





Feel Good Friday Update

A collection of uplifting stories when we need them the most.

National Financial Literacy MonthApril 21, 2023

**DELAWARE RACIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE
UPDATE EDITION**

Volunteers Give Us Hope

My heart hurts. I don't think it's just me. How could it be when according to ABC News and Gun Violence Archive, "there have been more mass shootings than days in 2023."

Last week we lost Corey Mumford, a senior from Laurel High School, the unintended target of the shooting that took his life. His parents were preparing for his participation in prom and graduation. Now they are likely wracked with grief, struggling to comprehend their lives without him as our community mourns the loss of another Black male.



Also last week in Kansas City, Mo. another Black male was shot. An older homeowner responded to a ring of his doorbell with his loaded weapon. Ralph Yarl, a 16-year-old, was shot at point-blank range in the head and arm without being able to ask for the help he sought in finding his younger siblings.

Make it make sense. How can we live in our society and maintain hope in the midst of this bad trouble?

And then my phone's photo gallery reframed my thinking. Photo after photo of the hundreds of largely Black students and their allies who gathered for our second Black Student Summit last month made my heart soar. And what's more are the many dedicated volunteers whose endless smiles and overwhelming goodwill pushed forward the summit and all of the work of the DRJC.

Our engine is powered by volunteers. It's the reason we are able to advance our racial justice agenda and march toward the more equitable Delaware we all believe is possible.

Volunteers lead the work on each of our committees:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Taryn Guy and Debbie Smith;
- Health Equity: Erin Ridout, Dr. Brittany Hazzard and Kim Blanch,
- Wealth Creation: Shelly Cecchett and Bernice Edwards;
- Criminal Justice: Dave Bever with help from Mike Brickner, Renata Kowalczyk and Lynne Kielhorne;
- Education: Cliffvon Howell, Fatimah Conley-Stone, and Dr. Sandi Hagans;
- Youth: Cierra Hall-Hipkins and Jalyn Powell; and
- Public Policy: Anne Farley and Yvette Santiago

Volunteers are at the heart of each DRJC committee meeting, event and initiative.

Volunteers lead the charge on the planning for our Black Student and will do so for our upcoming Hispanic Student Summit during Hispanic Heritage Month. Volunteers are the guests on *Tea Time with Alex* and *Level Up*, the DRJC's weekly livestream shows.

Our advocacy efforts are based on the engagement and support of our volunteers, without whom we would be nothing. I'm not overstating. We could not do this without our volunteers.

Learning that this week is National Volunteer Week felt like kismet. This week is a time, according to Points of Light, to "shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities."

Just when sadness took hold, my view of the world was expanded to include those exceptional men and women, boys and girls who volunteer and are the wind beneath our wings. I'm shining a bright light on all DRJC members and volunteers. Thank you for every single thing you have done with and for us in the fight for racial justice. I am grateful for it all and hope that you are proud of what we accomplished together.

Volunteers give us hope. They did for me. We have miles to go before we sleep and lots of opportunities to serve. If you haven't already, please join us in the fight. If you have, please accept our thanks and stay with the fight.

Sincerely,

Raina

Raina Allen

Director, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative

Who We Are and What We Do

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) comprises more than 200 individuals and organizations working to uncover, repeal, and restructure policies and practices that negatively impact people of color. The work is organized around seven impact areas: health equity, wealth creation, public policy, education, criminal justice, youth advancement, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI).

DRJC began in 2015 with civic leaders and volunteers who focused on DEI in State government employment. On the heels of the national racial reckoning some three years ago, the DRJC received requests from hundreds of concerned citizens to join and actively engage in the fight against racism in Delaware. The groundswell of new members led the United Way of Delaware (UWDE) to embrace the DRJC, and since 2020, DRJC has been powered by UWDE.

Today, the DRJC functions in workgroups where agents of change from the grassroots to the grasstops join forces and work together to drive change. Each of the DRJC work groups meets on a regular schedule via Zoom. The DRJC also hosts events, community conversations and other meetings.

We need you, your involvement and passion, to power up the fight! Please reach out to Alex asoutherst@uwde.org for the meeting invitations to committees, workgroups and general body meetings and to be added to our email list.

