outstanding player and earned First Team All-Region 19 honors. She was the catalyst that propelled the team to a 24-3 record and an appearance in the 2014 NJCAA Division II National Championship tournament in Clinton, Mississippi.

“Mykala had been a two-time All-State pitcher in high school,” Head Coach Wayne Price said. “She was every bit as good as advertised and a great teammate as well.

“She was the top pitcher in the region and was by far our overall best player.”

Steele accomplished everything on the field for the Lady Roadrunners while maintaining a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She is pursuing her nursing degree at the Owens Campus and took night classes on campus during the fall semester so she could earn her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate in the daytime.

“The purpose of going to college is to get your degree in order to get a job after graduation,” Steele said. “Wayne has always stressed school first – and then softball, so I made my schoolwork my first priority.”

Never one to rest on her laurels, Steele is already hoping for no less than a repeat performance to cap off her college playing days in 2015.

“I do feel very accomplished, but I have to keep working hard and be able to do it again,” she said.
The Delaware Tech Terry Campus women’s cross country team finished in third place at the 2014 NJCAA Region XIX, Division I Championship held October 25 at Branch Brook Park in Newark, NJ. It is the first year the women’s team has competed at the NJCAA level.

Nicole Skocik was the team’s top performer, finishing the 5K course fourth overall in a time of 22:04. Amber Mason was eighth (23:25) and Marsha Capinin was 13th (27:41).

“I’m very proud of our women’s team,” said Head Coach Ray Parker. “They’ve worked hard all season, so they deserve to be recognized as one of the top teams in the region.”

With a successful 2014 season on the books, Coach Parker is already turning his focus to next year, actively recruiting both men and women competitors for the fall 2015 season. The men’s team, which competed as an independent this year, will join the women’s team in NJCAA competition.

For more information on joining the co-ed cross country program, please contact the Athletics Department at the Terry Campus at (302) 857-1024 or at the Stanton Campus at (302) 453-3753.

Pictured from left to right: Marsha Capinin, Amber Mason, Miranda Gray, Nicole Skocik and Keyondra Wayman.
Distinguished Alumni
Trisha Newcomer received the Owens Campus 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award on September 24. The award is presented to graduates in recognition of excellence and outstanding achievements in their professional careers and service to the community.

Run, White & Blue 5K
The inaugural event took place on September 11 and raised over $5,000. Proceeds benefit a veteran scholarship. The event featured a flag ceremony, a post-race cookout and the customary awards ceremony.

Sussex County Today and Tomorrow Conference
“Sellebration” was the theme for the event held on October 29. Panel discussions and workshops focused on the importance of selling across every industry from healthcare to education to retail and more.

Saturday Before the Season
On November 22, the College held its 7th annual fashion show and offered attendees a unique, pre-holiday shopping opportunity at The Village Shoppes, a collection of local boutiques and restaurants all under one roof.

Economic Summit
Nearly 300 government officials, leaders in business and education, and community members attended the 6th annual Kent County Economic Summit held September 23. The record number of attendees heard from featured speakers Governor Jack Markell, Cabinet Secretary Alan Levin, Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, and Delaware Tech President Dr. Mark Brainard.

Gourmet Gala
This black-tie optional event, held on October 18, showcased local chefs, microbrewers, restauranteurs and vintners. Open bar, silent auction and live music were featured. Proceeds benefit the Educational Foundation Endowment Fund providing scholarships and financial assistance to deserving students.

Chocolate Lover’s 5K
The 3rd annual Terry Campus Chocolate Lovers 5K Run/Walk took place Saturday, February 14. The event featured a 5K run, walk and Kiddie K with chocolate following the competition. Proceeds support the Terry Campus International Education Study Aboard Scholarship Program.

Distinguished Alumni
On October 16, the Stanton/George Campus inducted its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, (pictured above) Paulette Mason, Michael Lawson and William Nefosky. The award is presented to graduates in recognition of excellence and outstanding achievements in their professional careers and service to the community.

An Evening of Mardi Gras
This exciting, fun-filled New Orleans style annual event held on February 21, featured music, entertainment, casino games and lots of great food. Funds benefit the Educational Foundation.

Starry, Starry Night Gala
April 25
Owens Campus, Georgetown
Annual black-tie optional gala. This year’s theme is “Hollywood’s Golden Age” featuring a reception, dinner, performance, activities and dessert. Call 302-259-6089 for information or to register.

Commencement Ceremonies
May 18, 6 p.m.
Terry Campus, Dover
May 19, 6:30 p.m.
Owens Campus, Georgetown
May 20, 7 p.m.
Stanton/George Campus, UD Bob Carpenter Center, Newark
Flags for Heroes flew at both the Owens and Terry Campuses during the 2014 Memorial Day weekend. The campaign honors past and present heroes who put their lives on the line every day including military and first responders. The Owens Campus flags were sponsored by the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club while the Terry Campus flags were sponsored by the Capital City Rotary Club. Pictured here are the Owens Campus flags that were on display by the main entrance near Route 18/404.
Delaware Tech is proud to have been designated a 2015 Military Friendly® School. This designation is awarded by Victory Media to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that embrace military students and commit to their success. The Military Friendly® School designation process includes extensive research and a data-driven survey of academic institutions nationwide approved for Post-9/11 GI Bill funding. The survey captures over 50 leading practices in supporting military students.

