Trane Center of Excellence
One of Four in the Country
NEW TRANE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
One of four in the country – a new specialized lab and classroom serving the College’s building automation systems degree program that supports students in pursuit of nationally-recognized certifications.

MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENTS

STUDY ABROAD

ALUMNI

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

GIVING
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Delaware Tech Alumni and Friends,

This year, Delaware Tech celebrates a significant milestone – its golden anniversary. Since the College was established in 1966, three generations of Delawareans have enjoyed greater access to higher education. With each new edition of this magazine, we are reminded of just how much the College has evolved over the last 50 years with new programs, new technology and new partnerships.

Yet some things never change. Through the decades, Delaware Tech has promised to do its part to create a better life for all Delawareans. And we’ve delivered on that promise.

In the last 50 years, Delaware Tech’s team of dedicated employees – with the support of generous donors and strong partnerships – has helped connect Delawareans with jobs through high-quality programs, helped businesses thrive by preparing a job-ready workforce, inspired our youth to fulfill their potential, and provided our communities with opportunities for life-long learning.

In short, Delaware Tech has a history of delivering excellence and changing lives.

“Through the decades, Delaware Tech has promised to do its part to create a better life for all Delawareans. And we’ve delivered on that promise.”

Whether you’re an alumni, partner, retiree or friend of the College, each of you has contributed to its success, and we invite you to join us as we celebrate throughout the coming year. Our 50th anniversary activities and events provide a unique opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and ensure the College’s future success.” (See page 5 for more details.)

Help us make 2016 a year to remember!

Mark
Mark T. Brainard
President

Follow President Brainard on Twitter: @DrMarkBrainard
MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENTS

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this issue of Delaware Tech Magazine, we could not be more pleased to announce that we are strengthening the efforts of our three campus alumni chapters through the establishment of a collegewide alumni association board. Learn more about the board’s inaugural meeting on page 7.

As we commemorate the College’s 50th anniversary this year, the timing couldn’t be better. No one can speak to Delaware Tech’s history of changing lives better than our alumni.

How can you join in the celebrations? The easiest way is to tell us your story! Just visit go.dtcc.edu/50thStories and click on the green button that says, “We want to hear from you!”

And be sure to follow us on Facebook or Twitter to learn about the 50th anniversary events the College will host throughout the year. We hope you will come home for a visit! If you don’t live close to the campus where you were once enrolled, we welcome you to the campus location that is most convenient.

On behalf of the new collegewide alumni association board, we proudly call on each and every graduate to speak up, tell your story, and celebrate with us in 2016.

We hope to see you this year!

3 | DELAWARE TECH MAGAZINE
Last year, Delaware Tech offered study abroad courses to six countries, including: Peru, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Scotland, Japan and Australia. During the 2015-2016 academic year, the College is offering study abroad courses to seven countries, including: Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Vietnam, Switzerland and Peru. Due to fundraising efforts, many students are able to receive scholarships to assist with paying for these life changing educational experiences.

For more information on Delaware Tech’s study abroad programs, visit go.dtcc.edu/studyabroad.
And all with a focus on excellence. Because Delaware Tech has offered relevant programs in a supportive environment at an affordable cost, our students have succeeded. Because we’ve been a trusted partner responsive to the needs of Delaware’s business and industry, local employers have prospered. And because our employees and students have been committed to giving back, local communities have thrived.

Now, in 2016, we’re proud to celebrate the many ways our state has been impacted by a mission that is still delivering excellence and changing lives 50 years later. These are just a few of the College’s achievements we’re celebrating:

» Over 100 high-quality academic programs – more than half of which are nationally-accredited – designed to meet Delaware’s workforce needs.

» More than 2,100 industry experts serving on 84 advisory committees to ensure our graduates have the skills necessary to be job-ready.

» Ninety-three percent (93%) of 2014 graduates are employed with nearly 600 Delaware businesses.

» More than 200 articulation agreements with four-year institutions that allow our graduates to transfer smoothly and economically as juniors.

» More than $5.6 million in scholarships awarded to over 9,000 students in the last 10 years.

» Nearly 70% of students graduating debt-free as a result of the College’s commitment to programs like the Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) Scholarship that provides the opportunity to every high school graduate to attend tuition-free.

» Study abroad opportunities that enhance global awareness and prepare students for the 21st century job market.

» Service learning opportunities that change the lives of students and those they help.

» Dual enrollment programs that serve more than 800 students from 28 high schools and 19 school districts, giving students a jump start on a college degree.
On June 9, 1966, enacted by the Delaware General Assembly, then-governor Charles L. Terry, Jr. signed into law House Bill 529 to establish the Delaware Institute of Technology and its Board of Trustees. The first campus, known as the “Southern Campus,” opened its doors on September 18, 1967 in Georgetown. In its first year, 367 students enrolled and attended classes in the former William C. Jason Comprehensive High School building. As the first classes were being held in Georgetown, plans were already underway to open a campus in New Castle County. A temporary campus opened at the former Blue Rock Shopping Center in Wilmington. Three hundred and seventy-five students enrolled in 1968 at what would be called the “Northern Campus.” As plans were made to find a permanent location in northern Delaware, concerns were raised that one campus would not effectively serve New Castle County. On October 8, 1968, the Board, with input from citizens and architects, opted for two locations to better serve the residents of New Castle. Thus, the Stanton location (1973) and Wilmington location (1974) were born.

The need for a campus in central Delaware was soon realized and in 1972 the “Kent Campus” was established. As the College grew, so did its responsibility to serve the community and in 1971, the College’s name was changed from “Delaware Institute of Technology” to “Delaware Technical and Community College.” In 1976, the Kent Campus was renamed the Charles L. Terry, Jr. Campus in honor of the governor who helped found the institution, the Southern Campus was renamed the Jack F. Owens Campus in 1995 to honor its first campus director, and the Wilmington Campus was renamed the Orlando J. George, Jr. Campus in 2014 in honor of the College’s fourth president.
On September 8, 2015, the first-ever meeting of the Delaware Technical Community College Alumni Board was held at the Office of the President located on the Terry Campus in Dover, uniting officers from the three campus alumni chapters.

“This is a momentous day for our college,” President Brainard told the group. “Thank you for your leadership and for all your tireless work laying the foundation for one true collegewide alumni association.”

Laying that foundation has taken many months, and at the September meeting, it was evident that committee members had built strong friendships and developed a mutual respect for one another. “During the process, I got to know the other chapter presidents very well,” said Conny Wertz, Owens alumni chapter president and president of the collegewide board. “While we drafted the constitution and bylaws, we all got to talk about our chapter projects and challenges. Working together gave us a better understanding of each chapter and insight into the additional possibilities and potential of a collegewide organization.”

Until this year, Delaware Tech’s alumni initiatives had been largely campus-based, and at the inaugural meeting, there was a great amount of excitement about what a statewide alumni association could achieve. The group channeled that energy into establishing several ambitious goals. These goals include:

- **Increasing outreach and engagement around the 50th anniversary**
- **Creating a brand for the alumni association**
- **Enhancing communication with alumni and reconnecting them with the College**
- **Increasing opportunities for alumni to make financial gifts to the Delaware Tech Educational Foundation**

The group also discussed other topics including social media outreach, Delaware Tech Pride Week, alumni presence at new student orientation and graduation ceremonies, trips and other ways of bringing alumni together.

