

### **Teaching More Than Job Skills**

Today is the last issue in our Feel Good Friday series addressing summer programming for our children and ways families can reduce summer learning loss.

We've shone a light on some of the valuable community initiatives to support educational attainment for youth of all ages taking place across our state. I want to send my heartfelt gratitude to every person and organization – from community organizations to libraries and Delaware government – for being on the front lines in helping create the workforce of the future.



During this summer, I've heard numerous accounts from our UWDE team about the accomplishments of our 18 summer interns, and I've been so impressed by their contributions. Yesterday, we celebrated and thanked these fine young people in a closing ceremony.

Hearing about the interns' experiences reminded me of the importance of focusing on youths' development beyond educational coursework in areas we call "soft skills." We cannot overstate the importance of giving teens experiences that relate to their future employment. Interns learn skills such as keeping a calendar, being on time for meetings, being reliable and thorough when completing assignments, regular attendance, becoming problem-solvers and independent thinkers. (Not to mention putting down the cell phone.)

At the same time, we saw some 200 - yes, 200! – students take a day of their valuable summer vacation and invest it in attending the E3 Summit. There they had access to numerous information sessions relevant to them and their personal growth (see article below). We were pleased to hear so many attendees say they wish the summit were longer so they could attend more sessions. These young people stand out in their commitment to becoming informed and effective future leaders. I'd like to thank the Capital School District, City of Dover government and Delaware State University and the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative for their assistance in making this day happen.

We often speak of "the future workforce" in the abstract, and often in concern as to whether they'll "be ready." But the future is here – here in summer interns, here in conferences and seminars, here in our community organization programming.

It behooves us to find ways to help them be ready – starting now. As an example, try hiring young people for part-time jobs in your company and nurture them by giving them leadership opportunities. Or bring on interns and help them learn those soft skills. Can your organization help create learning opportunities like the E3 Summit?

The young people you nurture today may never come back to you as an employee, but they may ultimately be your nurse, your child's teacher, your technology provider, your neighborhood small business owner. And that will be thanks in part to you. The future is now.

Sincerely,

### Michelle

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D. President and CEO United Way of Delaware

### **Echoing, Empowering, and Elevating Student Voices**

By Tierra Fair, Senior Director, Community Engagement

Nearly 200 students, advisors, and mentors gathered at Dover High School on July 20<sup>th</sup> for the E3 Summit. Powered by United Way of Delaware (UWDE) and the Delaware Department of Education (DOE), the E3 Summit is a long-term partnership to innovatively engage students and create more courageous student advocates and leaders.

The organizational team, with input and guidance from 17 student leaders, created a learning opportunity to Echo, Empower, and Elevate student voices. The student involvement is key in creating an event that resonates with youth. Students were at the heart of every conversation to make decisions and learning along the way. UWDE thanks the students who participated in making the E3 Summit a success.

Adults typically create teen programming for what we believe teenagers need to know to become productive adults. Rarely do we involve teens in the process of planning, and rarely do we teach them the skills to advocate, disrupt, and build the communities they want to see.

The UWE partnership with DOE was created with the idea to do just that.

If our goal as a state is true equity, we must support the next generation in creating it. The Summit workshops addressed issues facing the teen community and gave positive solutions on what students can do to change them, such as *Building a Movement: How to Start/Run a Student Group; Communication is Key - Having Tough Conversations in School;* and *Know your Rights - How to Advocate for Yourself.* 

Additional content was presented on how to maintain their mental well-being and emotional stamina because advocating is hard work. Workshops included *Energy and Self-Motivation - How to Harness Your Energy While Maintaining a Growth Mindset; Mental Health Matters- How to Navigate Your Feelings and Mental Space; Elevate Your Voice - Learn Tips and Tricks to Master Public Speaking; and 20/20 Vision: Create a Vision Board for Your Goals This Year.* 

The participating teens, who represented every county in our state, are our future nurses, lawyers, teachers, entrepreneurs and craftspersons. Partners included the New Castle County Summer Youth Employment Program, City of Wilmington Summer Youth Employment Program, Sussex Summer Youth Employment Program, Network Connect, Future Leaders Internship Initiative, and Center for Structural Equity Summer Youth.

