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DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the President

**Written Testimony  
Office of Management and Budget Hearing  
November 15, 2023**

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 2025, 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. 3 public and No. 9 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 2023 is at a historic high with more than 6,400 students, up 33% since 2017 and up 3.5% year over year. Those numbers include **upwards of 800 Delawarean Freshmen, 67% of whom are INSPIRE scholars.**

In our submission, you will note our requests for continued investments in our Wesley College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, particularly as we expand our social work program and further expand our Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program. We recognize a shortage of teachers in Delaware and the nation, so expanding our Master of Teaching Program (MAT) will address the need among Delawareans to take an alternative teaching route. You will note our operational growth request as we continue managing our strategic growth.

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. These requests are strategic in that they directly incorporate initiatives that will simultaneously allow

us to improve existing areas on campus while also moving forward with the construction of a new student health and counseling center. Delaware State University will continue to invest in all our campuses while including safety and security-related projects and critical technology capital improvements. The University has planned additions for new construction to increase our existing portfolio.

As you know ... Delaware State University is the fastest-growing HBCU in the country. We are growing to change the trajectories of more students' lives faster. Their home and ours is Delaware.

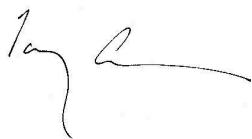
... Delaware State University is the first HBCU in the country to acquire another institution and in so doing filled what would have been an \$80 million hole in economic benefit to Dover and the broader State of Delaware. What we received in return were 600 students who needed a new academic home, 21 buildings including our newly-named Hattie Mishoe Hall for our now premier nursing program, and 50 acres of additional land in downtown Dover appraised at \$32 million.

... Delaware State University has launched 14 new academic programs in critical strategic areas, including several new associate degree offerings to serve the broader Delaware community and which are accessible to our Early College School—600 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders who can now earn up to 60 college credits before ever being admitted to any University. Here in Delaware, we are answering demands and helping to solve problems.

... Delaware State University is the first HBCU to establish a Customer Service Center of Excellence to improve student and university stakeholder experiences. As we grow and are now the first choice for students of color throughout the state, we know that they and their families deserve our very best. We are working hard to ensure that we have the right tools and culture to deliver for them.

We are doing all we can to change our verbs, transforming Delaware State University forever from simply “being” to “building.” By investing in our programs to alleviate the gaps in education, mental healthcare, and community engagement, you guarantee a better Delaware tomorrow and a return on the investment. Today, we are asking you for your support.

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