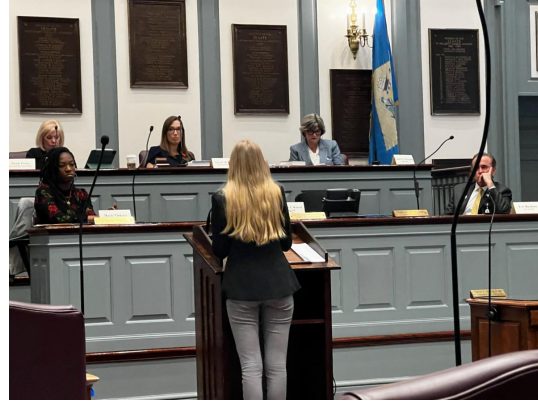
Public Policy Update

By Alex Southerst

The Legislature's Easter Break has come to an end meaning that we're on the

homestretch toward the end of session! We are grateful for the enthusiasm of our advocates as we continue to fight for legislation that champions racial equity. Below are the bills that we are currently advocating for and some of the actions that we have taken recently to advance racial justice in Delaware.

Our advocates have been spending time at Legislative Hall in support of Smart Justice initiatives, right to representation for tenants, affordable housing initiatives, and the right to vote, to name a few.



Legislation in Focus:

SB 58: Childcare Copay Removal for Families in Need Delivered public comment to Senate Health & Social Services Committee 3/8

SB 59: Childcare Support & Reimbursement Delivered public comment to Senate Health & Social Services Committee 3/8

SB 1: Right to Representation During Eviction Proceedings Delivering public comment next week

SB 4: Probation Reform

SB 43: Human Trafficking Resource Signage Delivered public comment to Senate Judiciary Committee 3/8

HB 96: Voting in School Board Elections

SB 34: Equal Accommodations

HB 86: Right to Counsel for Indigent Parents During Custody Hearings

For a full list of legislation supported by the DRJC, please visit our [Legislation Action Center](#).

Tune in to *Tea Time with Alex: Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up* Fridays at 10 a.m. through the remainder of the legislative session on [DRJC's Facebook page](#) for a deeper dive into legislation and to learn how to join the movement!

In the photo: Alex Southerst delivering public content at Legislative Hall.

LIVE STREAM bit.ly/DRJCFB Biweekly March - May 2023
TUESDAY @ 7PM

Level Up with the DRJC

Presented by the DRJC's Wealth Creation committee

Help with Growing Personal Wealth

Learn about personal finance through a racial justice lens.
Topics to include homeownership, taxes, investing and more!

DELAWARE RACIAL JUSTICE
DRJC
COLLABORATIVE

Level Up Personal Finance Tips and How-Tos

***How do I start my own business? Is home ownership the right thing for me?
How much should I be saving for retirement?***

To get answers to these and other important questions about personal finance, tune in

to *Level Up with the DRJC* – Personal Finance & Wealth Building discussions on DRJC's [Facebook page](#) biweekly on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

You'll hear how-to advice on homeownership, retirement savings, entrepreneurship, UWDE's Stand By Me *Minority Small Business Program*, and more. In 10 to 15 minutes, you can get your questions answered and join us as we bust some of the myths around wealth creation. You'll walk away with tools and resources you need to make the best financial decisions for you and your family.

This new video series is brought to you by the DRJC's Wealth Creation committee and features our members and their organizations. We have the resources you need and the answers to your questions to begin or continue your wealth-building journey.

Tune in next Tuesday, April 25 to learn more about the Minority Small Business Program and initiatives!

Superstars Among Us

Last month we had our 2nd annual Black Student Summit and we want to highlight the team that made it possible, our youth-lead planning committee. This year's planning committee was: *Yancey Hollis, Aa`Khai Hollis, Sydney McLean, Olivia Caramouche, Nia Coverdale, Sydney Combs-Smith, Brooklyn Simone Wilder, Tatiana Fair, Nasir Williams, Nesy Cherazzard, Sabrie Purnell and Kerlyne Casseus.*

Our students volunteered their time each month to ensure this year's summit was intentional and impactful. Students were represented statewide and spent countless hours in the planning and preparation stages of this event. We tend to focus on the success and outcomes of events and sometimes miss the process and effort that goes into the creation and implementation.

