

**Remarks by Terri Kelly, chair of the University of  
Delaware Board of Trustees, May 13, 2025**

The University recognizes exemplary individuals through the presentation of the University of Delaware Medal of Distinction, which is among the highest honors that the University bestows.

Now, please join me in welcoming Eleni Assanis to the podium. President Assanis, please join us, as well.

As UD's First Lady, Eleni has consistently and diligently demonstrated service to the University — particularly in helping to create and strengthen meaningful and deep relationships across UD's community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends. These relationships with major philanthropic donors and supporters have helped to transform UD.

Eleni's dedicated commitment throughout the Delaware First Campaign, collaborating with Dennis and so many others, helped raise more than \$1 billion to support scholarships, faculty research and campus infrastructure and programming.

As a supporter of UD leadership, a motivator who inspires campus engagement and enthusiasm, an advocate for women's initiatives, and a key influencer in advancing University programs on campus and beyond, Eleni's steadfast presence inspired progress and positive impact in myriad ways.

Eleni, for your meaningful contributions these last 9 years as UD's First Lady, I am delighted to present you with the Medal of Distinction. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your tremendous service to UD.