



## Supporting the Next Generation of Leaders

Something important is happening in Delaware tomorrow, and you may not even know about it. The second annual Black Student Summit, a United Way of Delaware (UWDE) and Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative initiative, is taking place. The significance of this event can be under-appreciated if it is seen to be simply a group of students getting together for a conference. This Summit promises to be far more than that.



The Summit brings together students and adults from all across Delaware who have volunteered their free time on a Saturday to listen and learn from each other. It aims to prepare students to succeed academically, professionally and personally by helping them develop the skills and tools they need as they enter adulthood.

Several students began developing skills as they planned this event and executed their plans. While at the event, students will learn the value of collective thinking and the power of advocacy. They'll learn to articulate their feelings and ideas, to communicate effectively, to hear the opinions of others and to consider all viewpoints.

These students are leaders... not the leaders of tomorrow, they're the leaders today. We applaud them for their initiative and commitment to improving themselves, their schools and our state.

We thank Delaware Secretary of Education Dr. Mark Holodick, the school superintendents, Black Student Union advisors, teachers and parents who also give of their time and talents to support our youth. Thanks also to the New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District for hosting us.

Tomorrow's event is one of several education initiatives in which UWDE participates. This past week we hosted *Pancakes and Progress*, a continuing series of roundtables in which members of the business community come together to discuss ways to support the education system to help students find pathways to college and careers and become the prepared workforce of the future.

A third initiative is **Success for Our Seniors** (SOS), designed to help every high school senior in Delaware become successful to, through, and beyond graduation. SOS provides individualized guidance and support to help students identify the path they want to pursue after graduation, and to help move them towards achieving their goals. A pilot is underway in Dover High School with the collaboration of United Way of Delaware, the Delaware Workforce Development Board, Capital School District and

numerous community-based organizations.

If you're wondering why United Way supports these programs and numerous other ways we serve children -- there is a simple one-word answer.

Equity.

Children who are healthy and ready when they enter grade school, who are encouraged to learn and love reading, who are stimulated to think about what they want for themselves in life and what it will take to achieve their dreams – these are the students who stay in school and graduate, who prepare themselves for a career path, who are the workforce of the future and are leaders in our state and country.

Philosopher and sociologist Herbert Spencer said, "No one can be perfectly free till all are free; no one can be perfectly moral till all are moral; no one can be perfectly happy till all are happy." We would like to expand that to include "no one can be prosperous until all are prosperous." Equity in education is the first step to prosperity.

I am excited by all three of these programs, beginning with the Black Student Summit tomorrow. I look forward to being in the company of so many young people and the adults who nurture them. We believe learning is a two-way street; they will learn from us and we will learn from them.

Yes, something special is happening tomorrow in Delaware. Something that has the potential to affect change in our schools and community. I can't wait to see what these bright young people bring to the table and what they take away as they begin their work to make Delaware a more equitable place for all its citizens.

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## Community Leaders Generate Ideas for Helping Youth Develop Career Goals

United Way of Delaware and partners My Sherpa, Delaware Business Times, and The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative recently facilitated "Pancakes and Progress" at The DuPont Country Club in Wilmington. The session focused on actions that can be taken to position the Class of 2023 to be the prepared workforce of the future. The event blended information, inspiration, and intentional action as participants explored creating success for high school seniors.

The attendees, thought leaders, educators and business owners, collaborated to brainstorm out-of-the-box solutions related to strengthening Delaware's workforce by creating new opportunities for students seeking careers after graduation or those going on to earn a college degree.

United Way of Delaware President and CEO Michelle A. Taylor stressed the importance of youth having clear career goals long before they graduate. "Whether it's entrepreneurship, college, military or the workforce, what we don't want is students saying "I don't know," Taylor said.

**[Learn more by watching our recap video here.](#)**



## Making Learning About Aerospace Careers Fun Through Sport

United Way and Walnut Street YMCA are partnering with Delaware Drone Soccer League to introduce Drone Soccer, a competitive sport that can lead to sparking interest in careers in aerospace.

Drone Soccer is a competitive sport that uses flying quadcopters in protective plastic exoskeletons that are designed for full-contact gameplay and collisions. The STEM lessons happen when participants, ages 12 and up, first learn to build, program, and repair their drones. Then they're ready for a soccer competition against a rival team.

For more information on Drone Soccer or to enroll in the team, visit their [website here](#). Watch a video of the recent demonstration day [here](#).

Or, attend the next demonstraion and see a Drone soccer scrimmage on April 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Walnut Street Y.



