

University of Delaware President Dennis Assanis
Delaware Office of Management & Budget
Nov. 14, 2022

Good morning, Director Cade, and thank you for the opportunity today to present the University of Delaware's appropriation requests for FY24. I have several members of our team available with me to address any questions you may have.

I'd like to begin with UD's operating appropriation request, which is focused on increasing affordability and access for Delaware students.

We believe that UD's top-notch education should be affordable for every Delawarean, and our First State Promise financial aid program is a key element in achieving that goal. With state assistance, the First State Promise program 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.

About 2,100 Delawareans enrolled at UD this year are eligible for First State Promise.

The program helps keep more Delawareans here for their education and allows them to graduate with little or no debt, both of which benefit the entire state.

As we've roll out First State Promise to each incoming class, UD has covered about two-thirds of the cost. For FY24, we would ask the state to join us in equal funding, so we are requesting an additional \$4 million in our appropriation to help us continue providing this critical support.

We are also excited about a new partnership with Delaware State University to grow the number of in-demand engineers locally, especially those from underrepresented minority groups.

UD has one of the best engineering programs in the nation, and we were honored that Governor Carney visited UD recently to highlight the #2 ranking of our chemical engineering department.

Through our new dual-enrollment 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, all within about five years instead of the typical six or seven. It will serve as model for similar partnerships in the future.

So, our request of \$500,000 will help provide joint mentoring opportunities, seminar courses and tuition assistance so students can make a smooth transition from Delaware State to UD.

While we're on the topic of engineering, I'd like to note that this kind of education is very expensive. It requires expert professors, modern laboratories and state-of-the-art equipment to ensure that our graduates are prepared to succeed in today's engineering workplace. To meet these evolving needs, we're developing a long-range capital improvement plan for our engineering facilities, and we look forward to discussing these opportunities with state leaders in the coming months.

I want to emphasize that state funding for UD is an excellent investment for everyone in Delaware. In fact, a new analysis finds that UD generates a \$3.2 billion economic impact in the state, which supports more than 26,000 jobs. That's \$23 in the economy for every \$1 in UD's operating appropriation. It's an excellent return on taxpayers' money.

I'd like to turn now to UD's capital appropriation request.

As with engineering, we need modern classrooms and labs throughout the University to serve our students and continue making an impact as a top-tier research institution. We have nearly 2 million square feet of lab space on campus, and many labs need new HVAC systems, electrical systems, emergency generators and other upgrades.

I want to thank the state for providing \$20 million in FY23 to help us meet these needs. In light of record-high inflation rates, we're requesting \$30 million in FY24 toward these lab maintenance projects.

Finally, I want to briefly mention our other Bond Bill request through the Secretary of State's office to support the continued development of the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals, or NIIMBL.

NIIMBL has helped make Delaware a national leader in biopharmaceuticals and led to the creation of more than 500 jobs in this sector, with more on the horizon. State funding of \$27.5 million over the next four years will leverage greater investments from our NIIMBL partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

In closing, I want to thank you for the state's strong partnership with the University of Delaware — a partnership that 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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