The Black Student Summit Planning Committee's work was more than just a volunteer task in its passion, its purpose and as stepping stones for opportunities. The Black Student Summit amplifies youth voices in many ways including opening other doors for youth presence and voice.

Each year the committee votes on an MVP; however, this year we couldn't narrow down the count to one as all of our students were rockstars. The committee did recognize three students who went above and beyond to fill in where needed and were readily available to roll up their sleeves and help.

This year the Student MVPs include: **Yancey Hollis, Sydney McLean and A`akhai Hollis.** Their dedication and commitment was a huge contribution to the success of the event.

"The black student summit planning committee provided me with several leadership opportunities including being a social media manager. I am so grateful for the experiences and opportunities I received while on the committee," says Sydney McLean, 2023 Black Student Summit MVP.



From left: Yancey Hollis, Sydney McLean, Tatiana Fair, and A`akhai Hollis.

Amazing Internship Opportunity for Students of Color

By Jalyn Powell
Founder & CEO, OUTLOUD LLC

As we concluded our 2nd Annual Black Student Summit, we wanted to create ways to keep the students connected and engaged in a meaningful way. We have some exciting news..!

United Way of Delaware has teamed up with Up 4 Learning and the Delaware Department of Education to offer students a unique internship opportunity called the Y.P.A.R Project. YPAR is a Youth Participatory Adult Research Project focusing on Youth-Adult Partnerships and Education through Black student voices.

This is a 10-month internship for students of color who are passionate about equity, education and advocacy. This internship will provide students with tools necessary to be change agents in their communities through action research. Students will discuss important social issues in their communities and gain training, insight and mentorship on developing passion projects to address those issues.

Students will have the opportunity to enhance their leadership and research development skills while walking through the data collection, analysis and application phase and not to mention, ITS PAID!! students will be eligible to earn up to \$1,500 while they`re making a difference in their communities.

The program is expected to launch next month but there is still time to apply before we close applications. To learn more about this internship please click the link below:
<https://form.jotform.com/230855872337060>.



PROFILE: St. Georges Technical High School Black Student Union

Year established: 2021

Advisor's name(s): Tenika Jean-Paul

Number of years serving as advisor: 2 years

BSU President's name(s): Nasir Williams, Alexis Bailey, and Camerone Bullard

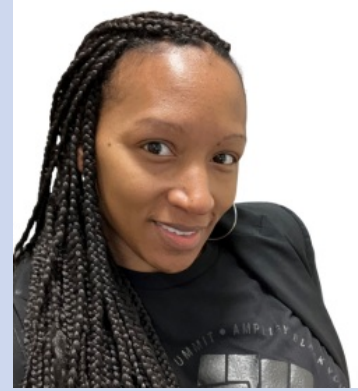
Number of BSU members: 55

Meeting frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc): Typically we meet monthly

Why did you become an advisor?: I wanted to be a part of providing the students with a safe space to learn, create, and grow from and with each other.

What has been a highlight of serving as a BSU advisor? A highlight has been supporting the students. It has been great to see the students' ideas come to fruition.

What would you like to share with others in the community about students in your BSU? The students in St. Georges' BSU are great young people! They are hardworking, committed and dedicated to making a difference.



New Challenge Session Begins May 22 - Enroll Now!

The 2023 Racial Equity Challenge series, powered by United Way of Delaware (UWDE) and Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative is a quarterly journey of self-discovery designed to help Delawareans build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

For five consecutive days each quarter during 2023, participants are prompted with a daily e-mail challenge — such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, or watching a video—and are then encouraged to reflect on that content and to relate the situation to their own lives.

Participants discover how racial inequity and social injustice impact our community. The goal is to build new understandings and new connections and in so doing, to begin dismantling systemic racism in Delaware.

The next session begins May 22. [Sign up now!](#)



Minority Small Business Program Now Accepting Applicants

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. The *Stand By Me Minority Small Business Program* (MSB) helps minority entrepreneurs improve the way they do business so that they can be a positive force in the community for years to come. We are beginning to assemble our third cohort and applications are now open.