“The campus chapters have been doing some great work, and we want all of that to continue,” said President Brainard. “But the collegewide association and its statewide board gives us a platform to host events, explore new benefits for alumni, and bring alumni and students together in a way that will impact student success. As we approach the College’s 50th anniversary, there is no better time to renew our efforts to engage the tens of thousands of Delaware Tech alumni throughout our state.”

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**Are you a Delaware Tech alumnus? We want to hear from you!**

If you graduated from Delaware Tech and were awarded a degree, diploma or academic certificate, the answer is **YES! YOU are one of our alumni!** Take a moment to update your contact information, learn more about the College’s initiatives, volunteer at a campus event or share your success story at [go.dtcc.edu/alumni](http://go.dtcc.edu/alumni).

**Interested in being more active with the Alumni Association?**

Attend a chapter meeting on a campus that is convenient for you regardless of where you graduated.

**Connect with a campus near you:**
- Dover: (302) 857-1124
- Georgetown: (302) 259-6101
- Stanton and Wilmington: (302) 573-5480

**Ways to get involved:**
- Stay connected on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Join a campus chapter of the alumni association.
- Attend an event to raise scholarship funds.
- Volunteer.
- Be an advocate for Delaware Tech.
- Hire Delaware Tech graduates.
- Help today’s students and make a gift: [www.dtcc.edu/makeagift](http://www.dtcc.edu/makeagift).

**Did you know these notable individuals attended Delaware Tech?**

Dr. Mark T. Brainard, Delaware Tech President; Ruth Briggs King, State Representative; Thomas P. Gordon, New Castle County Executive; David G. Lawson, State Senator; Ruth Ann Minner, Former Governor, State of Delaware; Elijah Obade, professional basketball player; Edward Osinski, State Representative; William Outten, State Representative; Charles Potter, Jr., State Representative; Peter Schwartzkopf, Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives; Daniel Short, State Representative; Rebecca Walker, Division of Forensic Science Deputy Director; and Dennis P. Williams, Mayor of Wilmington.
little over five years ago, Eric Reiske was living in Chesapeake, Virginia and planned on attending Virginia Wesleyan to become a teacher. But everything changed once he learned about Delaware Tech and toured the Owens Campus, and he started down a path that would lead him to a career and a family.

“I was impressed with the curriculum, and it felt like the way I could learn,” he said. “It was a lot of hands-on learning, and they talked about how I could put to use what I learned.”

Eric majored in business and played right field and third base for the Roadrunners from 2008-2010. He credits the Owens Campus and being a student athlete for helping him learn time management skills. “Baseball took up a good majority of my time,” he said. “It was a 40-hour work week and then some. But Coach (Curtis) Brock really stressed that school came first and that it was a privilege to play baseball, and that stuck from the beginning.”

Besides getting an education and an opportunity to play baseball, Eric also fell in love. His dad once joked with him about finding a girl in Delaware, but Eric laughed it off. However, fate would intervene in his last semester of school when he met Jennifer – also a business major – in a marketing class. It would turn out to be the only daytime class Jennifer enrolled in during her two years as an evening student at the Owens Campus. The two would later marry.

Eric graduated with a business degree. “I learned a lot, and I really grew up at Delaware Tech,” he said. “I went from being a guy who didn’t care about school to someone who just enjoyed learning in general, and I graduated with a 3.8 GPA.”

Following graduation from Delaware Tech, he transferred to James Madison University where he earned a bachelor’s in marketing. He soon began working in a marketing research firm and volunteering in social media management and marketing for a non-profit in Washington, D.C. Last year, he was hired by the Delmarva Shorebirds in Salisbury, Maryland and two other minor league baseball franchises as a database marketing manager. In his role, Eric nurtures and builds leads for the sales team and manages the database of those who attend games. “It really helps to understand why people come and what we can do to get them to come back and make the product better,” he said.

Eric and his wife, Jennifer, who works as a state auditor, were married in 2013 and currently live in Lewes.
Aaron attributes his success to his faith, his wife Dawn, daughter Kylie, mother Lynn and friends and mentors like Dr. Brainard, Governor Markell, Pastor Steve Hare, Mark Lafferty, James Villarreal, John Kaminski, Faith Rentz, Ann Visalli, Brenda Lakeman and Mike Peterson.

“I enrolled in Delaware Tech’s exercise science degree program as a way to help myself, my family and others who struggled with their health,” explained Delaware Tech alumnus Aaron B. Schrader. In his teens, Aaron battled with obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. “I learned a lot, took control of my health and lost over 70 lbs.” Aaron graduated from Delaware Tech in 2003 with a 4.0 grade point average.

Today, Aaron is a human resources manager for the State of Delaware, overseeing the operational aspects of the state Group Health, DelaWELL Health Management, Disability and Life Insurance Programs, statewide benefits strategic planning and communications. He began working for the state in 2004, after being recommended to Dr. Mark Brainard, who first hired Aaron when he was chief of staff to Governor Minner.

“Throughout my amazing journey, Dr. Brainard has remained a dear friend of mine and a source of inspiration,” Aaron said.

His first project for the State of Delaware was to conduct a pilot study assessing employee health outcomes.

This study led to Aaron being part of the creation and management of the DelaWELL Program which offers wellness and disease management benefits to over 65,000 eligible state employees, retirees and their family members.

“Through DelaWELL, we’ve seen improvements in participant lifestyle and medical risk factors, reductions in hospital admissions and millions of dollars in savings through our disease management program,” he said.

Aaron earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and a master’s degree in health promotion from the University of Delaware. He’s worked with many people, including the Governor, to create a culture of health and wellness in state government.

“Governor Jack Markell and I have known each other for many years now. He’s always been extremely supportive of me and our employee wellness programs,” Aaron said.

In May 2012, Aaron was awarded “Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Employee of the Year.” In July 2014, Aaron was appointed by Governor Markell as a member of the Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

“We are all proud of Aaron for using his exercise science degree from Delaware Tech as a springboard into a very demanding career overseeing the state’s entire wellness benefits program. He is an extremely dedicated individual who is passionate about helping people maintain a healthy lifestyle,” said President Brainard.

“Aaron is a champion for employee health and well-being – a role that has helped so many of his peers make healthier choices and adopt healthier lifestyles. His enthusiasm for his work is contagious. Delaware is better thanks to Aaron’s efforts. It’s a pleasure to know him and his service to our state and to his peers is to be commended,” said Governor Markell.

Aaron, Kylie and Dawn
Hands-On Experience Prepares Part-Time Student for Full-Time Career

Tom Bille tried following the traditional route by going straight from high school to full-time college student, but it wasn’t for him. Instead, he found a job in the construction industry and soon realized he could see his future there. He enrolled part-time at Delaware Tech in construction management while continuing to work, and three years later, he had an associate degree and a dream job.

It all began when Tom approached one of his Delaware Tech instructors, Mark Grunza – an employee of Delaware construction management company EDiS – about gaining more work experience. When Mark told him that EDiS hired interns, Tom applied. The internship turned into a flexible job that has allowed Tom to continue his education while working. He is currently earning his degree in business management at Wilmington University, a program he was able to transfer into as a junior thanks to a Delaware Tech connected degree program.

At EDiS, Tom works with customers doing technical sales using the knowledge gained from the College’s construction management program and on-the-job training. “I got great value from my major,” says Tom. “I really enjoy that I can take my technical knowledge and combine it with business skills. I also enjoy the customer interaction and helping my customers find solutions to their problems.”

