

# Remarks to Senate

President Dennis Assanis

December 7, 2020

# Fighting COVID-19 and slowing the spread

- 18,000+ tests administered on campus since Aug. 31
  - 45 employees operate surveillance testing sites and Allen Lab
  - Partnership with DEMA and NCCo for campus-based testing
- Data dashboard tracks cases and resources
- Quarantine/isolation spaces on campus
- Stepped-up cleaning protocols
- Successful “Protect the Flock” campaign promotes healthy behaviors



# Innovating new academic models

## Rethinking assessment

“The weekly low-stakes quizzes and discussions ultimately help students ... learn and retain better. They aren’t so stressed about memorizing big chunks of information for a high-stakes test.”



— Lydia Timmins, *Communication*, who uses asynchronous readings, videos, discussion boards and more writing assignments now

## A fresh focus on teaching

“Online teaching isn’t simply ‘putting your course online’ but instead, rethinking assignments/projects and how to meet the learning goals to create a whole different course that actually works *better* online.”

— Katya Roelse, *Fashion and Apparel Studies*

## Building on success

“Online teaching might have been born of necessity, but it also provides new tools, techniques and modes of reaching and inspiring students that I can continue to keep in my teaching toolkit as we (hopefully) move back into classrooms in the future.”

— Jennifer Van Horn, *Art History and History*

Training for  
1,200+ faculty  
to improve  
their online  
courses

## Resilient students

“My advice to anyone is to never give up. Times will be tough, and limits will be pushed, but keep on persevering because there is light at the end of the tunnel.”



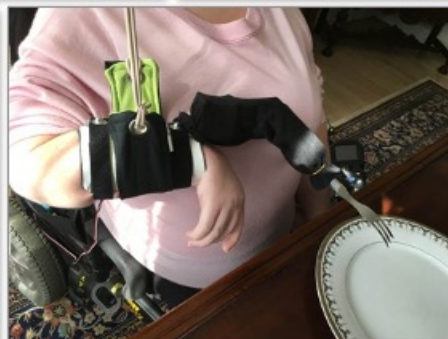
— Drew Huffer, *junior, Civil Engineering*

# Early College Credit Program adds pipeline to UD

- Free dual-enrollment option for all Delaware high school students, launched in fall 2020
- 286 students registered to participate in AY 2020-21
  - Participation already greater than typical year's worth of all other UD dual-enrollment opportunities
  - 13 schools from all three counties
- Courses offered online and asynchronously
  - Sociology, Communications, Astronomy and Food Science
- CTAL/PCS now recruiting faculty for AY 2021-22
  - Expecting significant growth in courses offered, high schools participating, and students participating



# Research makes global impact



# Advancing inclusive excellence at every level



**Fatimah Conley**

Interim Chief Diversity  
Officer

## Office of Institutional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- Vice Provost for Diversity — Advancing UD's academic mission and goals
- Student Diversity and Inclusion — Providing programming, advocacy, services and support resources throughout Student Life
- Center for Black Culture — Creating a supportive environment for Black students and other underrepresented students, and working to educate the larger community on their challenges, needs and interests
- Office of Disability Support Services — Supporting the academic experience of individuals with disabilities
- Office of Equity and Inclusion — Providing leadership and support in creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive working and learning environment

# Delaware Higher Education Support Fund

## \$45M in State's Coronavirus Relief Fund

- Eligible expenses must be directly attributable to COVID-19 response
  - Ex.: PPE, technology to enable remote teaching/learning/working, environmental modifications (Plexiglas, signage, etc.)
- Eligible institutions: UD, Delaware State, Delaware Tech, Delaware College of Art & Design, Goldey-Beacom College, Wesley College



# Winter Session shows significant increase

- >10,200 students registered — 140% of typical
  - ~9,500 undergraduates, with 300% increase in non-resident freshmen
- Almost 100% of undergraduates taking a Winter class are using their “free” credits carried from the fall semester

## Spring semester outlook

- Advisors working with new/deferred students
- Reaching out to students who haven't registered yet





# Surveillance testing program in spring 2021

## Ramping up to meet greater need

- Planning to test everyone entering campus buildings (students, faculty and staff) once a week
- Expanding testing to handle ~6,000 tests per week, compared to 1,000-2,000 tests per week now
- On-campus testing four days a week (Monday through Thursday), beginning Feb. 8
- Expecting assistance from the State with walk-up and drive-up testing



# Housing for Spring Semester 2021

- Target: Moving from <20% occupancy (~1,300) to 60% occupancy (~4,000)
- Seeking to house first-years, seniors and students who want the on-campus experience
- Working to accommodate new admits and deferrals in housing
- Will open housing to non-contract holders in mid-December

Spring Housing Intention	# of Students
No, I do not want to live on campus in Spring 2021	1,703
Yes, I want to live on campus for Spring 2021	3,904
(blank)	558
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,165</b>

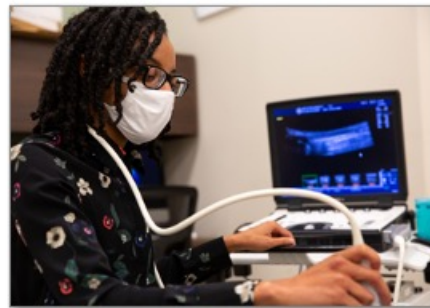


# Applications for Fall 2021

- Early Action apps are strategic opportunity to increase yield of high-quality students
- Already offered admission to ~7,000 students (~1,000 more than last year at this time)

<i>As of Dec. 6</i>	2019	2020	2021	2020-21 change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,658</b>	<b>25,373</b>	<b>24,245</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
Applicants by decision plan				
Early Action	NA	15,787	15,895	+0.7%
Regular Decision	14,658	9,586	8,350	-12.9%

# Opportunities — Our People, Places, Programs





# Planning for 2021 and beyond

## Institutional Goals for 2020-21

- Prioritize the health and safety of the community
- Address budget challenges effectively
- Align revenue and expenses
- Enhance UD excellence
- Bolster diversity, equity & inclusion
- Strengthen staff to efficiently achieve our goals
- Optimize facility use
- Advance UD's strategic plan

### UD Strategic Plan

- ❖ Reimagine UD's role in a post-COVID world
- ❖ Leverage the investments made in 2016-2020



Thank You!