Participating business owners will learn from experts in one-on-one coaching sessions. An experienced business coach helps give new perspectives and establish accountability to help achieve business goals. To learn more and to apply, visit our [website here](#).



MSB program participants
Cecily and Gary Hoey of Direct Flooring

CARE 4 SUSSEX Work Continues; Volunteers Needed



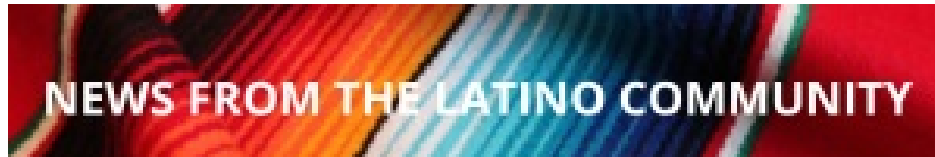
United Way of Delaware and Delaware 2-1-1 continue to work with our partners and volunteers to help our neighbors affected by the April 1 tornado in Sussex County. There are 118 individuals/families who have reported damages due to the tornado and one fatality. Since the storm, we have assisted and cleaned up debris for 10 households which consisted of vegetative debris, tree removals, and building debris. This work is still needed and is ongoing; we are organizing volunteers for this coming Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23. Please visit uwde.org/uvolunteer to view available shifts and locations, and to sign up.

Disaster Homeowner Forum

Next Wednesday, April 26, at 6 pm United Way of Delaware along with our partners will be holding a Disaster Homeowner Forum at Bridgeville United Methodist Church. This is an educational/informational forum which will provide guidance for insurance claims; social service referrals; and Food Bank services. Kari Sullivan is representing UWDE for this forum; please contact her at ksullivan@uwde.org if you have any questions.

All individuals/families who are in need of assistance can contact DE211 at: 800-560-3372 or text 898-211. Delaware 211 has been contacting those affected and providing them with resources and verifying their needs/damages.

We thank our partners who are providing essential services, including Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS), Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DE VOAD), Good Ole Boy Foundation, First State Communication Action, Food Bank of Delaware, and local churches and community organization. We also would like to thank our corporate partners for their generous support of our relief efforts, including Discover Bank, Barclays, and Delmarva Power.



Planning Underway for Latino Student Summit



Students and staff at Hodgson Vocational-Technical High School meet with Wanda Barrett & Raina Allen about the proposed Hispanic Student Summit

One week following the second Black Student Summit, a group of Hodgson Vo-Tech High School students approached the DRJC asking for help. To our delight, they want to plan a Hispanic Student Summit during Hispanic Heritage Month in the fall.

The school-based Latinos Unidos affinity group is excited to host a student summit and cultural awareness event. Their presentation of ideas included over 20 slides sharing details of the day of empowerment they hoped to host for their fellow students, allies and adults. It is our great pleasure to move forward in this effort with important partners like the Latin American Community Center, the Delaware Hispanic Commission, the Hispanic American Association of Delaware. There is much more help not listed here needed to make this initial summit an overwhelming success.

This summit will be modeled after the Black Student Summit with decision-making being driven by a student-led planning committee. We are seeking high school students from across the state to participate in planning. The goal is for students to outnumber the adults in planning meetings. Sharing power is an important part of the Black Student Summit process and is an integral part of all of our student-based efforts.

We will need sponsors, vendors and volunteers for this summit. Again, we're in the very early stages and have not finalized many details. We will do that by the end of May and share information broadly. Planning meetings will be held on Zoom at 4:00 pm, day and rotation are to be determined. To join the planning committee or for more information, contact Wanda Barrett at wbarrett@uwde.org



Welcome to these new American citizens who were granted citizenship in March at La Esperanza in Georgetown, DE. Thank you to the friends and supporters who shared in this celebration of new citizens. We very much appreciate you!
¡Mil gracias!

Having Trouble Making Payments? Mortgage Help is Available



DELaware's MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM

**DON'T WAIT!
SAVE YOUR HOME TODAY**

Are you at risk of displacement due to unpaid housing-related obligations such as mortgage payments and property charges? The Delaware Mortgage Relief Program can help.

What Does The Program Cover?