“Tom Bille is not only very driven but continues to help his fellow classmates,” said Heidi Gurdo, Delaware Tech civil engineering instructor and Tom’s advisor. “As an alumni, he has volunteered to mentor students and is an avid participant in the Engineering Technologies Career Expo each year.”

For students unsure about their futures, Tom advises them to “get the degree and the work experience. Employers really value that. Delaware Tech brought real-world experiences into the classroom, and that really helped us all.”

“Get the degree and the work experience. Employers really value that. Delaware Tech brought real-world experiences into the classroom, and that really helped us all.”

Tom and his manager Chuck Aungst at EDiS
Students who completed an eight-week course to become certified nursing assistants (CNA) had no trouble finding employment. They’ve all been hired thanks to a new workforce development initiative called Generation, a program of the McKinsey Social Initiative that targets young workers, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Wilmington was selected as one of the pilot cities for the nationwide program. In partnership with Delaware Tech, Generation offers eligible students a full-time, eight-week CNA boot camp. Those who complete the program, pass a certification test and interview successfully are guaranteed jobs with Delaware employers. The program’s recruitment partners include Jobs for Delaware Graduates, Goodwill and Career Team.

“Delaware Tech is a proud partner with Governor Markell’s administration in the Generation initiative,” said College President Mark Brainard. “Congratulations to the first class of this exciting program. We are pleased to provide certified nursing assistant training that will enable these graduates to gain employment in the healthcare field.”

Seven students graduated at the August 11, 2015 ceremony held at the George Campus, and all are employed with Cadia Rehabilitation in Wilmington.

“I joined Generation because it was an opportunity to better my circumstances,” said one of the graduates, Satyre Jackson. “While in the program I learned to adapt and overcome no matter what life throws at you. My future plans are to finish up my associate degree in human services and then continue my education in nursing.”

The Generation program integrates technical training in the classroom and at job sites, along with behavioral and mindset skills, which helps students overcome both workplace and personal challenges. Generation ensures that graduates continue to have access to support and regular follow-up contact for the first six months of their employment.

Generation plans to move beyond healthcare to offer programs in other market sectors in order to reach many more young Delawareans.

“Education and training beyond a high school diploma is more important than ever to thrive in our economy, which means we as a state have no higher priority than to ensure our people have access to the programs that will prepare them for good jobs,” said Governor Markell who announced Delaware’s partnership with Generation in his 2015 State of the State and gave the keynote address at the graduation ceremony. “The students graduating today have demonstrated determination and skills to build successful careers and, as the first Generations class, they have helped to lay the groundwork for more Delawareans to benefit from this initiative. Their success is a testament to what’s possible when hardworking Delawareans are given the opportunities to make the most of their talents.”
Delaware Tech has partnered with Amazon to offer on-site training for employees of Amazon’s Middletown fulfillment center. The classes are part of Amazon’s Career Choice program which pays 95% of tuition, fees and textbooks for employees who want to pursue certificates and associate degrees. The program is unique in that it exclusively funds education in areas that are well-paying and in high-demand regardless of whether those skills are relevant to a career at Amazon.

Since the partnership with Amazon began, Delaware Tech has offered a pharmacy technician course, an A+ computer course, and a bookkeeping course. The classes have served more than 40 Amazon employees since January 2015 with plans to grow in the future.

Lida Parag and Alicia Nichols are two Amazon employees who recently completed a bookkeeping class. Parag has been with Amazon for 17 years and says that she has enjoyed the many benefits that Amazon provides for employee growth. Attending classes on-site has allowed her to fit school into her busy schedule as a working mother. Nichols hopes to use the bookkeeping skills she has learned to help her husband run a small business.

Delaware Tech partners with several Delaware companies to provide on-site training, but according to Paul Morris Jr., assistant vice president of workforce development, Amazon’s program is different because the training focuses outside of the company’s business mission. The College hopes to expand the partnership to offer credit courses in the future, so that employees may work toward a degree.

Delaware Tech’s Workforce Development and Community Education division has partnered with the state’s Department of Labor Workforce Development Board to offer a free program designed to provide education and employment opportunities for individuals 16-24 years old who are not currently enrolled in school and are either underemployed or unemployed.

The programs, funded by a Workforce Development Board ‘Out-of-School Youth’ grant, offer participants the opportunity to develop personal and professional skills and enhance marketability and competitiveness in the workplace.

Students will obtain a high school diploma or GED® (if needed), earn three industry-recognized certificates, participate in entrepreneurial education and leadership development opportunities, take financial literacy courses and complete 120 hours of occupational training through paid work experience and internships.

Upon completion of the program, individuals will be workforce ready and prepared to continue their post-secondary education.

The programs have generated strong interest from the community since enrollment opened this past fall and applications are still being accepted and reviewed.

For additional information, please contact the program manager at your local Delaware Tech campus:

Terry Campus: Melody Phillips
mphil46@dtcc.edu or (302) 857-1531

Owens Campus: Clarence Patterson
cpatter3@dtcc.edu or (302) 259-6372

Stanton and George Campuses: Beverly Houston
thouston@dtcc.edu or (302) 434-5515
Pathways Delaware Gives High School Students a Jump Start on a Career

Last year, Governor Jack Markell announced grant funding to support the Pathways to Prosperity initiative, a collaboration among Delaware’s Department of Education, Department of Labor, employers, colleges and universities, and school districts to prepare high school students for a bright future in high-demand career fields.

As part of this initiative, Delaware Tech is partnering with local high schools to offer career pathways in manufacturing and engineering, business and finance, healthcare, culinary and hospitality and information technology. These Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways allow students to earn nationally-recognized industry credentials while accelerating students’ progress toward a college degree.

“Delaware Tech is proud to be a partner in the Governor’s Pathways to Prosperity initiative,” said President Brainard. “Our work in strengthening career and technical pathways is a game changer for Delaware students. These pathways provide them with the opportunity to finish high school with real world experience, college credits, and industry credentials that provide a jump start to their career in high-demand fields.”

Specifically, in response to a need expressed by the Delaware Manufacturing Association for a pipeline of skilled workers, the College created the advanced manufacturing pathway. The first cohort of students from the New Castle County Vo-Tech and Colonial districts enrolled in the program in the fall of 2014.

One year later, the program expanded to Sussex County and serves Woodbridge and Seaford high schools. The program is expected to expand again to Kent County in 2016 and is on track to fill 100-150 job openings in the next three years.

The manufacturing curriculum provides students with 600 hours of instruction during their junior and senior years in a specialized manufacturing training lab. Students can enroll in either the certified logistics technician or certified production technician program to earn industry certifications and up to 13 credit hours toward a degree from Delaware Tech.

Agilent Technologies, a leader in the life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemical markets, is one of the local manufacturers who offered craftsmanships to students this past summer. According to Agilent’s Senior Director Liza Bartle, “The program is meeting a significant need. We had to find a good source of candidates to continuously replace our retiring employees with capable and mature young men and women.”

STEM UP Delaware!

Inspiring Students to Study Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

This past fall, Delaware Tech launched STEM UP Delaware!, a program designed to inspire minority students in grades 8-12 to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the goal of providing a pipeline of diverse students pursuing and obtaining degrees focused on the healthcare field. The program is a result of a five-year, $2.4 million National Diversity Pipeline Grant awarded to Delaware Tech and its partners – Nemours Health & Prevention Services and the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University.

