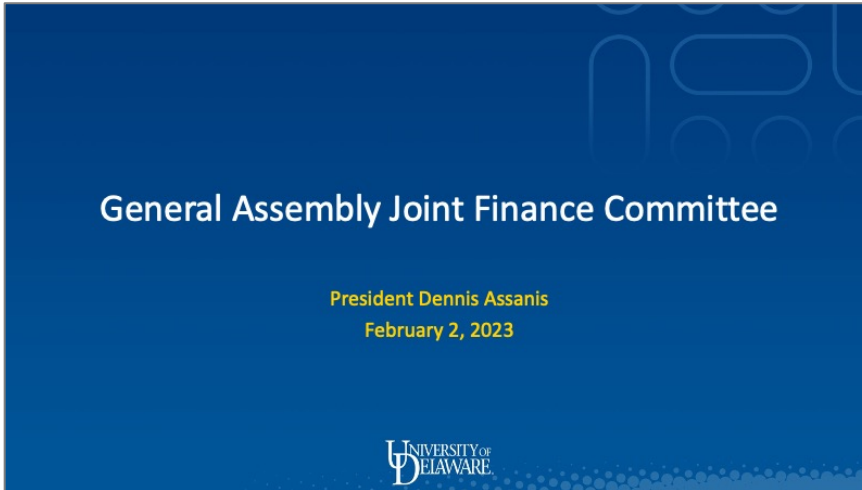


University of Delaware President Dennis Assanis
Presentation to Delaware General Assembly Joint Finance Committee
Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023
As prepared for delivery



INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon, Representative Carson, Senator Paradee and other members of the Joint Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity today to present the University of Delaware’s operating appropriation request for FY24. I have members of our team available with me to address any questions you may have.



I want to begin by expressing how grateful we are for our close working relationship with the state of Delaware. The ongoing support from the General Assembly and Governor Carney has been invaluable in achieving our shared goal of advancing the wellbeing of Delawareans both now and into the future.

First State Promise supports Delawareans



Coverage: Total tuition costs
Eligibility: Students whose families earn \$75,000 or less
Neediest students: Support for room, board and fees
Above \$75,000: Partial aid

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FIRST STATE PROMISE

Specifically, I want to thank you for the increase in the University's operating appropriation in FY23 to help fund the First State Promise financial aid program at UD. This additional scholarship support is benefiting Delaware-resident students right now by lowering their tuition costs and helping their families plan for their education.

More than 2,100 Delawareans enrolled at UD this year, which represents about a third of our in-state students, are receiving First State Promise funds.

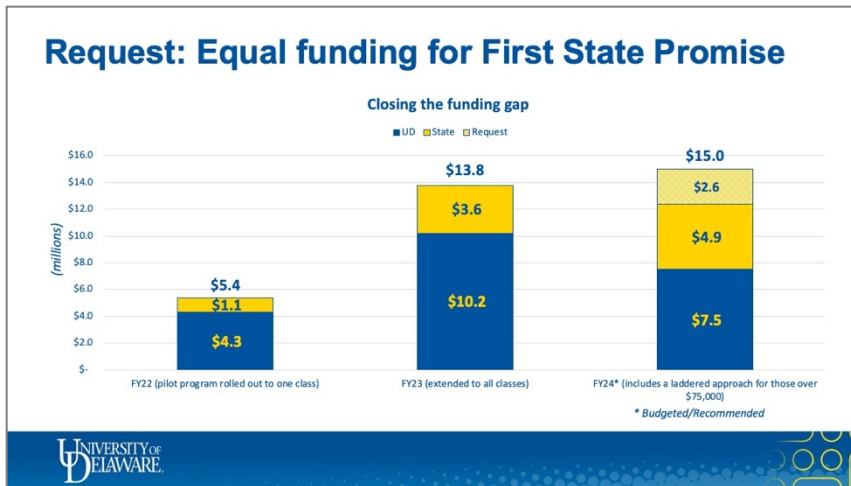
Our First State Promise program is a key element in helping to make UD's top-notch education affordable for every Delawarean. With state assistance, First State Promise aims to cover total tuition costs for Delaware students with family incomes of \$75,000 or less. For the lowest-income students, we also provide support for room, board and fees, while those above \$75,000 may be eligible for partial aid.

This program helps keep more Delawareans here for their education and allows them to graduate with little or no debt, both of which provide long-term benefits for the state's economy and vitality.