- Delinquent housing-related expenses, such as
 - Mortgage payments
 - Property tax
 - Water and sewer utilities,
 - HOA or condo association fees
 - Homeowner insurance payments, etc.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The homeowner, borrower, or spouse must have experienced a pandemic-related financial hardship that occurred after January 21, 2020, such as lost income or increased expenses
- Household income at or below 150% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Own and occupy their home in Delaware as their primary residence

For more information or to apply, please visit www.demortgagehelp.com or call (888) 303-4324



PROGRAMA DE ALIVIO HIPOTECARIO DE DELAWARE

NO ESPERE!

El Programa de Alivio Hipotecario de Delaware, financiado por la Ley del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense y el Fondo de Asistencia para Propietarios de Vivienda, proporcionará hasta asistencia financiera a los hogares elegibles que pasaron dificultades financieras relacionadas con COVID-19 que resultaron en pagos retrasados o indulgencia hipotecaria.

Los propietarios elegibles deben cumplir con los siguientes requisitos:

- Residente de Delaware que posee y ocupa su hogar en Delaware como su residencia principal
- Ingreso igual o inferior al 150 % del ingreso medio del área (AMI por sus siglas en inglés) o al 100 % del ingreso medio de los Estados Unidos, el que sea mayor (encuentre su AMI aquí)
- Dificultades financieras después del 21 de enero de 2020, como reducción de ingresos o aumento de gastos
- Los propietarios de viviendas elegibles sin pagos de hipoteca atrasados ahora pueden solicitar asistencia para el pago de la hipoteca en el futuro

Para obtener actualizaciones sobre el Programa de ayuda hipotecaria de Delaware, se recomienda a los habitantes de Delaware que visiten www.demortgagehelp.com o llame al (888) 303-4324.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HELPING HAND PRESENTS

Senior Care Days '23

During the months of March and April, we have a goal to raise \$1,500 to help provide essential items to our neighbors in need.

UWDE.ORG/EVENTS/SENIOR-CARE-DAY-2023

National Small Business Week and Month Coming Soon! Shop Small, Shop Local!

National Small Business Week is April 30 to May 6. Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce (DEBCC) wants to remind us all and to acknowledge the contribution of Black small businesses in our community. A goal of the Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce is to help change the economic footprint for small businesses in the First State and beyond. It is a solid voice for the Black business community while continuously refocusing its efforts to meet the ever-changing needs of its members.

Visit the website [here](#) to learn more or become a member.



Get Ready For

National Small Business Week & Month **BREAKFAST & NETWORKING!**

We recognize the resiliency and tenacity of entrepreneurs, who contribute to economic growth in our community and in honor of Small Business Week the DEBCC would like to say thank you! Join us for complimentary breakfast Wednesday, May 3rd from 9am-11:30am at the DEBCC headquarters
1105 N Market Street Wilmington, DE

****First Come First Serve****



@DELAWAREBLACKCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE

Minority Business Owners -- Don't Miss This Chance to Learn How to Access New Business

THE New Markets Opportunities Procurement Fair

Thursday, April 27, 2023
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wilmington Library
10 East Tenth Street
Wilmington, DE

Morning Keynote Presenters:
Troy and Kim Adams,
Mountain Consulting, Inc.
mountainconsultinginc.net

This event is designed to help small businesses, led by people of color and other historically marginalized groups, learn how to access procurement opportunities with federal, state and local government, and with private corporations.

For questions, contact John Banks at jjbanks@trueaccesscapital.org

Participating Organizations

- APEX Accelerators
- Christiana Care
- Christina School District
- City of Wilmington
- Delaware State University
- Delaware Office of Supplier Diversity
- DuPont
- Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council

- J. P. Morgan Chase
- KOG International
- New Castle County Government
- University of Delaware
- U.S. Small Business Administration

Sponsor

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Co-hosts



Keep an eye out, as our list of participants continues to grow!
This is a FREE event, however registration is required.
Register today at <https://bit.ly/3LMfu9w>



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

APRIL 2023

Volunteers help make life better for
our communities!

Will you join the fight? #LIVE UNITED



Volunteer at volunteer.uwde.org



Program Director

Let's Grow Act Win seeks an Experienced, Motivated, Educational Professional Program Director for our After School Program servicing youth from 1st to 12th Grade.