Over the last several years, the shortage of STEM professionals in the United States has received a great deal of attention in higher education and industry. Delaware is no exception, and the gap is especially concerning in healthcare. Consider the data for just one of Delaware’s health occupations – the primary care physician. While blacks and Hispanics make up nearly 30% of Delaware’s population, they represent less than 10% of primary care doctors in the state.

With early intervention being crucial, program participants are recruited in
the eighth grade and attend the George Campus for the majority of the program’s activities. The program is based on a multi-pronged approach that includes hands-on STEM curriculum, supplemental instruction, academic and career counseling, mentoring, and internships with local employers.

“The STEM UP Delaware program is designed to build upon the College’s successful track record in developing pre-college programming in STEM disciplines for minority and disadvantaged populations. This program represents what we do so well in our state … that is, to form strong partnerships among higher education, industry and government that make a real difference for Delawareans, for employers and for our economy,” said President Brainard.

Program interventions proposed to meet the demand for qualified health care professionals include academic STEM education, Saturday Health Care Academies, research projects, tutoring services, dual enrollment, career fairs and comprehensive summer programs that include both academic enrichment and experiential learning opportunities. The grant targets New Castle County students in grades 8-12 and will serve 100 students through 2019.

“Higher education, particularly in science and technology, is key to our country’s economic competitiveness,” said Congressman John Carney who attended the press event to announce the grant. “Across the state, I’ve heard from employers who struggle to find individuals trained in STEM fields who are qualified to fill open positions. Through this federal grant, Delaware Tech and its partners are working to address this need through training and education. STEM UP Delaware improves our workforce, strengthens the state’s economy and will change students’ lives.”

thanks to new Legacy Society members, Owens students may have an easier path to completion at Delaware Tech.

Bob Kelly always had a dream and passion for helping those less fortunate, and his wife, Trena, has a long history of volunteering in Sussex County. Through their estate plan, the Kellys have designated scholarship funds to support students with learning disabilities and students taking pre-college courses. Their goal is to provide students who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks the opportunity to become productive citizens.

Chris M. Fisher and Michael E. Peterson established their scholarship endowment to assist nursing and allied health students whose financial situation is making it difficult to pursue their educational goals. Neither Fisher nor Peterson had the necessary funding from family for their own education, so they worked hard to pay their own way and took out student loans. Knowing how challenging it can be when funds are limited, they hope their endowment will make it easier for students to pursue a career in healthcare.

Douglas S. MacDonald, Ed.D. devoted his life to helping students attain the dream of a college education. Having worked in student financial aid during most of his career, Dr. MacDonald was a crusader for helping students fund their education and believed financial aid was an investment in a student’s future and would benefit the community as a whole. MacDonald also worked as department chair of developmental studies and as an institutional research analyst at the College’s Owens Campus along with his wife, Clare, who serves as a counselor. Shortly after his death in 1995, Clare established a scholarship in her husband’s name because his belief in open access and creating educated, productive citizens reflects the College’s mission.

For more information about scholarships or including Delaware Tech in your estate plans, please contact the development office at (302) 857-1904.
A Renewed Commitment to Veteran and Military Students

When Dr. Mark Brainard became president in 2014, building on the College’s legacy of supporting its veteran and military students was one of his top priorities. This year, as we celebrate 50 years of meeting the diverse needs of those we serve, Delaware Tech has never been more prepared to help its veteran and military students succeed despite the unique challenges they face.

A Community of Academic Support

Last year, David Strawbridge became the College’s first director of military and veterans services, providing collegewide leadership for the development and implementation of College policies, services and programming for veteran and military students and their dependents.

Strawbridge works closely with the campus deans of student affairs and the academic counselors who are dedicated to providing guidance and support specifically to veterans, service members and their dependents. These counselors assist with the process of applying for VA and tuition assistance benefits and getting tuition bills paid. Qualified veterans and their eligible dependents receive priority of services at the College including course registration and priority placement in competitive programs, provided all other minimum requirements have been met.

In addition to support from counselors, each campus has established a Veterans Inspiring Progress (VIP) organization. Advised by a faculty member who is also a veteran, the student veteran organization is designed to help students connect, support and network with others who have served and focus on issues important to the campus veteran community.

“I’ve had a really great experience at Delaware Tech,” said Adam Ashcraft, president of the Terry Campus VIP. “On my first visit to campus, I met with the academic counselor dedicated to helping veterans who helped me with VA information and advisement. As an adult student, I appreciated the welcoming atmosphere, helpful advisors and fantastic instructors. After my positive experience, I wanted to get involved with VIP. We have a large veteran community on campus, and there is growing interest in the organization.”

More Than an Education

In addition to providing the academic support that military and veteran students need, the College also hosts campaigns and community events that address some of the common challenges faced by veterans.
On September 11, the College held its annual “Run, White & Blue 5K” at the Owens Campus which raises funds for veterans’ scholarships.

The College also participated in a new veterans’ initiative – Delaware 22in22 – a fitness and fundraising campaign to raise awareness of and prevent soldier suicide. (Every day more than 22 veterans and active duty service members take their own lives.) Delaware Tech students and employees raised over $4,600 in 22 days and logged more than 2,800 miles in support of 22in22. Delaware Representative Valerie Longhurst presented a proclamation honoring the College for its support of the campaign at the Stanton and George 5K in October.

In addition, Delaware Tech’s Office of the President hosted the Suiting Warriors Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports transitioning service members. With over a thousand suits in stock, the organization’s mission is to provide professional attire to honorably discharged veterans to help prepare them for today’s job market.

Military Friendly, Veteran Centered

In light of the College’s efforts to support its veteran and military students and their families, it’s no surprise that Delaware Tech was named a Military Friendly School®. The Military Friendly School® 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 dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

New Director of Military and Veterans Services

David Strawbridge has been appointed director of military and veterans services. In this role, he provides collegewide leadership for the development and implementation of policies, services and programming for veteran and military students, their eligible dependents and fellow Delaware Tech employees.

Prior to joining the College, Strawbridge worked as an Air Force Reserve officer on active duty supporting Headquarters Air Force, Air Force Special Operations Command and the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was twice deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and most recently returned from Afghanistan in 2013 where he was awarded the Bronze Star. Strawbridge is currently a traditional reservist assigned to the 512th Operations Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base.

David brings 28 years of military service, program management experience, leadership, innovation and passion to this new position.

“We are very fortunate to have David join our team,” said President Brainard. “His leadership, experience and commitment to our students and Delaware veterans is a great asset to the College, and he will play a significant role in strengthening partnerships between Delaware Tech and military and veteran organizations throughout the state.”

On Veterans Day, Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons and Representative John Carney attended the Stanton Campus celebration of women in the military where Senator Coons offered his appreciation to the College: “Thank you, Delaware Tech, for all you are doing for veterans. You make this not just a veteran-friendly college, but a veteran-centered college.” For those veteran and military men and women seeking a high-quality education at a great value, they can rest assured that Delaware Tech is committed to keeping it that way. ✶
A collaborative partnership between Delaware Tech, Trane and the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) has culminated in the opening of just the fourth Trane Center of Excellence in the country. Located on the Terry Campus in Dover, the Trane Center of Excellence is a specialized lab and classroom that is home to the College’s building automation systems degree program and supports students in pursuit of nationally-recognized certifications.

