



## DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Office of the President

### Written Testimony Office of Management and Budget Hearing November 16, 2022

The Honorable Cerron Cade  
State Budget Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Haslet Armory, Third Floor  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Director Cade,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the Office of Management and Budget Hearing. While you and your staff have our formal submission for FY 24, I want to take a minute to offer important context. In short, we believe our partnership with you, Governor Carney, and the Delaware General Assembly has positioned us as the best return on value in higher education in the region and among the best Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country. Our most salient highlights follow:

- US News & World Report ranks the University—among the 101 HBCUs in the nation—as the No. 2 public and No. 8 overall. We are also highly regarded as a continuous leader in social and economic mobility and among the most innovative regional universities.
- Our enrollment for the fall of 2022 is at a historic high with more than 6,200 students, up 33% since 2017 and up 10% year over year. Those numbers include upwards of 800 Delawarean Freshmen, **67% of whom are INSPIRE scholars.**
- The new Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences created Delaware’s largest and most-highly rated Nursing program and because of the State’s investment over three fiscal years, we have increased the number of BSN graduates seven-fold with an eye toward 100 in FY 24. We have also doubled the size of the State’s only Master’s in Occupational Therapy and provided a new home for both students and research in our Allied/Public Health, Social Work, and Psychology programs.
- We have broken ground on two new academic facilities, both of which are fully funded: an Early Childhood Innovation Center enabled by a \$30 million investment from the State of Delaware and a State-leveraged match from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build a world-class, integrated agriculture, science, and technology building at the south end of campus.
- An expansion of the Early College School to 7th and 8th grades. Although we have not received State funding for this expansion effort, when combined with our new Early Childhood Innovation Center, we now own an in-state pipeline of students associated

with the University from kindergarten to high school graduation. It is unique in Delaware and almost unparalleled nationwide.

All of this, coupled with our elevated national ranking, unprecedented enrollment growth, the acquisition of Wesley College, and a clear-cut strategic plan, we have made a significant mark in the public square with much more to do.

In our submission, you will note our requests for continued investments in our Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, particularly as we grow our nursing program and further expand our Master's in Occupational Therapy. In addition, we have requested ongoing support for our Aviation program, which remains the low-cost/high-quality provider east of the Mississippi and is still the number one provider of pilots of color in the country. We have developed a unique partnership with the University of Delaware to create a new 4 + 1 program for our students to pursue an engineering degree. The partnership significantly enhances our offerings in a high demand field and creates a ready-made diverse talent pipeline for the University of Delaware. You will note some requests to continue to manage our strategic growth as well.

Alongside our operating request, the University has an ambitious Campus Master Plan—aimed at reducing our carbon footprint while upgrading learning, research, and athletic spaces—that most significantly seeks to create a “connected campus,” linking University spaces to those of the larger Dover community. Our capital requests reflect the priorities of our master plan.

In closing, this fall the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches' Association selected Sydney Anderson '24 for the prestigious Tina Sloan Green Award in recognition of her leadership in speaking out about the April 2022 unlawful stop and search of her team's bus by Georgia law enforcement deputies. Anderson, who authored the first account in the University newspaper detailing the unlawful search and its traumatizing effects, says of the reaction her article garnered, “I never envisioned the amount of support and love we would receive.” Hers is a sentiment we all share, and it is one also apropos of our institutional gratitude—for the opportunities we have created, received, and manifested over the course of 2022, including the most generous allocation award by the State of Delaware in University history.

Today, we are asking you to do even more.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Allen, Ph.D.  
President