3rd Annual Provost’s Symposium on Engaged Scholarship

Amplifying the Power of Partnerships Across the State of Delaware

Keynote: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long

April 19, 2022

Clayton Hall - 100 David Hollowell Dr, Newark, DE
Welcome to our 3rd Annual Provost’s Symposium on Engaged Scholarship. We are delighted to have so many faculty, students and administrators join us today. Our theme for the symposium, Amplifying the Power of Partnerships Across Delaware through Engaged Scholarship, brings together faculty, professional staff, and students committed to partnerships and community scholarship.

We are fortunate to have Delaware State University join us as we focus on the impact of engaged scholarship throughout Delaware. Together, all panelists and participants will consider how we can promote partnerships that result in mutually beneficial community-engaged scholarship.

A subcommittee of the University Promotion and Tenure committee recently developed a working definition for engaged scholars as follows:

Engaged Scholars create, implement and disseminate mutually beneficial projects with community partners that address public issues. The scholar’s work may be in teaching, research/creative activity, or service. The engaged scholar’s goal is to apply their disciplinary knowledge in collaboration with community partners to benefit local, regional, and/or global communities, and their own scholarship.

During our symposium, we plan to promote the excellent work that has been accomplished by our engaged scholars at the University of Delaware and at Delaware State University. We also hope to determine specific ways both universities can acknowledge and support current and future engaged scholars.

When universities collaborate with communities to solve societal problems, everyone gains – students, faculty, communities, and the world. Let’s take engaged scholarship to the next level by fostering a supportive environment for ongoing university and community collaborations.

Enjoy the Symposium!

Sincerely,

The Community Engagement Initiative

Director
Lynnette Overby

Deputy Director
Matthew Robinson

Associate Director
Susan Serra

Program Manager
Liza MacFadyen
AGENDA

8:00am-8:50am – Registration and Breakfast

8:50am-9:00am – Symposium Welcome
Room 101 A/B
Lynnette Overby, Director,
UD Community Engagement Initiative

9:00am-9:15am – Amplifying the Power of Mutually Beneficial Partnerships
Room 101 A/B
UD Provost Robin Morgan
DSU Provost Sandra DeLauder

9:15am-10:00am – Panel: Institutional Importance of Engaged Scholarship
Room 101 A/B
Facilitator: Matt Robinson
Panelists: Akash Dania, Sabrina McGary, Greg Shelnutt,
Bahira Sherif Trask, Cherese Winstead

10:00am-10:10am – Break

10:20am-11:20am – Panel: Supporting Engaged Scholarship through Merit and P&T
Room 101 A/B
Facilitator: Martha Buell
Panelists: Jon Cox, Charles Fletcher, Nancy Getchell,
Gulnihar Ozbay, Victor Perez, Carlos M. Rodriguez

11:20am-11:50am – Lunch

11:50am-12:40pm – Lunch Keynote:
Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long
Introduced by Rita Landgraf, Director of UD’s Partnership for Healthy Communities

12:50pm-1:30pm – Break and Poster Session
Located in Atrium, please see handout for a list and map of the presentations.

1:35pm-2:30pm – Breakout Sessions:
Beyond the Academy
Health & Wellbeing – Room 125
Facilitators: Rita Landgraf and Suzanne Burton
Panelists: Kim Graham, Cierra Hall-Hipkins, Nanci Hersh,
Erin Hutt, Laura Rapp, James “Ray” Rhodes

Education – Room 101 A/B
Facilitators: Liz Farley-Ripple and Shelly Rouser
Panelists: Lauren Bailes, Dominic Banks, Celeste Bunting,
Caitlin Gleason, Rena Hallam, Rob Marsteller, Darren Rainey,
Michael Saylor

Food Insecurity – Room 120
Facilitator: Alison Karpyn
Panelists: Jaya Lennon, Leann Marcinek

Workforce Development – Room 119
Facilitators: Nathan Elton and George Irvine
Panelists: Darren Blackston, Luke Rhine, Paul Morris
Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long is widely recognized as a leader who uses her skill to bring people together, build consensus, and help find common-sense solutions to issues and problems facing Delaware families and communities. Bethany has led the fight to make Delaware stronger and healthier as Lieutenant Governor. As the leading voice behind the creation of the Behavioral Health Consortium and as Chair, she has convened parents, teachers, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, lawmakers, and community members who have been affected by mental health and addiction. Her efforts have helped bring substantive and effective change in stemming the opioid crisis and creating a behavioral health system that works for everyone in Delaware.

As a trained nurse, health scientist, and University professor, Bethany understands the connection between physical and emotional wellness, which led her to launch the Lt. Governor’s Challenge 2.0 in 2018. By shining a bright light on what other leaders are doing in our state to improve health and wellness, she is helping to inspire others to live healthier lives.

In 2018 Governor Carney tapped Bethany to Chair the Governor’s Complete Count Commission. As Chair she has convened the leaders from all over Delaware to make sure everyone, including those hardest to count, are included.

Bethany has also focused her time on increasing access to hygiene products, school supplies, clothing, and more for students who do not have their basic needs met with the Basic Needs Closet initiative.

Bethany has been a member of the UD Nursing Faculty now for more than twenty years. She also holds a distinguished record at the University of Delaware (UD). She was the first nursing faculty at UD to receive the University-wide excellence in teaching award and is currently a Professor of Nursing and Joint Faculty in Urban Affairs. Her research and community service record with at-risk groups such as pregnant teens, diabetics, the homeless, and the mentally ill, makes her a nationally recognized health scientist.

She currently serves as the Chair of the National Lieutenant Governor’s Association.