“We’ve created a model to emulate,” said Dan Ramirez, director of strategic marketing and development at NC3, which developed the other three centers. NC3 helps to establish partnerships throughout the U.S. between educational institutions and national businesses to offer industry-recognized certifications.

Prior to the opening of the Center, Delaware Tech and Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, collaborated on new curriculum and certifications to prepare building automation systems (BAS) technicians. These systems are the centralized networks that monitor and control the environment in commercial buildings, thereby helping businesses reduce their energy costs. Only a handful of community colleges across the country offer a BAS associate degree program.

“There is a need for highly-skilled technicians who can install, program, maintain and service the computerized control systems and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems used in today’s high-performance buildings,” said Dr. June Turansky, Terry Campus vice president and campus director. “The Trane Center of Excellence will allow us to properly prepare our students to be job-ready upon graduation or completion of their certificate program.”

The Trane Center provides students with hands-on access to commercial air handling units, a boiler and chiller, and work stations that allow them to connect a diagnostic laptop to each control system. Instructors can run various simulations on the systems to help students learn how to communicate with the system, interpret messages, make modifications, perform maintenance and best utilize the
system for maximum benefit and efficiency. Adjacent to a classroom, the lab provides the opportunity to see and experience information covered and discussed in coursework. Funding for the Center was provided by a U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant.

“This program will enable students to train on the latest technology used by the industry, helping them to gain the skills needed for high-demand, technically-advanced careers,” said Shawn Doherty, sales leader at Seiberlich Trane Energy Services in New Castle, Delaware.

“We are grateful to partners like Seiberlich Trane who have helped us establish this incredible state-of-the-art hands-on learning lab that will provide the short-term training that Delawareans need to gain a competitive edge in the energy and manufacturing fields,” President Brainard stated during an official unveiling and dedication at the Terry Campus Donor Appreciation Luncheon in October.

The Terry Campus BAS associate degree program launched in the fall of 2014 following a survey of industries in the region conducted by the College’s Center for Industry Research and Workforce Alignment (CIRWA) that revealed a clear need for building control technicians.

For additional information on the building automation systems program and the Trane Center of Excellence, please contact Jennifer Clemons at (302) 857-1308 or jclemons@dtcc.edu.

On hand for the dedication of the Terry Campus Trane Center of Excellence were (L-R) Dr. June Turansky, vice president and campus director of the Terry Campus; Dave Detrick, Chesapeake Utilities; President Brainard; Shawn Doherty, Seiberlich Trane Energy Services; Frank Kempski Jr., Seiberlich Trane Energy Services; John Buckley, Terry Campus dean of instruction; Dan Ramirez, NC3; John Seiberlich, Seiberlich Trane Energy Services president and CEO; Bill Bush, Delaware Tech trustee; and Brad Eaby, Kent County Levy Court commissioner.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.
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.

Patti Grimes is the executive director of the Carl M. Freeman Foundation which provides millions of dollars in grants annually to non-profits primarily in Sussex (Delaware) and Montgomery (Maryland) counties. She also serves as executive director of the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation, a fundraising non-profit arts organization that hosts performances at The Freeman Stage at Bayside in Selbyville.

Grimes previously worked as vice president of marketing, sales and customer relations for the Carl M. Freeman Companies. She is actively involved in the community and has served on the Delaware YMCA Advisory Board, Sussex Economic Development Action Committee and Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-School programs. Grimes also served as president of the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce and received its prestigious Lighthouse Award in 2011.

Why did you decide to become a board member?
When I was first approached about joining the board, I took some time to consider it because I wanted to make sure that I could devote the time and energy that I believed residents of this state deserved. I knew the Owens Campus fairly well, but the more I learned about the College as a whole, the more excited I became. I’ve been astounded at the far-reaching impact of Delaware Tech and the response of the greater community to the College.

What do you love most about the College?
What I love about Delaware Tech is that it’s a college for everyone…that it gives second chances…that you can get an education while working and raising children. Our students truly inspire me.

What do you feel is your greatest contribution to the board/College?
I think I bring an entrepreneurial spirit to the board. I’m a traditionalist who is excited by possibility, so while I believe that we need to ensure that the College remains relevant to the needs of the community, I am intrigued by the possibilities that our next 50 years will bring.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?
I love the work that I do at the foundations, but I also love time with my husband and daughter. I enjoy reading, walking, hiking, swimming, just the outdoors in general. I always like to stay active because collecting experiences – more than things – is important to me.
Robert Hagerty has over 30 years of experience in information technology and business. He is a managing director at JPMorgan Chase in Newark where he first started as a computer programmer over 22 years ago. He serves as the bank’s Delaware location lead for the Corporate and Investment Bank technology division overseeing several global applications. He is also responsible for vendor management and oversight of technology teams in New York, Singapore and Mumbai.

Why did you decide to become a board member?
I wanted the opportunity to give back to a state that has been good to me in terms of job opportunities. I’ve worked at various Delaware firms throughout my career like GM, DuPont, Scott Paper and now JPMorgan Chase. And I like what Delaware Tech stands for; it offers opportunities that might not otherwise be available. My wife attended community college which set her up for a bachelor’s degree, and I was a first-generation college student, so I understand what an important role community colleges can play in helping people reach their goals.

What do you love most about the College?
I took a course in the late 80s at Delaware Tech. It was taught by someone in the field with practical knowledge of the subject, it was reasonably priced and it helped me in my job. But the College offers so much more… traditional degree programs, vocational skills, youth and community programs. There is so much value that the College brings to the community. We are very fortunate in Delaware to have Delaware Tech available to us all.

What do you feel is your greatest contribution to the board/College?
I think I bring a unique perspective to the board given my technical background. Technology is an essential component of any successful organization, and I hope to contribute expertise to the College’s instructional and operational technologies as well as the IT programs that prepare Delawareans for the workforce.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?
When I’m not at work, I want to be outside – in the yard, walking or exercising. I really enjoy family time with my wife, Kathy, and our two children who are now both grown. Robert is a graduate of the University of Delaware, and Rachel is a senior at Georgia Tech.
Students enrolled in the Owens Campus transportation programs are learning how to keep Delaware moving thanks to the expertise and dedication of three faculty members: Huey West, department chairperson for automotive technology, Barry Weiss, department chairperson for aviation maintenance technology and Chris Antonik, department chairperson for the commercial transportation program.

“We are proud to have three amazing people in charge of these programs,” said Dr. Bobbi Barends, dean of instruction at the Owens Campus. “They bring a passion for their industry and years of knowledge and experience – all of which they share and pass on to our students.”

Huey West has worked at the Owens Campus since August 1998 and has been department chairperson for automotive technology for the past three years. Although he had worked on cars as a hobby, originally he wanted to be a musician and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. But after he was commissioned to spray paint a sign for a local car company, he found himself working a full-time job in their service department. Later, he was promoted to shop foreman.

For six years West ran his own company, West Automotive in Bridgeville, until former department chairperson Sam Brittingham contacted him about becoming an instructor. “It was easy to talk to someone about why something worked,” West said, “but I had to learn how to show the steps.”

For the past five years, the Owens Campus automotive program has had a 100 percent placement rate for its graduates. West is proud of this accomplishment and proud of the team and program he has helped build.

“We approach this as a team effort, and our faculty previously worked in the industry, so we know what we’d want if we hired a tech,” West said. “And we work to stay at the forefront of technology because what’s in your car now wasn’t in it 10 years ago.”
Barry Weiss has been at the Owens Campus for eight years. He previously worked at Piedmont Airlines in Salisbury, Maryland for nearly 20 years and has an aviation and powerplant degree from the Upper Bucks County Aviation Maintenance Technology School and a master’s degree in education from Salisbury University.