However, we're seeing more Delawareans need more financial assistance to afford a four-year college degree, especially because of the pandemic and its lingering effects on the economy. Since I've joined UD, we have seen a 17% increase in the number of Delawarean students requiring need-based financial aid.

The state provides scholarship funding in other forms, and we are grateful for that. The advantage of First State Promise is that it's open to all Delawareans from the most vulnerable socioeconomic circumstances. Their families can plan for a free UD education through First State Promise.

UD is committed to covering half the cost of First State Promise.



As you can see in the graphic, we piloted the program in FY22 with just one class of entering students, at a total cost of \$5.4 million. With the state providing \$1.1 million towards the program, UD contributed \$4.3 million. Based on the enormous success of the program, we expanded the program in FY23 to include all eligible students across all four years, at a total cost of \$13.8 million. Again, the state provided \$3.6 million, while UD covered the balance of \$10.2 million.

You can appreciate that UD has covered the gap between equal funding for the past two years. Over the long term, this trend is not sustainable. To continue providing this assistance, we need your help.

We would like the state to join us in equal funding for First State Promise.

For FY24, we are grateful that Governor Carney has recommended a \$1.4 million increase in scholarship support in the University's operating appropriation. Including the increments from previous years, this would bring the total state support to \$4.9 million. We would ask you to increase that figure by \$2.6 million, which would match UD's commitment of \$7.5 million.

Without equal funding, UD would have to consider adjusting the sliding scale of our financial support for those students from families with incomes over \$75,000.

First State Promise and other forms of state support are an investment in Delaware's students and in Delaware's future. Your support helps provide excellent opportunities for students and allows them to focus more on their studies, rather than their finances. In turn, students are able to achieve more, graduate on time and embark on successful and satisfying careers, often right here in Delaware.

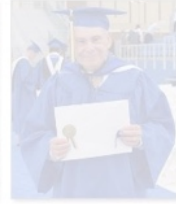
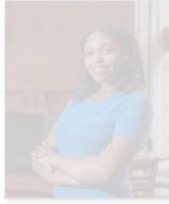
EXCELLENT ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

I could fill my presentation with dozens of stories about Delaware students at UD, but I want to highlight just a few of them.

Providing opportunities for academic excellence



Tessa McDonough, Georgetown
"When I toured UD, I truly fell in love with the campus and the farm. I realized all of the opportunities that UD can provide."



The first is Tessa McDonough, who grew up in Georgetown and worked at UD's Carvel Research and Education Center while she was a student at Sussex Central High School. She's now majoring in Agriculture & Natural Resources and getting hands-on experience with animal care at UD's Webb Farm in Newark. Tessa wants to teach agricultural science at the middle or high school level, and we want to make it very appealing and affordable for her to do that here in Delaware.

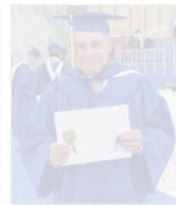
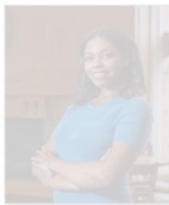
Providing opportunities for academic excellence



Tessa McDonough, Georgetown
"When I toured UD, I truly fell in love with the campus and the farm. I realized all of the opportunities that UD can provide."



Jacob Wandless, Magnolia
"I am super excited to become a part of the U.S. Space Force; it is like a dream come true."



Another Delawarean is Jacob Wandless. He grew up in Magnolia, and last year he earned a dual degree in Political Science and History. Jacob was also a cadet in the Air Force ROTC, and he's the first UD cadet to be commissioned into the U.S. Space Force. He hopes the experience will lead to a career in intelligence work.

Providing opportunities for academic excellence



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Tori Glover, Middletown
"I wholeheartedly love being an advocate for students."



We're also proud to have Tori Glover at UD. She grew up in Middletown and now serves as president of the Student Government Association. Tori is majoring in Medical Diagnostics, and she's a student in our Honors College, which attracts students who want an especially challenging academic experience. Tori has her sights set on medical school and a career in healthcare advocacy.

Providing opportunities for academic excellence



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Tori Glover, Middletown
"I wholeheartedly love being an advocate for students."

Steven Goodhart, Wilmington
"I wanted to study the humanities and learn the things I had no exposure to as an engineering student."



And finally, I want to tell you about Steven Goodhart. After a long and successful career as an engineer, Steven was ready for a second act. So, he came to UD, and last year, at age 80, he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. For the past few years, he's been volunteering and working part-time on a team of mediators for the Delaware Center for Justice.