Born and raised on her family’s farm in Sussex County with her two older brothers, Bethany graduated from Indian River High School where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Dana. After graduation, she went on to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a nurse at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Upon graduation, she and her husband, Dana, moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where she pursued her MSN in community health nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina, while Dana was stationed there as a member of the United States Navy. During Dana’s last tour at the Pentagon, Bethany completed her Ph.D. in health policy and nursing administration from George Mason University and served as a fellow for the U.S. Senate as well as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Their love of Delaware, and desire to be close to their families caused Bethany and Dana to move back and make their home in Middletown with their son, Brock.

From 2002-2017, Bethany served as a member of Delaware’s legislature, first as a Representative and then as a Senator. She served as the chair of the Health and Social Services committee where her efforts were aimed at improving health outcomes among Delawareans by combating addiction, focusing on a stronger mental health system, fighting cancer, and health inequities in our state. She also served as a member of the capital budget Bond Committee where Bethany focused on building Delaware’s infrastructure, modernizing our schools, repairing our highways, and protecting our environment and open space.

Bethany was sworn in for the second time as Delaware’s 26th Lieutenant Governor on January 19th, 2021. She has always been and will continue to be a strong voice for all of Delaware.
**OUR PROVOSTS**

**Dr. Robin Morgan** is the Provost at the University of Delaware. She began her career at the University in 1985 as assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, became a full professor in 1991, and later held a joint faculty appointment with the Department of Biological Sciences. In 2001, she was named acting dean of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a role she took over officially the following year. After 11 years as dean, she became the interim chair of the Department of Biological Sciences for two years before being named chair in 2016. She has served on a number of association boards and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for Longwood Gardens. Dr. Morgan earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Meredith College and her Ph.D. in biology from The Johns Hopkins University. She also did post-doctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley.

**Dr. Saundra F. DeLauder** serves as Provost and Chief Academic Officer as well as Professor of Chemistry at Delaware State University. Previous appointments include Interim Provost (1/2020 – 6/2020), Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research from 2013-2018 with concurrent appointments as Interim Associate Provost (2015-2016) and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs (2016-2017). She was the recipient of the 2020-2021 Delaware ACE Women’s Network Leadership Award.

Prior to her arrival at Delaware State University in 2013, Dr. DeLauder held faculty appointments in the Departments of Chemistry at Morgan State University (1995-1996) and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) (1996-2013). Following promotion and tenure at NCCU in 2003, she served in several administrative capacities including Chair of Chemistry (2004-2006), Associate Dean/Interim Dean College of Science and Technology (2007-2009), Interim Dean, School of Graduate Education and Research (2009-2011) and Special Assistant to the VP Graduate Education and Research (2011-2012). She was selected as a 2006-2007 American Council on Education Fellow hosted at Duke University. In addition, she co-authored NCCU’s first Ph.D. Program in Integrated Biosciences; approved in 2012. Dr. DeLauder earned a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Howard University in 1992.
Speaker Bios

**Dr. Lauren Bailes** is an assistant professor in the School of Education at the University of Delaware. Her scholarship focuses on the ways in which organizational, social-cognitive, and leadership theory unite to promote the success of school leaders and K12 students.

**Dominic Banks**, affectionately known as “Neek”, was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. A product of the Newport News Public School System, he took great pride in his education. In 1992, NBC Affiliate, WAVY TV 10, recognized Dominic as one of Hampton Roads’ Young Achievers. Thriving in the classroom and on the field, he earned a football scholarship to the University of Delaware. It was there he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education. A standout at defensive back for the Blue Hens, Dominic helped the team win multiple conference championships. A leader in the locker room and school community, Dominic was awarded the Outstanding Contributor Award for his leadership and mentoring of other student-athletes.

After graduating from the University of Delaware in 2001, Dominic returned to his hometown to begin his career as an educator. Dedicated to his craft with a desire to move into school leadership, he pursued further studies, receiving his Master of Arts degree in Urban Education from Norfolk State University. Dominic is in his 21st year of serving students as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He is currently the Human Resources Supervisor for Recruitment and Retention in the Appoquinimink School District.

**Dr. Darren D. Blackston** is the Executive Director of Adult & Continuing Education, Workforce Development and Training at Delaware State University. He also runs the University Assessment Center, the Connected Degree Program, and serves as Professor of Graduate Research. His professional experience spans K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Juvenile Justice. Dr. Blackston’s research interests include policy development, intellectual poverty, the gravity of racism, workforce development, disparities in the criminal justice system, teacher training, and African American leadership. He is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators; National Speakers Association; Equality and Justice Council, the United Way of Delaware; First State Community Action; Rotary International, State of Delaware Chamber of Commerce, and several others. Dr. Blackston regularly advises students, policy makers, and the private sector on methods to serve all citizens equitably. Dr. Blackston resides in Middletown, Delaware.

**Martha Buell** is a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences with a secondary appointment in the Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration. She is the former director of the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC), with extensive service as both member and chair of the University P&T Committee. She currently serves as a University Faculty Senator, a co-chair of the University Council of Community Engagement, a member of the University’s Sustainability Council and as the Community Engagement Initiative Senior Faculty Fellow for Engaged Scholarship. She is also the Contract Maintenance Officer for the University of Delaware’s chapter of the AAUP. In these roles she works to better recognize the important work of scholarly community engagement through policy development, alignment, and harmonization in the Promotion and Tenure, Workload and Merit policies. Currently, Martha’s research and policy work centers on examining policies related to exclusionary discipline, especially expulsion and suspension in statewide early care and education regulations and policies.
**Celeste Bunting** has served as the Director of Human Resources for the Indian River School District since 2006. She has also worked as a public interest law attorney, special education teacher, school counselor and served as the first coordinator of the Baltimore City Teen Court, a restorative justice initiative. Celeste received her bachelor of education from the University of Delaware, master of school counseling from Wilmington University and juris doctorate from University of Maryland School of Law. She currently serves on the Professional Standards Board and the DDOE Secretary of Education Liaison Committee. Celeste is a graduate of the Indian River School District, and she and her husband, Dr. Jeff Bunting, are the proud parents of Catherine and Michael.