Events such as E3 are designed to help change the trajectory for tomorrow's workforce by preparing students to lead and build a better tomorrow.

Thank you to the student planning committee:

- Naomi Allen- Sandford School
- Kassidy Baptiste- Ursuline Academy
   Alum
- Mason Burgoyne Dover High School
- Nessy Chezard- Sussex Technical High School
- Kylee Countryman- Dover High School
- Tatiana Fair- MOT Charter School
- Aakhai Hollis- St. George's Technical High School Alum
- Tyrone Kearse- Salesianum School

- Simone Minor- Tatnall School Alum
- Kenneth Norwood- Friends School Alum
- Anya Patel- Dover High School
- Mya Reeves- Concord High School Alum
- Tomas Sargeant- Brandywine High School
- Nekayla Cannon-Stokes- Hodgson Vocational Technical School
- Arnav Taduvayi-Odyssey Charter High School

Student Kylee Countryman sent us this testimonial: "The E3 Summit was more than I expected. It was the best learning experience I've had in high school. I am so happy I was able to attend and help plan this year's summit. My only complaint is that I wish it was longer and we were able to experience all of the workshops."

To get a sense of how important and impactful events such as this are to students, please read the commentary below.

### E3 Summit Opinion Article By Mya Brown

Being that I had a more professional high school experience and didn't really fit in with the popular group at school I was slightly intimidated to come back to a space where it was yet another high school with young people.

I almost expected to be a bit isolated because most of the attendees were in high school. Meanwhile, I'm an 18year-old about to go to college. I couldn't have been more incorrect.



The event kicked off with seeing the smiling faces of volunteers as they checked off registration and distributed raffle tickets. After everyone flooded into the auditorium, the event kicked off with a performance of *Rise Up* by Tatiana Fair. Her voice was incredible and her energy transferred into the audience.

Shortly after, the spectacular Blake the Brain came on stage and shared some wonderful words of wisdom. He used the outstanding basketball player Steph Curry and his almost unmatched shooting skills as a testimony of the importance of failing. Steph Curry couldn't have become the icon he is today without missing hundreds of shots and learning how to improve his form and accuracy. Blake's business slogan *Failure is Dope* resonated with me because my parents have worked to instill this in me once they noticed I stopped doing things I enjoyed such as basketball anymore because I was afraid of failing, especially failing in front of others. Now I see failure as an opportunity to have a great comeback. It's an opportunity to grow and build character.

My first interactive session was about energy and self-motivation. This interactive workshop was powered by STRIVE: How You Lead Matters. In this session I learned how to ease some anxieties about things outside of my locus of control.

We played lots of fun activities including one that challenged you and a partner to go back and forth counting from 1-3. After each round, we had to replace saying the number with performing an action. From this I learned the importance of listening and being engaged with one person I'd never met before.

I loved the *20/20 vision*: vision board session led by soon-to-be Dr. Cimone Philpotts. The vision board session enabled me to use magazines, inspirational stickers, and my own creativity to lay out some short- and long-term goals. Some things I included were

words like education, boss, opportunity, invest, business, beautiful, pictures of happy Black women in both natural and protective/wig styles, fruits, flowers, and cute nails. I continue to look at this board every morning and think about the little steps I can do each day to progress toward my goals.

This event turned out amazing thanks to the sponsors and all the youth who paused their summer activities to spend time with us. I am so excited to have participated in the 2022 E3 Summit.

### Thanks to Our 18 UWDE Summer 2022 Interns!

Yesterday was National Intern Day! United Way of Delaware celebrated our 18 interns with recognition from our staff to thank them for their hard work, dedication and the help they gave our staff serve the people and communities across Delaware.