These are the kinds of stories that inspire us. As you may know, UD's motto is "Knowledge is the light of the mind," and we want to keep that light shining by ensuring that a UD education remains accessible and affordable for *all* Delawareans.



STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

I also want to say that all of this work to provide opportunities for our students and contribute to a strong economy for the state depends on creating a safe campus community where everyone *feels* safe so they can grow and thrive at UD.

We work every day to enhance campus safety and provide the resources that students need for their wellbeing.

Over the past year, we have expanded our Rideshare Program, improved campus lighting and strengthened our communications protocols. UD Police continue to build their working relationship with Newark Police and other agencies, too.

Last fall, we opened the Wellbeing Center at Warner Hall, where students can access a variety of services and programs. We recently began providing a free, 24/7 digital platform for mental health services, which connects students with licensed counselors anytime and anywhere they may be.

We also continue to expand our diversity, equity and inclusion programs and resources to serve a growing population of students with a variety of racial, ethnic, religious, gender and other identities. This spring, we are excited to be opening the new Center for Intercultural Engagement at Perkins Student Center, where students can connect with each other to work on social justice and other issues.

We are proud of the progress we have made to advance safety, wellbeing and inclusion at UD. But we also know that this work is never finished, and we are committed to keep listening to students and making improvements wherever they're needed.



ENGINEERING 4+1 PROGRAM

Another way that we are supporting Delaware is through a new academic partnership with Delaware State University.

As you may know, Delaware’s growing science and technology sector needs more engineers, and the state Department of Labor is predicting strong demand for engineers over the next several years.

The good news is that UD has one of the nation’s best engineering programs, and it is consistently ranked in the top tier alongside much larger institutions. In fact, the most recent ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* puts our undergraduate chemical engineering program as #2 in the nation, tied with Georgia Tech and second only to Massachusetts Institute of Technology. We were honored that Governor Carney visited UD last fall to highlight that ranking and meet some of our amazing students and faculty members. We certainly invite all of you to visit, as well.

Leveraging excellence for Delaware’s future

UD/DSU Dual-Enrollment 4+1

DSU: BA in Engineering Physics

UD: MS in Electrical or Computer Engineering

Possible 3+2 Bachelor’s Programs

- Engineering Physics/Electrical Engineering
- Computer Science/Computer Engineering
- Physics/Mechanical Engineering
- Physics/Materials Engineering
- Chemistry/Materials Engineering

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We’re leveraging that excellence to increase the number of engineers in Delaware, especially those from underrepresented minority groups. Through our new dual-enrollment 4+1 program,

students can earn a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics from Delaware State, then come to UD to earn a master's degree in Electrical or Computer Engineering. They can do the whole program within about five years instead of the typical six or seven.

This is serving as a model for similar 4+1 programs. Also, we want to expand to offer so-called 3+2 programs, which enable students to earn *two* bachelor's degrees in complementary fields within five years.

Request: Student support for smooth transitions



- Faculty advisors and mentors
- Academic Success Coaches
- Joint seminars, makerspace activities, student organizations
- Support for research projects
- Internships and professional development opportunities

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One critical element of such partnerships is ensuring that students make a smooth transition from one institution to the next. So, we are asking you to support Governor Carney's recommendation for \$1.5 million in FY24 for UD and DSU to help our institutions provide the faculty positions, support programs, joint mentoring opportunities, seminar courses and tuition assistance for students.

This modest investment to support engineering students at both UD and DSU will benefit them and the entire state for decades to come.

The University of Delaware is proud to be an economic engine in Delaware, fueling a

\$3.2 BILLION IMPACT

that supports more than

26,000 JOBS.