**Dr. Suzanne L. Burton** is Associate Dean for the Arts, Director of the Partnership for Arts and Culture, and Professor of Music Education in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware. Her scholarly interests are musical development from early childhood through adolescence, music teacher education, technology in music education, and professional learning partnerships. Suzanne is published in Education Policy Review, Music Education Research, Journal of Music Teacher Education, Music Educators Journal, Early Childhood Music and Movement Association: Perspectives, International Journal of Music in Early Childhood, Research Studies in Music Education, and Visions of Research in Music Education. She is co-author of Ready, Set, Improvise! The Nuts and Bolts Approach to Music Improvisation and co-editor and contributor to Learning from Young Children: Research in Early Childhood Music and Creative Music-Making at your Fingertips: A Mobile Technology Guide for Music Educators. Suzanne is also lead editor and contributing author to the Engaging Musical Practices sourcebook series for Elementary General Music; Instrumental Music; and Middle School General Music (2nd ed). She is Associate Editor for the Americas of the International Journal of Music in Early Childhood and chair of the International Society for Music Education Early Childhood Music Education commission. Suzanne is passionate about the role of arts and culture in social justice and reform and using the arts as a channel for healing. She is Vice President of the Delaware Arts Alliance and an appointed member of the Delaware State Arts Council.

**Jon Cox** is president of the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research (ACEER Foundation) and an assistant professor in the Department of Art & Design at the University of Delaware. He serves as a Board Member of the Dorobo Fund for Tanzania, is a 2013 National Geographic Explorer, and Full Fellow of the Explorers Club. Cox has directed twenty-three photographic study abroad programs across the globe including destinations to Antarctica, Vietnam, Cambodia, Tanzania, Australia, Tasmania, Argentina, and Peru. He was a pioneer in the field of digital photography, served as the adventure photographer/writer for Digital Camera Magazine, and authored two Amphoto digital photography books. He co-authored a book titled, Ancestral Lands of the Ese'Eja: The True People and co-created a traveling exhibition to accompany this project titled, The Ese'Eja People of the Amazon: Connected by a Thread that is currently on tour across the United States. Cox co-authored Hadzabe, By the Light of a Million Fires with an accompanying traveling exhibition titled Hadzabe: Roots of Equality. Cox is currently working with the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware on a cultural mapping and land restoration project supported by the Delaware Humanities, University of Delaware, and the National Geographic Society. His ongoing project titled ARRIVALS: What’s Left Behind, What Lies Ahead is a collaborative multidisciplinary project recording and disseminating the stories of refugees and immigrants that are living in Idaho and the Native Americans that have been displaced from their ancestral lands. Cox’s most recent work funded by the National Institute of Health titled PhotoVoices in Healthcare: Connecting through Photography aims to train health care clinicians in Malaysia to better understand their patients who are key populations at risk of HIV.
Dr. Akash Dania, an award-winning professor, received his Ph.D. in Finance and M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Texas-Pan American (now the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) and is currently is a Professor of Finance and the Director of Center of Financial Services, Innovation and Technology at Delaware State University. He is also the Editor-in-Chief for Accounting and Finance Research journal. Previously he served as the Chairperson of the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance at Delaware State University and the Director of Graduate Business Programs and Associate Professor of Finance at Alcorn State University. He has developed and taught numerous courses at the Graduate and Undergraduate levels in the areas of Corporate Finance, Real Estate Finance, and Data Analytics.

Nathan Elton leads the University of Delaware Career Center and oversees postgraduate & student success integration within the Division of Student Life. He works with his team to embed career education and preparation, professional connections, internships, career opportunities, and mentoring into the academic and co-curricular student experience and connect the university with employers hiring Blue Hens. Before joining UD, he held career services and student development roles at Davidson College, Oberlin College & Conservatory, Villanova University, Penn State, and MIT. He has a Master’s degree from Penn State and a Bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University.

Elizabeth Farley-Ripple is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of Delaware. She serves as the Director for the UD’s Partnership for Public Education and co-leads the IES-funded Center for Research Use in Education. She is also an active member of the policy and practice communities through partnerships with the Delaware Department of Education, districts, schools and community organizations as well as coordinating and advising in the education leadership programs.

Dr. Charles Fletcher earned a BS in Mathematics and Physics from Morgan State College in 1970; a MS in Public Sector Management from Carnegie Mellon University, School of Urban & Public Affairs in 1974; and a Ph.D. in Systems Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making from The Johns Hopkins University. He has two published books on Black Commercial Banking in the United States. He has earned an AA degree in Biblical Studies from Calvary Bible Institute in June 2010 and was ordained a Reverend by Dr. Richard M. Avant of Calvary Baptist Church, Dover DE. to preach the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. Dr. Fletcher is the third Omega History Book author.