Our interns were: Atiyana Abdullah, Naomi Allen, Mya Brown, Nekayla Cannon-Stokes, Kailyn Davis, Christopher Johnson, Ny'sier Judkins, Tyrone Kearse, Aramis Lopez, Skylar Mobley, Kendall Mobley, Kenneth Norwood, Mya Reeves, Thomas Sargent-Santiago and Arnav Taduvayi.

Congratulations, interns, on a job well done and best wishes for your future!





### **UWDE Interns Bring TikTok Videos to the Learning Pods**

Take a look at *YouthNited*, the video below, brought to you by United Way of Delaware Summer Interns.

Mya Reeves, Nekayla Cannon- Stokes and Nandi Richey are interviewing their peers about their career goals, their journeys in creating their own businesses and their education tracks.

The interns also are interviewing learning pod students about their experience in the pods and their future plans. Our hope is to show learning pod participants a wide range of career and education options and get them thinking about their own futures and the paths they want to take.

Enjoy our first foray into the world of TikTok!



### **Latinos Unidos Presents Summer Youth Career Day**

UWDE and Latinos Unidos presented Career Day to United Way of Delaware Summer Youth Employees. The Summer Youth received their guest, Pedro Viera (PNC), Yvette Santiago (Nemours), Damarys Todman (DHSS), Theo Nix (Drone School), and Julissa Coriano (Therapist), Elizabeth Diaz (Chemours), and Ivan Thomas (Founder DETV), with excitement. Because UWDE cares about the future of our youth in Delaware, essential information was provided to enlighten, motivate and encourage them to look into the future with an "I can do it" mindset.

Nysier Judkins: "Thank you, UWDE, for this outstanding presentation. I have enjoyed and learned that I am of value. That I can pursue my dream of becoming a judge in the future."

Mya Reeves: "I am looking forward to my participation with DETV in a future project."

Mya Brown: "I want to be involved and learn more about the DWS Drone School programs. I will reach out."

The goal was to ensure our Summer Youth that a prosperous future is at the tip of their fingers.



### Latinos Unidos presenta el Día de Carrera a Nuestros Empleados Juveniles del Verano

UWDE y Latinos Unidos presentaron el Día de la Carrera a los Empleados Juveniles del Verano de United Way of Delaware. Los Jóvenes del programa recibieron con entusiasmo a su invitado, Pedro Viera (PNC), Yvette Santiago (Nemours), Damarys Todman (DHSS), Theo Nix (Drone School), y Julissa Coriano (Terapeuta), Elizabeth Díaz (Chemours) e Ivan Thomas (Fundador de DETV). . Debido a que UWDE se preocupa por el futuro de nuestros jóvenes en Delaware, se proporcionó información esencial para iluminarlos, motivarlos y alentarlos a mirar hacia el futuro con una mentalidad de "puedo hacerlo".

Nysier Judkins: "Gracias, UWDE, por esta excelente presentación. He disfrutado y aprendido que soy valioso. Que puedo lograr mi sueño en convertirme en un juez en el futuro".

Mya Reeves: "Estoy contenta e interesada en participar con DETV en nuestro proyecto".

Mya Brown: "Quiero participar y aprender más sobre los programas de DWS Drone School. Me acercaré".

El objetivo era asegurarle a nuestros Jóvenes del Programa de Verano que un futuro próspero está en al alcance de sus manos.

### **Solenis Donates Laptops For Students**

United Way of Delaware is so grateful for the partnership that we have with Solenis LLC. They have been a dedicated community partner for years who passionately donates their time and resources to improve the quality of life for so many needy citizens.

We thank Solenis for donating 40 laptop computers that will be used to help youth who are having the greatest challenges with having access to the technology needed to do virtual learning.

It takes a village to make a difference in the lives of those who are most challenged, and we are so grateful that Solenis LLP is a part of our village. Live United!