Learn more at udel.edu/delawareimpact



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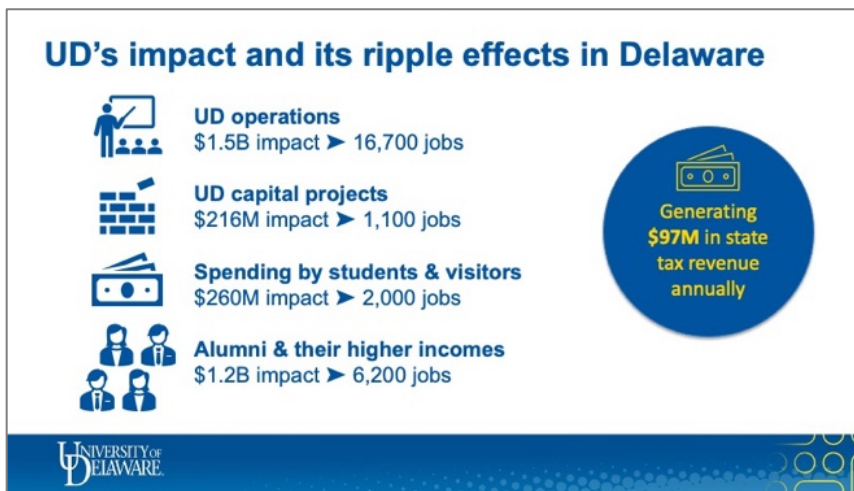
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Indeed, investing in UD through our annual operating appropriation pays significant dividends throughout Delaware.

A new economic impact study completed last fall found that every \$1 the state invests in UD generates about \$23 in Delaware's economy. That's a huge return on the state's investment.

In total, spending by the University and its students, employees and alumni — plus the ripple effect of those dollars — results in a \$3.2 billion impact on Delaware's economy. And that impact supports more than 26,000 jobs in the state.

Those are impressive numbers, but I also want to take a moment to highlight some of the details in the study.



First, our day-to-day operations and their ripple effects make up the largest portion of our impact: about \$1.5 billion in economic activity. And that supports about 16,700 jobs in the state.

Capital spending by UD to maintain, enhance and expand our classrooms, labs and other campus facilities creates about \$216 million in economic activity each year. This supports more than 1,100 good-paying jobs annually in Delaware's construction industry and related sectors.

Also, spending by UD's students and the roughly 775,000 people who visit campus each year results in about \$260 million in economic impact. Their spending supports about 2,000 jobs.

Finally, there are about 50,000 Blue Hen alumni living and working in Delaware right now, and collectively, they earn about \$1.2 billion a year more because of their UD education. Their higher spending supports about 6,200 jobs in the state. Additionally, people with a college degree typically require fewer state services like Medicaid.

All of this economic activity also has a direct benefit on the Delaware treasury by generating more than \$97 million in state tax revenue each year.

The University is proud to play such a vital role in the economic health and future of Delaware. And it's why we're committed to making an even greater impact going forward.



One significant asset in this effort is UD’s Science, Technology and Advanced Research, or STAR, Campus.

In the past, we’ve said that STAR Campus is “*becoming*” a hub of innovation and economic growth for the state. But today I can confidently say that it “*is*” exactly that.

Right now, more than 3,000 people are working on the STAR Campus, which is greater than the number who worked at Chrysler when it closed its assembly plant in 2009. They work in the fields of health science, clean energy, financial technology, chemical engineering and many others.

Building the bioeconomy for Delaware & the U.S.

National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL)

Headquartered at UD

200+ partners in the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors

\$580M total investment by UD and partners

Visit by Laurie Locascio, director of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), announcing \$8M grant toward workforce training in advanced manufacturing methods

One of the most exciting areas is biopharmaceuticals. UD, as you know, is the headquarters of the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals, or NIIMBL. Over the past six years, UD and its partners, including the state, have invested more than \$580 million in NIIMBL, and we still have tremendous potential for further growth and development. Last year, the federal government announced an \$8 million grant toward a new facility at the STAR Campus to train workers in advanced-manufacturing techniques, helping to build the highly specialized workforce that is needed to make biopharmaceuticals.

This means that Delaware is on the cutting edge of helping to solve a critical challenge for our nation. In December, the President’s Council on Science and Technology — of which I am honored to serve as a member — recommended to President Biden several steps to grow and strengthen the nation’s biotechnology sector. The first recommendation is to create biomanufacturing infrastructure hubs at key locations across the country. Such hubs would develop advanced manufacturing methods for new biotechnology products and provide training opportunities for skilled workers.

That is exactly what we’re already building at the STAR Campus.

And with the state’s support, we still have plenty of room to continue growing for decades to come. The potential is truly limitless.



K-12 EDUCATION

Of course, UD’s impact is felt throughout the state, and I want to focus for a moment on the impact we are having in Delaware’s K-12 classrooms. Some of you may have met Dr. Gary Henry, the dean of our College of Education and Human Development. He is deeply engaged in working with teachers and administrators throughout the state.