“I always had a love for aviation since I was little, and I loved building things and working with my hands, so it was a natural area for me to explore,” Weiss said.

Weiss decided to get into teaching because he enjoys sharing his knowledge with those who want to learn. He came to Delaware Tech when there was no aviation maintenance program, so he had to build the program from scratch, ensuring it met FAA guidelines and regulations. The College first launched an airframe maintenance program which teaches students to maintain the shell of the airplane then, in 2015, added the powerplant component which teaches them how to maintain the engine.

“This is the only A&P school like this in Delaware,” Weiss said. “We are proud that we can provide this opportunity to Delaware citizens and fulfill the needs of the state. Our reputation is extremely important. We focus not on quantity but on quality, and the response we get from employers of our graduates is that we are hitting that mark.”

Chris Antonik began working at the Owens Campus as a counselor in 1996 after graduating from Delaware Tech in 1988 with a degree in human services. He took over as instructional coordinator of the commercial transportation program in 1996, and was recently appointed department chairperson. He developed an interest in trucking during his four years in the United States Air Force on the fire protection service. After serving his country, Antonik began working in the trucking industry.

“It’s a vital industry, and it’s almost impossible to imagine a consumer good used on a daily basis that didn’t come on a truck,” Antonik said.

While he didn’t start the commercial transportation program, he revolutionized it into a nationally-certified program in 2000 and has since led the program through four re-certifications, most recently in 2012. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Professional Truck Drivers Institute (PTDI). Antonik’s dedication to program excellence has paid off for students. Since 1999, every graduate of the program who has taken the commercial driver’s license test has passed.

“It’s very rewarding and satisfying,” Antonik said. “Most of my students are second or third career people. A student comes to us, gets trained in a short amount of time and is able to make a very good living. I’ve seen (commercial transportation) really turn people’s lives around. I’m proud of the fact that 98 percent of our 2014-2015 graduates have already been hired.”

Antonik has also made it a priority to get the commercial transportation program involved in a lot of community service and community outreach programs. In the past five years, the program has delivered relief items to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy and the Alabama tornadoes. It also partnered with Wreaths Across America to deliver holiday wreaths to the gravesites of soldiers and The Wall That Heals to transport the replica of the Vietnam Memorial to nearby locations.

“It has been great to see each of them devote so much time to making their programs better and making sure our students get the best instruction and training possible,” Dean Barends said. “We are confident that our graduates in these three programs are leaving here ready to make a positive impact in the workplace.”

For more information on the transportation programs, visit go.dtcc.edu/programs.
Longwood Gardens has a new trail for visitors to explore, but a graphing calculator and tape measure are required to fully enjoy the experience. It may sound odd, but those are essential tools for successfully navigating the math trail created by former Delaware Tech students.

Developed by Shawn Clark, Peter Delaney, Dylan Edwards and Tyler Whaley (all May 2015 graduates who earned degrees in math secondary education), the trail is a walking tour of the conservatory that explains the significance of key areas and presents three math problems specific to those areas.

For those not familiar with math trails, Clark offered the following description during a presentation the group made during a Delaware Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (DelMATYC) conference held on the Terry Campus in Dover.

“I like to look at a math trail as a math scavenger hunt,” he said. “It presents an opportunity for people who enjoy math to apply it in a real-world environment.”

The project was made possible through a faculty innovation grant awarded to Ann Carter, an instructor on the Stanton Campus. All four students involved in the math trail were enrolled in her Math 279 Problem Solving Strategies class.

The path was designed to take guests throughout the entire conservatory and cover an array of math skills ranging from kid-centered questions in the indoor children’s garden to Pythagorean’s theorem and algebraic expressions.

“We wanted to cover a wide range of math skills because we want a variety of people to be able to enjoy the trail and take the time to complete it,” said Whaley.

Whaley and his teammates began the project by taking a guided tour of the grounds and then spent the remainder of the day walking around on their own, discussing and developing ideas. “We bounced potential questions back and forth between each other,” said Edwards, who estimated the group spent about 25 hours on the project.

The end result was shared with the Delaware Council of Teachers of Mathematics and DelMATYC conference attendees, and of course, the Longwood Gardens staff who were excited to see it.

“We absolutely loved and enjoyed this project,” said Delaney. “Not only being there and being hands-on with it, but being able to create something to help others learn or use math in a different way.”

For a copy of the math trail, please contact Ann Carter at acarter2@dtcc.edu.

L-R: Tyler Whaley, Peter Delaney, Shawn Clark and Dylan Edwards
For many international students, the challenges of earning a college degree are compounded by a language barrier. Delaware Tech’s English as a Second Language (ESL) programs are there to help them navigate these challenges – one class at a time.

When international students enroll at the College, they take a placement test that assigns them to beginner, intermediate or advanced level courses in English. More advanced students can begin taking courses for credit almost immediately, while beginning students may need a little more time and help. But for all students, the goal is the same: to prepare them to earn a degree at Delaware Tech.

Elvira Luna-Torre, an ESL student from Mexico, came to the United States looking for better work opportunities. She has completed the advanced ESL curriculum and says she’s gained strategies to help her be successful in college-level classes. She hopes to complete a degree in human services, and possibly continue her education at Wilmington University in the future.

Recently, Delaware Tech has redesigned and aligned its campus ESL programs to ensure incoming students have the same opportunities across the state. Individuals who enroll in the ESL for Degree program will take courses in reading, writing, listening/speaking and academic research. These classes are then paired with classes in the student’s field of interest, so that he or she can more quickly begin a program of study such as business, allied health or engineering technology.

According to Rob Freeman, chair of the language and culture department at the George Campus, the goal of this new curriculum design is to motivate and engage students through the pairing of classes and the creation of individualized learning plans that help them go at their own pace. These changes were based on best practices in the field of ESL education.

Aurelian Simbedbe, an ESL student from Cameroon, Africa, said his experience has been challenging and enriching. After completing his ESL coursework, he is now studying electronics engineering technology and hopes to earn his bachelor’s degree after graduating from Delaware Tech.

Students from the ESL program visited landmarks in Philadelphia including Independence Hall and the Eastern State Penitentiary.
**Preparation of Delawareans for Jobs in Manufacturing**

Delaware Tech’s Terry Campus in Dover has been tapped as a local partner by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to join other state agencies and organizations in fulfilling a DHSS-acquired, three-year, $18.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant will provide job training and intensive case management to Delawareans who receive food benefits and have limited job skills or work experience.

The Terry Campus Workforce Development and Community Education division will support the employment and training program, called Delaware WONDER (Work Opportunity Networks to Develop Employment Readiness), by providing Certified Production Technician (CPT) training to 180 eligible individuals.

The CPT training is a web-based learning program based on industry-defined and federally-endorsed standards in the manufacturing sector. Individuals who successfully complete the program will be offered a 90-day trial placement in a full-time, entry-level production position at the Kraft Heinz manufacturing plant in Dover. Kraft Heinz employs more than 400 entry-level production workers and has committed to place as many as 60 CPT graduates per year.

Applications are being reviewed by DHSS with the first cohort of students expected to start CPT training this spring.