From left: Elaine Payne, HR Coordinator; Sherri Kyle – Associate Director, PMO; Zy'rin Smack - United Way of Delaware Youth; Ken Livingston - United Way of Delaware; John Moore - United Way of Delaware; Ramon Galofre – Associate Director, Global End User Computing; Mithun Chandramohan – Business Technology Services

### Latinos Unidos Awarded by Delaware City Refining Co.

UWDE Latinos Unidos has been recognized as a handson team, serving our community from Early Education, Career Readiness and Financial Empowerment to COVID 19 Community Outreach. Delaware City Refining Company has awarded the UWDE Latinos Unidos Affinity Group \$10,000 for these efforts.



Latinos Unidos has projects coming soon that this generous donation can substantiate and support, including American Translators Association certifying three qualified individuals as translators and purchasing books for The Latinos Unidos Library to be installed at the Latin American Community Center.

Latinos Unidos is thankful and ensures the continuum of the efforts that address the needs of the Hispanic Community in Delaware. It is corporate partners such as Delaware City Refining which allows us to serve the underserved Hispanic Community.

Thank you, Delaware City Refining Company, for your generosity.

### **Premian a Latinos Unidos**

Latinos Unidos ha sido reconocido como un equipo activo y trabajador. Desde la educación temprana, la preparación profesional y el empoderamiento financiero hasta el alcance comunitario en tiempo de COVID 19. Delaware City Refining Company ha otorgado al UWDE Latinos Unidos Affinity Group diez mil dólares por estos esfuerzos.

Latinos Unidos tiene proyectos pronto en los que esta generosa donación puede fundamentar y apoyar. Desde la certificación de tres personas calificadas para obtener su certificación como traductores hasta la compra de libros para la Biblioteca de Latinos Unidos en el Latin American Community Center.

UWDE Latinos Unidos está agradecido y asegura el continuo de los esfuerzos que se dirigen a la necesidades en la comunidad hispana en Delaware. Compañia como Delaware City Refining son las que sostienen nuestros effuerzos en servir a nuestra comunidad Hispana en Delaware.

Gracias, Delaware City Refining Company por su generosidad.

### Delaware 211 Helps People in Need Every Day Now They Need Your Help

Delaware 211 provides confidential help for people in need. The following accounts from our 211 specialists give you the sad portrait of what our neighbors struggle with every day.



- A gentleman from Dover called who had been robbed of his rent money and desperately needed help. I referred him to First State Community Action Agency and they helped him pay his full rent. He was so grateful to DE211 for pointing him in the right direction and relieved to get the help.
- A female from Wilmington called because she needed dental care and didn't know who to call. I connected her to her employer's Health Benefits Manager and they explained that her medical coverage included dental. I also put her in

touch with a local dentist's office and she got the emergency dental care she

A female from Dover was struggling and unable to pay her electric bill. Her
power was turned off and she didn't know how she would get the help she
needed. I referred her to First State Community Action Agency and they paid the
whole bill. She was so happy she called DE211 because she immediately got
the help she needed.

To help Delaware 211 continue and expand their important work throughout the entire state, please consider <u>making a donation</u> today.



### **Creating Back-to-School Kits With One Main Financial**

Every year, parents face a challenge when preparing their children to go back to school.

OneMain Financial.

OneMain Financial and UWDE recently collaborated in preparing back-to-school kits. These kits contain a book about finance and items to prepare budgets and understand finance basics. The kits also include crayons, pencils, and school supplies. Companies like OneMain Financial allow us to provide service to our communities.

Thank you, OneMain Financial for your support and advocacy.



# Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative Happenings



### **Freedom Schools Harambee Celebration**

On Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup> the second Annual Statewide Freedom School (FS) Harambee ("all pull together" in Kiswahili, Kenya's national language) Celebration was held on the campus of Delaware State University (DSU).