First, UD is tackling the teacher shortage in Delaware by recruiting and preparing students to teach locally. Our Teacher Residency Program, which is now in its fourth year, provides a yearlong, paid posting in a Delaware public high-needs school. So far, 55 students have completed the program.

In addition, about 80 percent of our Delaware resident students who graduate with an education degree stay to teach in Delaware each year. Many non-Delawareans also come to UD for their degree and begin their careers here.

In all, UD is proud to have prepared more than 2,500 Delaware public school teachers, or a quarter of the workforce in our state.

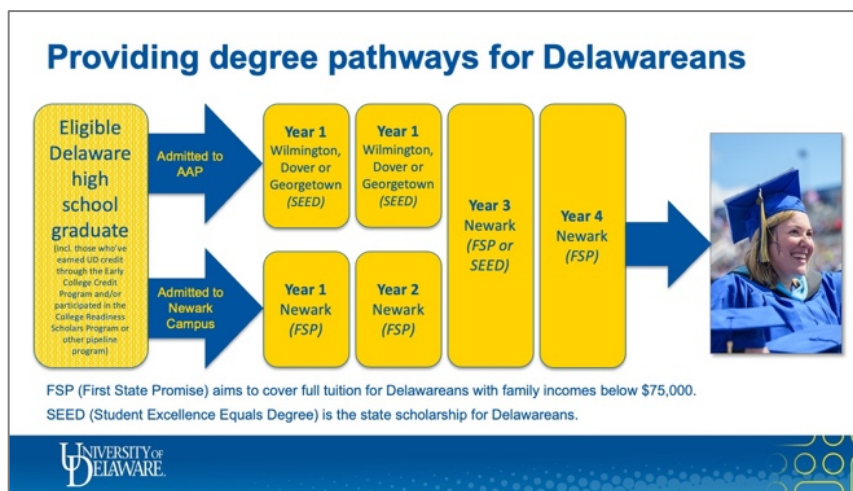
What’s more, the faculty and staff of UD’s College of Education and Human Development, through the new School Success Center, work very closely with teachers and administrators throughout the state on a variety of issues.

One of the most important is helping schools accelerate learning in the wake of the pandemic. This involves enhancing reading and math curricula, developing classroom tools and materials, and assisting students with a variety of disabilities, many of whom were significantly affected by the pandemic.

We are also helping to improve classroom techniques, school management and effective leadership. UD's Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood is helping child-care centers become more effective and efficient, while our Center for Disabilities Studies is helping special-education teachers use creative strategies and technologies to effectively reach students with disabilities.

UD also continues to grow and strengthen the student pipeline at the high school level in Delaware. Our Early College Credit Program helps students get a jump on their college education by letting them earn UD credits at zero cost to their families. Many students in this dual-enrollment program never thought they could attend or afford college.

We're committed to strengthening the entire education system in Delaware because we see that as absolutely integral to the long-term health of our state.



SEED AND AAP

We're also working to ensure that a UD education remains accessible and affordable for Delawareans.

Our Associate in Arts Program is an important part of that commitment because it provides a low-cost pathway to a UD bachelor's degree for eligible graduates of Delaware high schools.

As you may know, AAP students are fully UD students who take classes taught by UD faculty in Wilmington, Dover or Georgetown. Class sizes are small, so students get more individual attention from instructors. More than 60% of them earn their associate degree within three years, which is nearly double the national average. About nine out of 10 students then transition to the Newark campus. And 78% of those students go on to earn their bachelor's degree.

AAP serves a high number of Delawareans from low-income, first-generation and/or underrepresented minority populations. Over the past decade, more than 2,000 Delawareans have started their education as AAP students and then earned their bachelor’s degree in a variety of fields. Many alumni remain in Delaware to live and work in their communities.

Also, AAP works hand-in-hand with the state’s SEED scholarship program. We are grateful that SEED has expanded to cover up to 10 semesters of education and allows non-traditional students to benefit, as well. That means that SEED will now cover our students’ junior year on UD’s Newark campus.

Last year, UD launched a targeted campaign to promote AAP and SEED in Delaware, using billboards, digital ads, radio spots, social media and more. The state provided partial funding for this campaign, so we want to thank you for that assistance. We saw increased interest from students and their families, and we would be eager to build on this effort in the future.

CLOSING

In closing, I want to thank you for the state’s strong support for the University of Delaware, which advances our shared priority of meeting the needs of Delawareans today and well into the future.

And I thank you for your time today.

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