“We are very proud of our veterans and military service members. At Delaware Tech we are committed to dedicating the resources our military students need to succeed in the classroom and after graduation,” said Dr. Mark T. Brainard, Delaware Tech president. “This designation is a true testament to the tireless efforts of our faculty and staff who are serving more than 2,000 veterans, service members and their families enrolled at the college.”

On October 20, celebration events were held at campus locations across the state and included student veteran speakers, members of the armed forces and military officials. Major General Francis D. Vavala of the Delaware National Guard discussed the importance of assistance for veterans and service members pursuing higher education. “I’m so happy and inspired to be here to celebrate with Delaware Tech,” he said in his remarks. “I know that you are focused on taking care of the men and women of your country. Your creation of a new student veterans group, Veterans Inspiring Progress, is a great thing.”

Delaware Tech’s Veterans Inspiring Progress (VIP) program is a statewide student veteran organization that connects student veterans with resources to help them succeed and offers support and camaraderie. The College also demonstrates its commitment to veterans through dedicated veteran and service member counselors that assist current and veteran service members and their dependents through the process of applying for benefits online, getting tuition bills paid and enrolling in classes.

Victory Media is a service-disabled, veteran-owned business serving the military community since 2001. The Military Friendly® Schools survey is administered free and open to all post-secondary schools.
The College’s study abroad programs provide life-changing experiences, giving students a unique perspective on the world, people of other nations and their own lives. Travel is linked to coursework and learning objectives.

Visit go.dtcc.edu/studyabroad for a list of the 2015 study abroad programs.

Right: Delaware Tech students visited a junior high school and the Great Buddha in Kamakura, Japan.

Bottom: Students pose with sake barrels.
Christine Gillan – appointed director of communication and planning at the Owens Campus. Gillan previously served as the public relations manager in the Office of the President and at the Owens Campus. Prior to her career at Delaware Tech, Gillan owned a consulting business as an organizational communication skills trainer. She also served part-time as a special projects coordinator in Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s office and worked in public relations for the Delaware Department of Transportation. Gillan earned a bachelor’s degree in communication from the University of Delaware and a MBA from Wilmington University.

Dr. Martha Hofstetter – appointed principal investigator and project director for the College’s fourth Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant. The grant’s focus areas are the patient care technician and building automation systems programs. Hofstetter previously served as the director of communication and planning at the Terry Campus.

Dr. Lora Johnson – appointed assistant campus director for the Stanton/George Campus. Previously she led marketing and public relations, institutional advancement and recruitment. Johnson also served as acting human resources director and interim assistant vice-president for marketing and public relations. She began her career at the College teaching as an adjunct instructor in the business department and served as chair of the collegewide entrepreneurship department. Johnson has a bachelor’s degree in business management and an MBA from the University of Delaware as well as a doctorate in higher education and leadership from Wilmington University.

Cornelia Johnson – appointed director of communication and planning at the Stanton/George Campus. Johnson previously served as registrar and assistant dean of student affairs. Prior to her career at Delaware Tech, she served as the registrar, director of academic student support services and professional development, and enrollment management data analyst at Delaware State University. Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Delaware and a MBA from Delaware State University.

Dr. Sharon Mossman – appointed assistant dean of student affairs. Since 2012, Mossman has served as the allied health/science clinical supervisor and full-time instructor for the dental hygiene program. Prior to joining Delaware Tech, she served as a dental hygienist. Mossman currently serves as president of the Stanton/George Alumni Association and is a member of the College’s Development Council. Mossman graduated from Delaware Tech with an associate degree in dental hygiene and dental assisting. She has a bachelor’s degree from West Chester University in health science/dental hygiene, a master’s degree from the University of Delaware in education/higher administration and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Delaware.
Elizabeth Olsen, Esq. – appointed senior legal counsel. A member of the Delaware bar since 1993, Olsen brings over 21 years of legal experience in both the public and private sectors, including service as chief policy advisor and deputy secretary for the State of Delaware’s Department of Safety and Homeland Security during the Minner and Markell administrations. She also worked as a judicial law clerk in Superior Court and a legislative correspondent and case worker for the Honorable Thomas R. Carper. Olsen has a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics from Skidmore University and a Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law.

Dana Sawyer – appointed director of communication and planning at the Terry Campus. Sawyer joined the College in 2012 as the director of Workforce Development and Community Education. Prior to her career at Delaware Tech, she served as chief of operations at the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services and as an administrator for the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Sawyer earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Delaware.

Rustyn Stoops – appointed deputy director of Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership (DEMEP). Prior to coming to Delaware Tech, Stoops served as value stream manager, process excellence manager and operations manager for Atkore International, a global manufacturer. He also worked as an engineer for General Motors. Stoops earned a bachelor’s degree in applied sciences engineering technology from the University of Delaware.

Dr. Lisa Strusowski – appointed director of Workforce Development and Community Education at the Terry Campus. Strusowski previously served as instructional director and department chair of the business, entrepreneurship and paralegal programs. She began her career at the College in 2000 as an instructor in the business department. Prior to her career at Delaware Tech, Strusowski served as marketing project manager and sales manager at Conectiv Energy. She has a bachelor’s degree in international business relations from the University of Delaware and an MBA and a doctorate in higher education and leadership from Wilmington University.

Timothy Winstead – appointed director of public safety. Prior to joining Delaware Tech, he served as gaming inspection manager at the Delaware State Lottery and as the Sussex County regional director for U.S. Senator Thomas Carper. Winstead retired from the Delaware State Police as a captain after 27 years of service which included troop commander, director of public information and director of human resources. Winstead has a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in human resource management from Wilmington University.
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