According to Campus Director and Vice President Dr. June Turansky, the role the Terry Campus plays in the Wonder grant supports the College’s goal of providing educational opportunities that prepare and support a competitive workforce.

“This partnership with DHSS and other agencies exemplifies how Delaware Tech responds and adapts to changes in the manufacturing industry, supports economic development and is responsive to the needs of the community,” said Turansky.

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**Discover Bank Partners with Delaware Tech to Increase Financial Literacy, Support Military Families**

In collaboration with Delaware Tech, Discover Bank is making financial literacy courses available across the state and offering scholarships to military personnel, veterans and their families.

In Sussex County, Discover Bank is offering three courses as part of a financial literacy series: Where’s My Money?, Are You Credit Worthy and Planning for the Beach. Offered at the Owens Campus in Georgetown, these courses focus on financial goals including earning, budgeting and spending – as well as obtaining and maintaining access to credit and consumer loans. Classes are open to all students in all majors.

In Kent County, Discover has established the Discover Scholarship Program through the Terry Campus Workforce Development and Community Education division. The program primarily focuses on providing services to military personnel, veterans and their families. Offerings include financial literacy, customer service, industrial manufacturing, allied health and youth-based programs.

In New Castle County, Discover Bank employees recently completed an on-site financial literacy series developed in conjunction with and taught by faculty of the College’s George Campus in Wilmington. Discover launched the series of three, one-credit courses to introduce their employees to the basics of personal money management including the various types of credit as well as investing.

“We’re very happy to have had the opportunity to partner with Discover Bank on developing these classes,” said June Roux, instructional director for the George Campus business programs.

The College also offered the financial literacy series as a dual enrollment course at Howard High School and hopes to teach the series at other area high schools throughout the state.
CISCO Academies are just four months long and designed for those who want to take the first step in preparing for a career in networking and for current network engineers looking to increase their value to employers and stay current with advances in networking.

Another IT skill in high demand is JAVA programming. With grants from the Delaware Department of Labor, in early 2016, the College will launch an eight-month JAVA program at the George Campus, primarily marketed to the incumbent workforce at local banks and financial institutions.

“We are pleased to be an active partner in the TechHire initiative, and we are excited about the employment opportunities and greater earning potential that these accelerated academies are offering Delawareans,” said President Brainard.
On August 16, 2015, Delaware Tech, the Delaware Police Chiefs’ Foundation, several police departments and Blackwell Insurance joined forces with Delaware Hispano Magazine’s Latino Access Services to organize an outreach event for Latino youth to celebrate their culture and learn about career paths in criminal justice at the Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security in New Castle.

The event, the first of what collaborators hope will become a tradition, was the result of statewide efforts to increase diversity at law enforcement agencies in Delaware to more closely reflect the communities they serve. Michael Terranova, instructional director of the criminal justice and social sciences program at the Stanton Campus and president of the Delaware Police Chiefs’ Foundation, spearheaded the collaboration as part of his mission to serve both the College and Delaware’s law enforcement community. “I see this as a win-win,” said Terranova. “We need more young people to train to serve in law enforcement, and we want to show them the pathways to become successful law enforcement officers.”

More than 500 Latino people were in attendance from across the state. There were presentations and panel discussions on law enforcement careers, and attendees visited tables sponsored by Delaware Tech and the police departments to learn about education and training like Delaware Tech’s Law Enforcement Option program (LEO). LEO is designed and offered in partnership with the Delaware State Police Training Academy and provides the education and training to be a competitive applicant for the Delaware State Police or a municipal police agency.

For more information, visit go.dtcc.edu/programs.

Mike Terranova with the winner of the fashion contest
Statewide Approach to Athletics

This year’s Delaware Tech cross country and volleyball programs just completed historic seasons. For the first time, the College’s athletic teams are comprised of students from all campuses statewide. This fall, the men’s and women’s cross country teams had runners from all four campus locations while the women’s volleyball team was comprised of players from the Terry, Stanton and George Campuses.

“Organizing athletics statewide has resulted in a greater opportunity for student athletes to participate in the sport of their choice,” said Terry Campus Athletics Director Anthony Edwards.

“This is a tremendous display of support by the College regarding its commitment to student athletes and their success.”

In addition to the statewide team approach, the College recently appointed Ryan Lally as collegewide athletics coordinator. In this role, Lally will provide collegewide leadership of athletics and bring consistency to planning, implementing and improving the College’s athletic programs (see sidebar).

“I look forward to working with the athletic directors and coaches to increase awareness of our sports programs and continue our tradition of academic excellence among our student athletes,” said Lally.

The College supports 10 athletic teams with each sport assigned to a campus that serves as the team’s “home base” where students from all locations come to practice. The Owens Campus in Georgetown is home to baseball, men’s golf, women’s golf and softball. The Terry Campus in Dover is home to women’s cross country, men’s lacrosse and women’s volleyball. The Stanton Campus in Newark, which also serves student athletes from the George Campus in Wilmington, is home to men’s basketball, women’s basketball and men’s cross country.

For additional information on Delaware Tech athletics, please visit dtcc.edu/campus-life/athletics.
A familiar face to students, staff and faculty on the Owens Campus is representing the entire state this year as the 2015 Miss Delaware. Brooke Mitchell, 19, an elementary education major, was crowned last June.

“I’ve always wanted to be Miss Delaware, and I’ve always looked up to the women who were Miss Delaware,” Mitchell said. “It’s kind of surreal now to be one of the women I used to look up to.”

Mitchell, who was competing in the pageant for the second year, said attending Delaware Tech has helped her to achieve her dream. Besides saving money on her education, she also had more time to devote to her talent, physical fitness and interview skills. “It allowed me to stay home when a lot of the girls who competed struggled with going back and forth [from out-of-state colleges],” she said. “And I think another year of maturing helped a lot.”

Her platform is “Volunteerism – Turn Your Passion Into Action,” and Mitchell hopes she can encourage a lot of people, especially younger ones, to become more active in their communities. “I want to get as many involved as possible, and that’s why my platform is so broad,” Mitchell said. “Once you figure out what you’re passionate about, you can figure out what to volunteer for.”

Mitchell’s passion is for teaching and for dance. She’s been involved in the Dance Alley in Milford since she was young and now teaches there. “I love kids,” she said. “I love seeing them progress.” She hopes to remain involved with dance as she pursues becoming a second or third grade classroom teacher.

Delaware Tech’s elementary education program is preparing her to do just that. One class Mitchell particularly enjoyed was Issues in Elementary Education, part of the College’s learning communities initiative in which groups of students take related classes together. “We were very close with one another, and we bonded which helped because we had each other for support,” Mitchell said. “I learned a lot, and we talked about a lot of classroom strategies that I took and applied to my dance class.”

Besides sparking interest in volunteerism, Mitchell has set a goal to visit every school in Delaware, no matter the grade level, before the next Miss Delaware Pageant in June. “I want people to learn about the pageant and the program and know how great it is,” Mitchell said. Before her reign ends, she also hopes to schedule a Make-A-Wish visit to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

2015 Miss Delaware
One of Delaware Tech’s Own
Raceway. “It’s all about community outreach,” Hall said. “We want to make an impact on people’s lives.”

In the fall, the club took a trip to see the Broadway show “Spring Awakening” which is performed in ASL. They are planning trips to Delaware School for the Deaf in Newark and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York in the future.

Connect with the Deaf Culture Club at Facebook.com/handfulofwords.