The event kicked off with welcomes from Dr. Sandi Hagans-Morris, Freedom School Program Director, Bernice Edwards, Executive Director of First State Community Action Agency, and Fran Livingston, Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Director.

Once the welcome was complete, the room was filled with sounds of chants from participants from Freedom School locations including Richard Allen School (Sussex County), Fairview Elementary School and DSU Downtown Dover Campus (Kent County). The chats are used to get the students excited about the program.

Next, the students were read to by United Way of Delaware Board Chair Rick Deadwyler. His story was very energetic and kept the students engaged.

Another series of motivational chants led into two students sharing about the impact that Freedom School has had on their life.

Before concluding the program, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative Director Raina Allen spoke to the students and challenged them to "Dream Big" The program concluded with scholars taking a tour of Delaware State University and lunch.

The evidence is clear. Freedom Schools ARE a game changer for students. In 2020, 77% of Freedom School students avoided the average summer learning loss, the equivalent of about two full months of instruction. At the same time, 97% of parents were more likely to engage in social interaction with their children, and 98% of parents said they noticed that their children had increased confidence in school. Importantly, students who entered a Freedom School reading below grade level experienced the

greatest gains.

Research demonstrates that Freedom School students are more likely to:

- Develop a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a "growth mindset"
- Regulate their emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations
- Empathize with others
- Communicate clearly, listen well, and cooperate with others
- Resist social pressure, negotiate conflict constructively and offer help when needed
- Make constructive choices about personal behaviors

These and other attributes will shape the young leaders of tomorrow.

"This innovative literacy program is changing the trajectory for our young Scholar readers, enhancing their motivation to read and making them feel good about learning," said FSCAA Executive Director, Bernice Edwards. "Many of our Scholars made substantial improvements in reading and didn't experience any summer learning loss, which is great concern among our black and brown children."

In Delaware, the first CDF Freedom School was the Peter Spencer Family Life Foundation CDF Freedom School at Mother African Union Church in Wilmington, which has helped educate more than 700 students since it was founded in 2013.

Based on the success of this Freedom School, the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) funded the DRJC Freedom School at the First State Community Action Agency in Georgetown in 2021. Both schools offer the national CDF Freedom School curriculum, supplemented with lessons regarding African American history in Delaware.

The DRJC Freedom School hosted 50 students in 2021. During the summer of 2022 DRJC Freedom School expanded to two additional locations in Kent County serving an additional 80 students.

Watch the **recap video** below for a taste of the day!







### Still Work to Be Done 200 Years Later

One of Delaware's hidden gems is Cooch's Bridge, the site of Delaware's only Revolutionary War Battle. Friends of Cooch's and Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs conducted a fascinating and moving tribute to the site's role in history on Juneteenth last month.

Brandon Brice, UWDE Director of Philanthropy and Equity, helped celebrate the event by reminding us that "There is still work to be done even now, 200 years later." Below is a video of the day's celebration. If you wish to skip ahead to Brandon's message, jump to the 20-minute mark.



### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Technical and Business Help for Sussex County Entrepreneurs**

The Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation is currently accepting applications for the next Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (E3) cohort in Sussex County. Entrepreneurs who are based in Sussex County and are eager to receive technical assistance and business coaching are encouraged to submit their application to join our innovative and collaborative process.

Through E3, entrepreneurs will work with industry experts to assess their business and develop a customized action plan to grow their business and achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

We are accepting applications from entrepreneurs within any stage of their journey (conceptual/start-up, emerging, or accelerated). If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please share this information with them. The deadline to apply is Monday, August 1 at 11:59 PM.

Visit <u>petedupontfreedomfoundation.org</u> to learn more or access the application.





### Film Screening and Discussion

You are invited to a virtual screening of "Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote," followed by a discussion of the film and how we can protect the vote in Delaware!



Tuesday, August 16, 7 to 8:30 pm

The event is co-sponsored by Common Cause Delaware and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

Register: <a href="https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/475100/">https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/475100/</a>

About Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote (2022) by Robert Greenwald (Director of Outfoxed, Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price, and Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA) is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our 2022 miderm elections.