Dr. Fletcher has over forty-four years of experience in Higher Education technology. Dr. Fletcher joined Delaware State University November 1990 reaching the position of Assistant Provost of Technology and CIO. He currently serves as visiting professor in the College of Business. Working with a Siemens Corporation technology team, Charles introduced the “Digital-Campus.” The concept developed through Charles’ leadership on Delaware State University’s campus utilizing the integrated “Smart-Campus Card” technology developed by Siemens Corporation, Germany. Dr. Fletcher earned ITIL ver. 3 Technology Service Management certification in 2008. Rev. Dr. Fletcher serves on the Board of the Academy of Dover charter school; serves on the Board of the Calvary Bible Institute, Dover Delaware; elected to the President of the Morgan State University Alumni Association; and appointed a member of the Morgan Foundation Board 2015-2017 and 2017-2019.
Nancy Getchell is a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Applied Physiology and has been the co-director of the Graduate Community Engagement certificate program since 2020. She has served on departmental, college, and university level promotion and tenure committees since coming to UD in 2001 and directs the junior faculty mentoring program in KAAP. She is looking forward to serving as President of the Faculty Senate in the 2022 - 2023 academic year.

Caitlin Gleason serves as Associate Secretary, Early Childhood Support in the Delaware Department of Education, creating conditions for a holistic early childhood experience for children, families and the professionals who care for and educate them. Caitlin entered the early childhood workforce as a pre-K educator in New Jersey and taught K-1st grade and art in Delaware. Inspired by play-based learning, she developed educator trainings and curricula for museums and non-profit organizations. She became Teach For America-Delaware’s early childhood instructional coach, where she created and led professional development for cohorts of toddler through 2nd grade teachers in child care centers, school districts and charter schools.

In 2016, she joined the Department of Education, Office of Early Learning as an Education Associate, Early Learning Systems and Partnerships. Caitlin explored all aspects of program design and fiscal management by leading the Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) and bridge to kindergarten initiatives such as the Delaware Early Learner Survey. Through shaping the early childhood professional development registry and the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five needs assessment, she focused on aligning systems to meet the needs of the whole child.

Prior to her current role, Caitlin learned from state agency partnership projects as a consultant with Social Contract, LLC and as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Delaware. Caitlin received her B.A. in Government from Smith College and M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Wilmington University. She earned the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership Aim4Excellence Director’s Credential. She plans to never stop learning from experience.

Kim Graham currently serves as the coordinator of the newly formed Trauma Academy of Delaware State University. She is charged with facilitating the development of courses and training tracks that will assist both practitioners and students be responsive to trauma, and nuanced needs of specific communities. Two tracks of note are African Centered Healing, and Responding to the Trauma of Domestic Violence.

Prior to this role, Ms. Graham served Christina Cultural Arts Center, a community school of the arts with a commitment social justice; and providing access to the arts and arts education, for over 20 years. In this capacity, Ms. Graham partnered with schools to provide a continuum of arts-based education from pre-k through high school employing strategies for youth development based on strength-based, culturally competent, trauma informed tenants. Serving at-promise youth at varying points on the prevention-intervention continuum through the arts was a key component of the work. Ms. Graham holds a Master of Arts in clinical psychology from West Chester University, with a concentration in psychodrama.
Dr. Rena Hallam is a Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and also serves as Director for the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC). Her research focuses on strategies for improving the quality of both center-based and family child care environments with an emphasis on the design and implementation of state systems and policies.

Nanci Hersh is a contemporary artist who draws directly from her personal life to connect with others through stories. Her two dimensional mixed media pieces, as well as, her sculptures and installations are reflections of life at its best – and most challenging. Her bold, expressive work is ongoing conversation that is a prayer of gratitude for the beauty, grace, and fragility of our lives.

With her cousin and author, Ellen McVicker, Nanci illustrated and co-created the children’s book Butterfly Kisses and Wishes on Wings: When someone you love has cancer... a hopeful, helpful book for kids. Nanci is a master teaching artist and arts advocate, most recently in her former role as Executive Director for Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education.

Her current work Unmasked: Portraits from the Zoom Room is currently on exhibition at The Mill Space in Wilmington, DE. It will travel to the Nilson Gallery, Monmouth Museum, Lincroft, NJ in May 2022. Nanci has received numerous honors including three purchase awards from the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, Hawaii and three Leeway Foundation Art & Change Grants. Her work is included in the Public Collections of Johnson & Johnson, Herspace Breast Imaging, Leland Portland Cement, and OSI Pharmaceuticals to name a few.

Cierra Hall-Hipkins, a Wilmington native, wife, and mother, earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Mental Health Counseling from University of Maryland Eastern Shore and focused her early career on mental health, working in several roles at Sheppard Pratt Psychiatric Hospital. Cierra has honed her expertise in managing youth and adult programs and spent 10 years in leadership positions at three different non profit organizations. As Director of the Northeast Region for Humanim Inc. Cierra was so successful at expanding the organization’s reach. She was sent to Delaware to start a new branch. After this, Cierra worked with Serviam Girls Academy in Wilmington, as Director of Student Affairs increasing admissions during her time there. Cierra has worked as Program Manager for an SEL non profit and a Coordinator for an ACT team. Among many other professional experiences, she also serves as a board Member for the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is dedicated to youth services and is a strong mental health advocate.