**Part -Time After School Opportunity – MAX 20 Hrs. Week
Monday to Thursday 3:00 PM -6:30 PM :**

**Onsite Programming Hours Fridays would be designated for
Meetings and Weekly Reporting**

Start Date: Immediate

Previous professional experience with working with youth, afterschool program development, implementation, and management is required. Previous experience working with students and families experiencing homelessness is highly preferred. Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Education/or Related Field is required.

Send resume to lgawllc@gmail.com

or call Terri Rayfield at 302-345-0390 for job description.



FREE FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

*The Truth About Reading**
*The Invisible Crisis Hiding in Plain
Sight*

Directed by Emmy Award Winner Nick Nanton



Watch the Movie Trailer!

The
truth
about
reading.*

PRIVATE SCREENING!

Monday April 24th 5:30-7:30pm Georgetown Public Library
Tuesday April 25th 5:00-7:00pm Wilmington Institute Library
Wednesday April 26th 5:30-7:30pm Bear Public Library
Thursday April 27th 5:30-7:30pm Dover Public Library

Monday May 1st 4:00-6:00pm Christiana Care Wilmington
Gateway Center
Monday May 15th 4:00 - 6:00pm Carl M. Freeman Office Building

Use the QR code to secure YOUR seat
or visit
www.literacydelaware.org/event/the-truth-about-reading-movie-screening
to register



You're invited! Strategic Planning Session Delaware Literacy Alliance

SAVE THE DATE

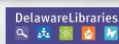
THE DELAWARE LITERACY ALLIANCE

A DELAWARE COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Join us for lunch and a discussion on the state of literacy in Delaware. Based on a full-scale landscape analysis, we are bringing together community leaders, educators, and other stakeholders to discuss our findings and collaborate on effective strategies to improve literacy rates for Delaware residents. Your voices are important to us! This discussion will contribute to the development of a comprehensive statewide plan to improve literacy outcomes. Help us map the path forward for a more literate Delaware by joining us for this important event.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31
 9 AM - 1 PM
 MODERN MATURITY CENTER
1121 FORREST AVE, DOVER, DE 19904

REGISTER NOW




The MPHS Black Student Union & Girls Empowered Program presents

The 3rd Annual GREEK KNIGHT STEP SHOWCASE

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
SHOW BEGINS AT 6:30PM

 Mount Pleasant High School Auditorium
5201 Washington Street Extension
Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Bring your family and friends out for a night of entertainment and exploration of the **RICH CULTURE AFRICAN AMERICAN** sororities and fraternities provide through stepping, scholarship, and service. The program will include other special performances from students and local groups.

Contact faculty advisor,
Ms. Taria Pritchett at
taria.pritchett@bsd.k12.de.us

**GET
TICKETS
TODAY!**

Food Trucks will be on site.



Purchase Tickets:
bit.ly/mphsgreek2023

WE ARE HIRING



21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER SUMMER OF EXPLORATION ACADEMIC & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: STAFF PAY RATES

BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND STUBBS EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

JUNE 26, 2023 - AUGUST 17, 2023
STAFF TIME 8:30AM- 3:30PM

CURRENT TEACHERS:

- \$35 PER HOUR

CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL PARA'S:

- \$22 PER HOUR

SUPPORT STAFF (NAVIGATORS):

- \$25 PER HOUR

**EARLY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION AND/OR SCHOOL-AGED
CERTIFICATION PREFERRED**

6-7 HOURS PER DAY MON-THURS (8 WEEKS)

DAYS OFF - JULY 3, 2023-JULY 7, 2023

SEND YOUR RESUME OR QUESTIONS TO:
KEN LIVINGSTON, 21ST CENTURY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KLIVINGSTON@UWDE.ORG

AMBER BATTLE-WINSTON, ED.D | SR. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS
ABWINSTON@UWDE.ORG



2023 KIA SELTOS | OR | **\$8,000**
2 Year Lease | CASH

Anyone who donates \$150 or more to the **United Way of Delaware** will be entered for a chance to win!

GIVE TODAY





United Way of Delaware | 625 North Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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