## Chemours Offers *Future of Chemistry* Scholarships to Hispanic Students

The *Chemours Future of Chemistry Scholarship* program targets Hispanic/Latinx students pursuing college or trade education in fields related to non-medical STEM careers. Five students will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

The application is open to high school seniors and current college students who will be enrolled in classes in Fall, 2023. The deadline for submission is March 31.

Click on the links below for the application.

Link to Spanish version: [CLARO FoC 2023 Application \(SPA\)](#)

Link to English Version: [CLARO FoC 2023 Application \(ENG\)](#)

Future of  
Chemistry  
Scholarship

Chemours Latin American  
Resource Organization —  
¡CLARO!

**Parents and Students: It's Not Too Late To  
Receive Financial Aid. Let Us Help!**





# It's Not Too Late!

High school students can still receive financial aid for college this fall.

**FAFSA Completion Appointments are available with Stand by Me NexGen. Our financial aid experts will help you complete your FAFSA form in a virtual one-on-one setting.**

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT**

## **Sarah Carter Named Humanitarian of the Year by Iron Valley Real Estate**

Sarah Carter, Manager of United Way of Delaware's *Stand by Me (SBM) HOME* Program in Sussex County was recently awarded Humanitarian of the Year by Iron Valley Real Estate of Rehoboth Beach.

Sarah was recognized by her colleagues for her active participation and involvement with Rehoboth Sundance Rotary and Sussex County Housing Group. Sarah's dedication, leadership and commitment to UWDE and the Stand By Me HOME program has resulted in expansion of training and growth of the program throughout the state.



Over the last seven years, Sarah has risen from a SBM volunteer to Program Manager for the HOME Program. She has assisted more than 4,000 individuals work towards their goal of home ownership. And, she has led her team in assisting over 500 individuals to actually become homeowners. She and her team have achieved a cumulative program-wide reduction of nearly \$9 million of customer debt.

Sarah has spearheaded training, led statewide affordable housing initiatives and been a vocal champion/advocate for fair housing.

Congratulations, Sarah on this well-deserved honor. We are all so proud!

# “A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS”

Parents, please join us for the latest event in our series “A Conversation with Parents.” These conversations pertaining to education, health and financial stability for your family, provide a safe space for you to discuss issues with others and share your experiences and life lessons. This session celebrates a continuation of Mental Health Awareness Month.

- **March 21, 2023** – “What Are They Thinking?” – Brain science and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) Skills – Identifying emotions, stress management. SEL competencies– Self-Awareness, Self-Management
- **April 18, 2023** – “Be Accountable” – Preparing for self-sufficiency Skills – Organization, self-discipline, and self-regulation. SEL competencies – Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making
- **May 16, 2023** – “Possibilities and Solutions” – Boundaries and consequences Skills – Problem solving, goal setting. SEL competencies – Responsible Decision Making

**Location:** Route 9 Library & Innovation Center,  
3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Child care and dinner will be provided! There will be a raffle for a \$40 ShopRite gift card at each session. You must attend to win!

**Registration is strongly recommended.**  
Register at <https://bit.ly/convoparents>



For more information contact: Ken Livingston at [klivingston@uwde.org](mailto:klivingston@uwde.org)

## Income Tax Assistance Program Seeks Volunteers

United Way of Delaware (UWDE), Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation and First State Community Action Agency are providing free tax preparation services to Delawareans with annual household incomes of \$60,000 or less, and those with zero taxable income but who must file to receive tax credit.

Returns are prepared by trained, IRS-certified volunteers who work on behalf of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Volunteers are knowledgeable about tax credits and deductions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit, and other credits that might benefit qualified households.

Persons interested in being a volunteer to provide tax services in your community or who are in need of free tax filing services, visit: [Do You Qualify for Free Tax Prep Assistance?](#)

“Tax preparation services are available statewide and are managed by experienced staff who ensure returns are prepared accurately and that taxpayers receive the maximum refund allowed by the IRS,” said Dr. Michelle A. Taylor, UWDE President and CEO. “The tax preparers are IRS-trained volunteers who can answer questions and help identify other financial services and products offered through the IRS or its partners.”

The general deadline to file 2022 tax returns this year is Tuesday, April 18. Free tax preparation through this program is available through April 22, 2023. Appointments are available for both 100% virtual and in-person tax prep.

ANYONE WHO GIVES \$150 OR MORE TO  
UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A NEW  
**2023 KIA SELTOS**  
2 Year Lease

**\$8,000**  
OR  
CASH

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

**GIVE TODAY**

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