Erin Hutt, born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, earned her Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Strayer University and a Bachelor’s of Science in Marketing from Delaware State University. With over a decade of experience in directing, coordinating, and implementing youth programming, Erin has served as Dean for Tyler’s camp (a summer enrichment program for Wilmington’s highest needs youth), Program Director for YWCA Homelife Shelter, and Youth Program Coordinator for United Way of Delaware. Through her work history encompassing many other prominent Wilmington organizations—Hilltop Community Center, Wilmington Housing Authority, the Achievement Center, and Bethel Villa—Erin has a wealth of expertise in youth programming, employment training, case management, and community outreach. She single-handedly created new programming at many of these organizations as a response to unmet needs discovered through her highly proficient community engagement skills. Besides her strong work record, Erin also serves on the Board of Directors for a local non-profit and established 20 Under 20 and 40 Under 40 to recognize the achievements of outstanding young people in Delaware.
Dr. George Irvine has extensive experience building knowledge partnerships between universities and businesses/organizations in order to catalyze organizational and economic development. At the UD Lerner College of Business and Economics, George extended the college’s research-based knowledge to the Delaware and Mid-Atlantic business community via customized and open-enrollment executive education programs. In prior positions at UD, UNC Chapel Hill and IIE, George managed international education and technical assistance projects in partnership with US government agencies (USAID, DOC, USDA, and the State Department) and corporate foundations. George earned his PhD in Urban Affairs and Public Policy in May 2018 from the University of Delaware. His dissertation focused on the changing public identities of American research universities between 1975 and 2015. His teaching and research interests include research university publicness, international development public policy, corporate social responsibility and environmental policy. He has work and travel experience in twenty five (25) countries on four continents and is proficient in German and French.

Dr. Allison Karpyn is Co-Director of the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESPP) and Associate Professor in the Department of the Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware. Dr. Karpyn, in her 20 years of practice, has published widely in journals including Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, and Health Affairs on program evaluation methods; topics related to hunger, obesity, school food, supermarket access, food insecurity, healthy corner stores; and strategies to develop and maintain farmer’s markets in low-income areas. Dr. Karpyn has hands-on experience working with community-based agencies and institutions, including non-profit organizations and retailers, to implement and study-specific approaches to increase access to high-quality food in low-income communities. In 2017-2018 Dr. Karpyn served as a Fulbright Scholar to study food insecurity and hunger in the Bahamas. In addition to her position at the University of Delaware, she is a Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Public Health Initiatives. Allison earned her bachelor’s degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and her Doctorate in Policy Research Evaluation and Measurement at The University of Pennsylvania.

Rita Landgraf joined the University of Delaware’s College of Health Sciences in early 2017 as Professor of Practice and Distinguished Health and Social Services Administrator in Residence. She also serves as Director of the UD Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC), a cross-college, cross-state initiative. Prior to joining the faculty at UD, she served as Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services 2009 - 2017, under Governor Jack Markell’s administration. Rita currently serves as a member of the Board of the Delaware Center for Health Innovation, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware; Community Education Building, REACH Riverside, ChristianaCare Home Health, Pacem in Terris and Trauma Matters Delaware. Rita is a managerial partner for Healthy Communities Delaware. She also is on the Executive Advisory Boards of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Delaware and atTack Addiction.
Jayna Lennon currently serves as the Chapter Manager for Lori’s Hands in Newark, DE. Lori’s Hands is a community health, service learning organization that pairs college students with community members who live with chronic illness. The student volunteers provide assistance to the community members and in turn, they learn about the human experience of chronic illness. The Lori’s Hands model emphasizes the importance of reciprocal relationships and fosters empathy, connection, and resilience in the community. Jayna loves facilitating the relationships between Lori’s Hands’ students and clients and is inspired by the intergenerational friendships that form. She is also excited by the expansion of Lori’s Hands nationally, to Baltimore and Metro Detroit, and here in Delaware. Currently, Jayna is overseeing a new partnership between Lori’s Hands and a health care system in DE and is working to relaunch the Lori’s Hands Ambassador Council. On any given day, you can find Jayna reaching out to different community groups, talking to students, and engaging with Lori’s Hands clients. Jayna graduated from North Carolina State University with a dual degree in political science and Arabic. She first started working with Lori’s Hands as a program assistant in February of 2021 and moved into her role as chapter manager in August of the same year. In her free time, Jayna enjoys reading, practicing yoga, and eating dessert.

Leann Marcinek has contributed to the overall health and well-being of Delaware communities for over 10 years. Leann serves as the External Affairs Manager at Westside Family Healthcare. Her responsibilities include marketing and communications, community relations, and outreach. She has a special interest in building partnerships and implementing evidence-based health initiatives. Leann is currently piloting a food security program called “Feeding Families” at Westside. Feeding Families leverages partnerships with UD Center for Research in Education & Social Policy (CRESP) and Hungry Harvest produce delivery program. The program expands access at Westside to fresh foods, provides routine nutrition counseling, and teaches patients how to better manage chronic disease. The preliminary evaluation shows a reduction in food insecurity and an increase in healthy behaviors.

Prior to joining Westside, Leann worked for the YMCA of Delaware managing their Diabetes Prevention Program. In this role, Leann led clinical outreach establishing partnerships for education on preventing diabetes and for referrals to the YMCA program. She trained Diabetes Prevention Program facilitators across the country.

Leann earned her Master’s in Public Health from West Chester University and her Bachelor’s in Business Management from Thomas Jefferson University. She, her husband and two young sons live in North Wilmington. Leann enjoys fitness, reading about cultural/social issues, and cooking healthy meals.

Dr. Robert Marsteller is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Delaware State University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in assessment and research methods. Dr. Marsteller has published research exploring effective ways to teach science in online settings. Current scholarly activities involve exploring the use of curriculum writing as a tool for professional development. Additionally, Dr. Marsteller is actively involved in recruitment efforts for the ARTC program at DSU.
Dr. Sabrina McGary is an Associate Professor of Biology at Delaware State University. Dr. McGary holds a BA in Biology from Ripon College (Ripon, WI), an MS in Marine-Estuarine Environmental Science from the University of Maryland (College Park, MD), and a PhD in Animal and Avian Science from the University of Maryland (College Park, MD). After completing a post-doctoral fellowship in neonatal medicine at UPENN/CHOP (Philadelphia, PA), she was hired as an Assistant Professor at Delaware State University in 2004. Her area of research expertise is in avian (poultry) physiology and behavior. Currently, she serves as the Department Chair for Biological Sciences and Acting Department Chair for Chemistry. She has a strong interest in curricular development, developing online course offerings, and engaging students in the classroom using advanced technology, flipped classroom techniques and other problem-based learning initiatives.