Owens Campus computer instructor Edward Hall had always wanted to learn sign language but found it difficult – that is, until he saw Michael Hoffa on YouTube performing a sign language rendition of “All American Boy” by the up-and-coming musical artist Steve Grand. Hall reached out to Hoffa who introduced him to his other YouTube videos that teach sign language.

“I was really starting to understand sign language for the first time,” Hall said. “That’s when I decided to start a club on campus.” Hall now advises the Owens Campus Deaf Culture Club which aims to educate students, faculty and staff about the importance of understanding deaf culture and learning more about American Sign Language (ASL).

Once the club was formed, Hall and club members began Skyping with Hoffa who was then living in Illinois. “He was teaching members and really connecting with them,” Hall said. The club voted to fly Hoffa to Delaware and take him on a field trip with them to Gallaudet University, the most renowned deaf school in the country. Hoffa agreed to come on the trip with them and enjoyed it so much he didn’t want to go home.

He moved to Delaware less than a week after the trip and enrolled at the Owens Campus.

Not surprisingly, Hoffa soon became Deaf Culture Club president but stepped down last fall to take on the role of teaching. “It was difficult to be president while also acting as a sign language interpreter,” Hoffa said.

“If I was going to describe the club in two words, it would be passion and drive,” Hall said. “We have a passion for learning and teaching sign language, and we have a drive to do it through involvement with all sorts of activities on campus. We host the annual Halloween Costume Contest, we had a very good turnout for our table at Roady Fest, we do fundraising at movie night, we do bake sales, we go on different field trips, we won the Chili Cookoff last year; we are an extremely active club.”

“More people are exposed to our club and what we’re about when we participate in all different kinds of events,” affirmed Christine Mendez, the club’s current president.

The Deaf Culture Club also gives back to the community in various ways, such as helping with a recent cleanup effort at Dover Downs Raceway. “It’s all about community outreach,” Hall said. “We want to make an impact on people’s lives.”

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On October 8, 2015, an awards luncheon was held to honor the recipients of the 2015 Delaware Governor’s Bioscience Fellowship at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. The fellowship encourages young people to pursue scientific careers by funding a summer undergraduate research program for students from Delaware Tech, Delaware State University and the University of Delaware.

The 2015 recipient from Delaware Tech was Courtney Shatley, a bioscience student in her final year of study. Courtney spent the summer working at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute (DBI) under the mentorship of Dr. Shawn Polson. Courtney studied the means for obtaining relative abundance in environmental samples through bioinformatics, an interdisciplinary field of science that combines computer science, statistics and mathematics to analyze and interpret biological data. Her research could revolutionize environmental sampling protocols.

During the event, Governor Jack Markell spoke about the importance of encouraging young people to pursue careers in science. He called the award a “down payment on Delaware’s future” and encouraged the winners to continue their careers in Delaware.

According to Delaware Tech’s Dean of Instruction Dr. Kathy Friel, “The Delaware Governor’s Bioscience Fellowship is a great experience for our students. It provides them an opportunity to engage in scientific research and to develop their critical thinking, problem solving and research skills.”

Shatley poses with members of the Delaware Tech staff and faculty

After she graduates from Delaware Tech, Courtney hopes to attend the University of Delaware to study neurology or bioscience. She said her experiences at Delaware Tech have inspired her to pursue research and a career in science have given her a valuable jump start on her future.
Run, White & Blue 5K
The second annual Run, White & Blue 5K was held on September 11. It attracted more than 300 runners and walkers and raised $10,000 for veteran scholarships.

Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference
The 22nd annual Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference was held on October 28. The event featured a keynote address from Sam Calagione, founder of Dogfish Head Brewery.

Gourmet Gala
On October 17, guests enjoyed specialty food items and beverages from Delaware’s finest vendors, live entertainment and a silent auction. Proceeds benefited the Terry Campus Educational Foundation, enhancing the campus’ ability to offer educational opportunities and activities along with scholarships and financial aid.

Donor Appreciation Luncheon
Held October 29 at the Terry Campus, individuals and businesses were honored for their financial support of the campus. Scholarship recipients shared stories of appreciation and success. The event included a tour of the new Trane Center of Excellence.

Alumni and Friends 5K Run/Walk at the Wilmington Riverfront was held on October 7. The event raised $16,000 for student scholarships through the Alumni Board Scholarship Fund.

Economic Summit
Business and education leaders, government officials and community members convened September 22 for the seventh annual Kent County Economic Summit. The Summit attracted nearly 300 individuals who share a common goal – to improve the economic conditions and quality of life in Kent County.

Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conference
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Economic Summit
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Mary Doody appointed assistant dean of instruction for the Stanton Campus. Doody began her career at Delaware Tech as an instructor in the English department in 1991. In 2003, she was appointed instructional coordinator and, in 2011, became department chairperson of the English/reading department at the Stanton Campus.

Dr. Kathern Friel appointed dean of instruction at the Stanton and George Campuses. Friel began her career at the College in 1985 as an instructor and program coordinator for the dental hygiene program. She was promoted to instructional director and department chairperson in 1993. In 1999, she was appointed assistant dean of instruction at the George Campus and, in July 2012, became assistant dean of instruction at the Stanton Campus. She has served on the American Council on Education (ACE), on the executive board for Delaware ACE Women’s Network and was a program evaluator for the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Dr. Martha Hofstetter appointed the principal investigator and project director for the College’s third Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant. Hofstetter is also principal investigator and project director for the College’s fourth TAACCCT grant and will have oversight of both grants.

Kimberly Holston appointed executive assistant to the president in the Office of the President. Holston previously served as assistant to the vice president for institutional effectiveness and college relations and as administrative assistant to the director of planning and institutional effectiveness. She also worked in the dean of instruction’s office at the Owens Campus from 2002-2007 as an assistant. Holston earned the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation in 2013, Campus Director’s Excellence Award in 2004 and an Excellence in Service Award in 2003. In March 2005, she was awarded the League for Innovation in the Community College Innovation of the Year award.

Allan Nelson appointed assistant director of administrative services for the Terry Campus. Nelson previously served as maintenance mechanic supervisor and maintenance mechanic. Prior to joining the College, he owned a general contracting company and served in facilities departments at the Emily P. Bissel Hospital and Delaware State University.

Ray Parsons appointed director of administrative services for the Terry Campus. Parsons previously served as assistant director of administrative services, building maintenance technician, maintenance mechanic and superintendent of building and grounds.
Justina Sapna appointed vice president for academic affairs in the Office of the President. Sapna began her career at Delaware Tech in 1997 as a full-time instructor in the developmental studies department. She then served as instructional coordinator and department chair. Since 2012, Sapna has served in a collegewide leadership role as principal investigator and project director for two Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grants supporting 17 collegewide initiatives. She also envisioned and expedited the redesign of the College’s math and English programs.

President Mark Brainard was named the recipient of the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) District 1 Pacesetter of the Year award. NCMPR is the leading professional development organization exclusively serving two-year college communicators. This award recognizes a community college CEO who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to marketing and communications and strong personal leadership for college outreach endeavors.

Congratulations to the College’s marketing and public relations team for receiving 10 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) District 1 Medallion Awards. The College received three gold (first place), five silver (second place) and two bronze (third place) awards. The winning entries included elements of the College’s new advertising campaign as well as several campus-based projects. This is a significant accomplishment as the College’s entries were judged against all regional community colleges in NCMPR’s District 1.
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