In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the Big Lie of the 2020 election. The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws being enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a blueprint for today's voter suppression laws across the country.

Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote now includes perspectives from voters in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and Georgia that highlight how these new laws will affect their constitutional right to vote. Suppression tactics covered in the film include registration hurdles, polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times at polling locations, exact match disqualifications, new vote by mail limitations, changes to ballot collection and drop off, and more.

Voter suppression laws disproportionately affect American Students, Senior Citizens, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color from casting their ballots. Suppressed and Sabotaged is a call to action against the calculated, unconstitutional, and racist attacks intended to suppress the right to vote in America.

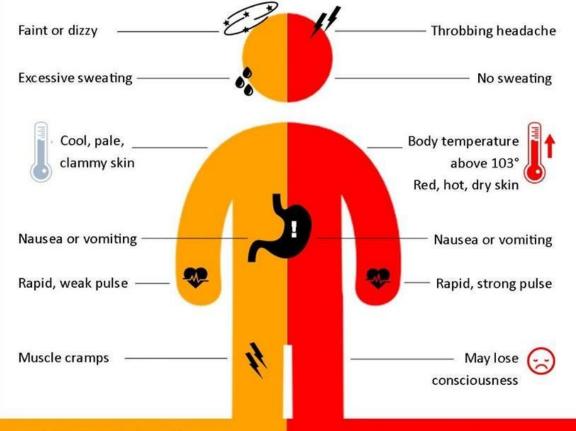
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## HEAT EXHAUSTION

OR

### HEAT STROKE



- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- · Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

### **CALL 9-1-1**

 Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

THE REAL PROPERTY.



### CAMP COPE-A-LOT

Anxiety Program for Youth & Teens

JFS' Youth Anxiety Program will continue this summer in a special 2-week camp format, helping participants . . . • identify & reduce symptoms of anxiety • Build confidence in coping with anxiety • Use relaxation techniques • Challenge anxious thoughts • Build competence in problem solving

- Additional Program Features:

   FREE to participate

   Lunch provided to participants

   Field Trip Fridays

   Support & resources for parents

### Camp Schedule & Details:

- Session 1: July 11-22
  Session 2: August 8-19
   2-Week Sessions from 9AM-3PM
- Open to youth & teens, ages 7-13
   Located at JFS' Wilmington Office
  (99 Passmore Rd, Wilmington 19803)

Register Today! Department at 302-478-9411 ext. 306 Call JFS' Intake Depa



### CAMP COPE-A-LOT

(Campamento de Verano)

### Programa de Ansiedad para Jóvenes

El Programa de Ansiedad para Ninos va a continuar este verano mediante un grupo especial de 2 semanas, ayudando a los participantes a...

• Identificar y reducir sintomas de ansiedad

• Aumentar la confianza en su capacidad para afrontar la ansiedad

• Usar técnicas de relajación

- Retar pensamientos de ansiedad

  Sentirse seguros en su habilidad para resolver problemas

### dicionalmente, el programa cuenta con lo siguiente: • ES COMPLETAMENTE GRATIS • Se sentra allementa alle

- Se servirá almuerzo a los participantes
  Habrá una gira el día viernes
  Apoyo y recursos para los padres

- Horario del Campamento y Detalles:
  Sesión #1: julio 11 al 22
  Sesión #2: aposto 8 al 19
   2 semans de 9 am a 3pm
   Abierto a niños y jóvenes entre 7 a 13 años de edad
   Localizado en lo Dificina de JFS en Willmington
  (99 Passmore Rd, Willmington 19803)

Contacte a JFS para comenzar el proceso de registro. Favor de comunicarse con Gina Vázquez al 302-478-9411, extensión 138.

### It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.



### Make an online donation here

### Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at Smile.Amazon.com and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!



