Paul T. Morris, Jr. has a distinguished career in the administration and management of school, community, and workforce development programs in the state of Delaware. As a member of the Delaware Air National Guard in the 1990s, Paul developed the required discipline to advance his education and form relationships to assist others in their educational pursuits. While serving as a Military Police Officer, Paul simultaneously earned his Associate’s degree in Criminal Justice from Delaware Technical Community College and later earned a Bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Science from Wilmington University. In 1998, he earned his Master’s degree in Educational Counseling, and began a two-year term as a Student Enrichment Coordinator at Delaware Tech.

In 20027, Paul became the Assistant Director of the Corporate and Community Programs Division at Delaware Tech’s Stanton and Wilmington Campuses, where he assisted with the administration of corporate, community, workforce development, pre-college and industrial training programs. He continued his academic growth by earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Strayer University in 2010. In July 2012 Paul was promoted to Director of the Corporate & Community Programs Division at the Stanton and Wilmington Campuses of Delaware Tech. Over the past few years, Paul has served in the college-wide role of Associate Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Education. Paul successfully defended a doctoral dissertation titled: “Increasing Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Students at Delaware Technical Community College” and graduated from University of Delaware’s Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership in December 2020.

Paul has served on numerous boards and committees. Currently he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and serves as a board member for the Mary Campbell Center and the Delaware Center for Health Innovation. Paul currently resides in Middletown, Delaware with his wife Kim and four of their five children.

Lynnette Young Overby, a graduate of Hampton University (BS), George Washington University (MA) and The University of Maryland, College Park, (Ph.D.) is the University of Delaware (UD) Director of The Community Engagement Initiative and Founding Director of the Partnership for Arts & Culture. She also directs the UD Dance Minor and is the Artistic Director of the Sharing our Legacy Dance Theatre. Her publications include The Journal of Dance Education, The Journal of Mental Imagery and co-editor of nine volumes of Dance: Current Selected Research. Leadership roles in Dance Education have included service as President of the National Dance Association, President of the Michigan Dance Council, and President of the Delaware Dance Education Organization. Overby received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Dance Education Organization and in 2020, served on the Biden/Harris Agency Review Team in Arts and Humanities. Recently she was inducted into the Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship, and in 2021, she was appointed to serve on the National Council on the Humanities.
Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay is an Interim Associate Dean for Extension and Applied Research, Professor of Natural Resources and the Director of Integrative Ph.D. Program in Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology in Delaware State University. She received her Ph.D. in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama in 2002. She conducted research assisting with the development of aquaculture effluent water quality standards for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as her Ph.D. project. She received her M.Sc. in Bio-resource Engineering with Concentrations on Marine Bio-resources at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine in 1996. Her B.Sc. was in Fisheries and Aquaculture Engineering in Turkey in 1991. She received M.Sc. second time in the Food Science and Biotechnology Graduate Program from Delaware State University in 2016.

Dr. Ozbay is a very instrumental and integral part of the multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional programs due to her background. Her research interests include habitat restoration, aquatic ecology and health, water resources, sustainable marine aquaculture and fisheries. Ecosystem approach in her research has allowed her to understand some of the land use stressors like nutrient runoff on the population ecology and restoration of ecologically and economically important two species, Blue crab and Eastern oyster in the Mid-Atlantic region. Dr. Ozbay has facilitated successful collaborative efforts with other institutions and agencies pertaining to habitat restoration and mitigation strategies in the region. She has been teaching Introduction to Environmental Sciences, Climatology, Environmental Toxicology and Experiential Learning classes. She directs the study abroad program in Belize and is currently involved in the study abroad program to Ghana as part of students’ training in aquaculture and fisheries.

Dr. Victor Perez is an associate professor of sociology. A unifying theme throughout his academic career is the entwined configuration of health, risk, and society, with a focus on environmental and health issues through a social justice framework. Currently, his research focuses on greening and environmental gentrification in South Wilmington.

Darren Rainey was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, and currently works in Wilmington, DE. He attended Hampton University for his undergraduate studies and received his Master of Arts in Teaching from Relay Graduate School of Education. After a career in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry Officer, Darren transitioned to the classroom as a TFA Corps Member in the Delaware region. Darren has taught 8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grade English, and has served in the roles of the Athletic Director, Grade Team Leader, and Instructional Coach. He currently serves full-time as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Freire Charter School Wilmington. In addition to his full-time role, Darren serves as an Impact Leader with Profound Gentlemen, Inc and as the Program Manager for Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Educators at Delaware State University where he supports their efforts to recruit, support, and retain diverse educators in the field.
Laura Rapp works as a Scientist at the University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Health Studies where, over the past 10 years, she has evaluated statewide and community behavioral health programs. Dr. Rapp works with a team of evaluators and researchers at CDHS on projects that evaluate substance use primary prevention programs, mental health services programs, and substance use treatment programs in Delaware. Additionally, Dr. Rapp co-facilitates Delaware's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, funded by the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Dr. Rapp loves making data and evaluation useful, and her goal is to use data and evaluation to improve programs, communities, policies, and people's lives. Currently, she is one of the evaluators for the Community Well-being Initiative and, with her Co-PI M.J. Scales, her colleagues at CDHS, PHC and Network Connect, designs and implements the data collection and evaluation for this program.

Luke Rhine serves as the Associate Secretary of Workforce Support for the Delaware Department of Education. Luke creates systems that focus on the intersection of people, careers, and communities. His work supports the K-12, higher education, and the workforce systems to establish policy, scale effective practices, and develop solutions that connect youth and adults with good jobs that provide a living wage. Luke is committed to creating a culture of equity and inclusivity, and supports the Department’s vision of every learner ready for success, in college, career, and life through leadership of the following work groups: Career & Technical Education/STEM, Higher Education, Educator Effectiveness, Licensure & Certification, and Investigations.

Luke joined the Department in 2014 and served as the Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) & STEM. Prior to this role, Luke was a Program Specialist in CTE and STEM with the Maryland State Department of Education. He has also worked as a high school CTE teacher and middle school teacher. Luke’s work has been featured in the following books: Learning for Careers and Career Pathways in Action – both published by the Harvard Education Press – and in the following case studies by Jobs for the Future and the R Street Group. Luke has received several state and national awards for educational leadership, was a Fulbright scholar, and has served as an advisor to President Biden’s education transition team and as a contributor to New York City Mayor Eric Adams’s education transition team.

Luke earned his Bachelor’s Degree from California University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Science Degree in Education from Stockton University.

James “Ray” Rhodes is an executive leader, architect, community planner/activist, coach and educator. Through his diverse technical and professional background, Ray has dedicated his life assisting those less fortunate with reaching their full potential. Ray currently serves as the Executive Director of Christina Cultural Arts Center. In this position, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the visual, performing arts and educational initiatives of this community cultural icon dedicated to providing affordable and quality music/arts education and live performances to all in a welcoming environment. Ray manages and leads the budgeting efforts, human resources, procurement of goods and services, oversees the facilities and outlines policies and procedures for Christina.

Ray has accumulated more than (25) years of architectural, construction project management, code consulting and real estate development experience. He is also a certified mathematics instructor, tutor and a motivational mentor. In addition to his degree in architecture, Ray holds an MBA with a concentration in Executive Leadership from Wesley College, a masters in teaching from Wesley College and is in between studies for his Doctoral degree where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy Administration with a concentration in Local Government Management for Sustainable Communities.

Ray is a dynamic, charismatic leader whose passion focuses on meeting the needs of the constituents, customers, clients and stakeholders he serves. He is self-motivated and driven to succeed and has adopted a philosophy that allows him to always pursue his passion over his pension and put the needs of people over his paycheck.
Dr. Matthew J. Robinson serves as Deputy Director for the Community Engagement Initiative and is a full professor and the Area Head of the Sport Management Program in the Lerner College of Business and Economics at UD. Dr. Robinson has authored two books and over 30 articles and has made over 100 national and international scholarly and professional presentations. In 2020, Robinson was named to the President’s Council on Sport, Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Science Board for The United States of America Department of Health and Human Services and also served as the President of the University of Delaware Faculty Senate. Dr. Robinson served as interim Director of Athletics and Recreation for the University of Delaware during the 2016 Spring Semester. Robinson oversaw a $29 million budget, over 600 student athletes and 200 staff members.

In 2008, Robinson in partnership with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) Olympic Solidarity Fund created the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program (ICECP). www.udel.edu/ICECP. In 2013 again in partnership with the USOPC and the IOC’s, Olympic Solidarity Fund along with the Federation Internationale Basketball Association (FIBA) Robinson launched the International Coaching Apprenticeship in Basketball. Through the two programs, Dr. Robinson has worked with over 400 international coaches from 125 countries in 24 different sports and has personally overseen the implementation of over 40 sport development projects in selected countries.

Since 2008, Robinson has served as the Chairman of the Delaware Sport Commission (DSC) which was founded in 2009 for the purpose of attracting regional, national, and international sporting events to the state of Delaware for the purpose of economic development. In its twelve years of existence, DSC efforts have led to over $80 million in economic impact for the state.

Carlos M. Rodriguez is Associate Professor of Marketing and Director, Center for the Study of Innovation Management, CSIM, College of Business, Delaware State University, USA. Professor Rodriguez holds a Doctorate Ph.D. in Marketing and Master of Science, M.Sc. in Marketing and Quantitative Analysis, Pennsylvania State University; Master of Business Administration, MBA, ESAN, Peru; Postgraduate in International Business, CICOM-OEA, Fundación Getulio Vargas, Brazil; Postgraduate in International Business Management, ESAN/OEA, Postgraduate in Marketing and Finance, ESAN, B.Sc. And Industrial Engineering degree, I.E., Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería, UNI, Peru. His publications have appeared in the Journal of Business Research, Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing, Journal of International Marketing, International Marketing Review, International Journal of Business and Social Sciences, Management Decision, Journal of Business and Leadership, and Journal of Higher Education Research & Development among others.

He has authored the book Product Design and Innovation: Analytics for Decision Making available worldwide through the Amazon Network. His research interests are: relationship marketing, branding and customer experiences, product design and innovation, and new product development teams. He is member of several editorial boards and has professional experience as Brand Manager, Product Marketing Manager, and Advertising Director for consumer and industrial products.
Dr. Shelley S. Rouser is Chairperson and Associate Professor for the Education Department at Delaware State University. She oversees the Council for Professional Education at DSU which is comprised of eight undergraduate education programs and three graduate programs. Prior to joining Delaware State University, Dr. Rouser has 25 years of experience in K-12 education, as a teacher and instructional coach the first half of her career, and as an administrator at the district and state levels the second half. As the Director of K-12 Initiatives and Educator Engagement at the Delaware Department of Education she led the Equity Council for the State Department as well as directed the work of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development workgroup overseeing nine content areas and leading the State's college and career ready standards implementation efforts through statewide initiatives such as Common Ground for the Common Core, the NextGen Teacher Leader Project, and Reimagining Professional Learning Grants, to name a few. Prior to working with the Department of Education she led the Instruction Services division in New Castle County Vocational Technical School district. As a former middle and high school teacher, teacher leader, content area specialist, and central office administrator, Dr. Rouser is experienced with the challenges of managing a major change effort as well as the systems work it takes to build capacity to navigate such adaptive changes. Her current work at Delaware State University is grounded in establishing more equitable systems and diverse educators in K12 schools through initiatives aimed to increase the number of male educators, establishing innovative undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare culturally responsive teachers and administrators, ensuring early childhood education programs for under-resourced communities meet the highest quality standards, and providing professional development supports to local school districts around equity, access, and culturally responsive pedagogy. Under her leadership, Delaware State University received a $31.6 million dollar grant for an Early Childhood Innovation Center. In following her educational equity-focused efforts, Dr. Rouser led the state's P20 Council's Educator Supports for Early Literacy through Institutions of Higher Education Committee and currently serves on the Redding Consortium focused on educational equity in Delaware’s urban and rural communities and the Wilmington Center for Educational Equity Steering Committee (WCEEP).

Dr. Michael Saylor leads school leadership initiatives for the Delaware Department of Education. He is focused on the continued implementation of an equity-centered administrator pipeline to include recruitment, preparation, selection, and retention of effective administrators. Most recent projects include implementing a statewide comprehensive induction program for new leaders, designing an administrator evaluation system aligned to the Professional Standards of Educational Leaders (PSEL), and the collaborative launch of the Governor’s Institute for School Leadership (GISL).s

Greg Shelnutt holds the Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Georgia and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University. He lives in Newark, Delaware where he serves as a Professor of Art and Chair of the Art Department of Art & Design at the University of Delaware since August 2017. Previously he served as chair of the Department of Art at Clemson University (2011-2007). From 2000-2011 he served on the faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), serving as Director of the Visual Arts program for six years. From 1988 to May of 2000, he taught sculpture at the University of Mississippi, also teaching for the University of Georgia's Studies Abroad Program in Cortona, Italy, in 1991. In 1992 he was a Visiting Artist at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia. He has had residencies at the Community Council for the Arts in Kinston, North Carolina, the Association for Visual Artists in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the New York Mills Arts Retreat in New York Mills, Minnesota, 121 View Street, La Trobe University’s Visual Arts Centre in Bendigo, Australia, and Elsewhere: A Living Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. Grants supporting these residencies have come from the Jerome Foundation, Mississippi Arts Commission, the Arts Council of Winston-Salem Forsyth County, and the Surdna Foundation in New York. Through the support of a Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts' Project BREATHE grant, Greg traveled to Texas and Alabama to study Project Row Houses and the Rural Studio. During the summer of 2012, he studied at the Penland School of Crafts under the auspices of a Carnegie Foundation Grant. His work has been exhibited in over 350 solo, invitational and group exhibitions, in galleries and museums domestically and abroad.
Dr. Bahira Trask is Professor and Chair of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware. She holds a B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on globalization, women's employment and family change in Western and non-Western countries, and she presents regularly on these topics at international forums. Dr. Trask has authored and edited a number of books including Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities (Routledge, 2014), Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change, (Springer, 2010) and Cultural Diversity and Families (Sage, 2007). Over the last ten years, Dr. Trask has also worked closely with the Office of Social and Economic Affairs at the United Nations. She has been invited to present at a number of U. N. Expert Group meetings around the world, and her recommendations have been incorporated into global policies that support and strengthen families around change in families, work-family reconciliation, and promoting intergenerational solidarity.

Much of Dr. Trask’s scholarship has been informed through participation with a number of international, national and community based research projects that focus on diversity, gender and work, and strengthening low-income families. Her work has been funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Blueprints Delaware and various local community initiatives. Dr. Trask is a fellow of NCFR, the National Council on Family Relations, and in 2017 she was awarded the University of Delaware Excellence in Teaching Award. Her Tedx talks on global family change and women and work are popular teaching tools internationally.

Dr. Cherese Winstead obtained her Ph.D. from The Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech). Dr. Winstead is ranked as Full Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Delaware State University and currently serves as Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science & Technology (CAST). She previously served as the Department Chair of Chemistry at Delaware State University (DSU) for over 12 years. Throughout her academic career, she has continued to make transformational strides in the areas of research, teaching, and service. Since joining the faculty in the Department of Chemistry in Fall of 2008 at Delaware State University, Dr. Winstead has secured and managed over $38.4 million in funding on projects for which she has serve as Principal, co-investigator, or key personnel from agencies such as NIH, NSF, USDA, NASA, DoD, EPSCoR, INBRE and the EPA. Dr. Winstead has worked with numerous regional, national and global agencies, non-profit organizations, revealing an important inter-institutional and interdisciplinary approach toward the integration of research & education.

In the area of research, Dr. Winstead has worked with numerous local, regional and national agencies, community-based organizations, as well as colleagues from other departments and institutions, revealing an inter-institutional and interdisciplinary approach toward science and educational research. As a member of such organizations/consortiums such as Delaware NASA Space Grant, Delaware Comprehensive Sickle Cell Research Center, Materials Research Society, and American Chemical Society and the Delaware Science Coalition, Dr. Winstead has assisted in shaping the definition, practice, and scholarship of teaching and research. In the area of service to the community, Dr. Winstead is Founder and President of the Young Chemists Society (YCS), a non-profit organization dedicated to the early education of underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) over the past two decades.