



"Never Forget the Impact You Can Have on a Person's Life" -- Dominique Dawes

Yesterday, I had the distinct honor of attending the inaugural Division of Public Health's (DPH) *'Advancing Healthy Lifestyles Conference: Improving Health Through Equity.'*



Emily Kauffman, my UWDE colleague and Equity Counts Data Center (ECDC) lead and I presented Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) and ECDC to attendees during the panel addressing systemic bias in health care. We were joined by Dr. Gwen Angalet, Colonel Debbie Harrington, Melanie Daniels and Rita Landgraf to share the ways in which we are utilizing data to uncover and address health equity issues related to Black girls, veterans and disenfranchised communities in Delaware. We agreed on the urgent need for all in Delaware to prioritize health, lock arms and work together to bring about a more equitable state.

Following that discussion, we heard the impactful keynote address by Dominique Dawes, the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal in gymnastics. After retiring from the sport to which she had dedicated much of her life, she had to transition to a new phase outside of competition. She found her passion in public speaking and connecting with people. She implored us to, "never forget the impact you can make on a person's life."

During the daylong discussions about improving health through equity, I was consistently directed back to our fight for racial justice and health equity workstream. The DRJC's Health Equity committee comprises providers, health professionals, advocates, and other interested parties. We meet monthly to discuss the many factors contributing to inequities in health care, including access to medical care, the social determinants of health and the structural features of the health system in Delaware. We also actively use our advocacy voice. During the Delaware General Assembly's session, members of public commented in support of health-related legislation and funding issues. One bill we are currently supporting is House Bill 80, which will require doula services including three prenatal visits to be covered by Medicaid.

The health equity committee also helps support the Equity Counts Data Center (ECDC). It is a tool to view data through an equity lens created by a partnership between the DRJC, DPH, and Green River. Located on DPH's "My Healthy Community" platform, ECDC displays data across Delaware by Zip-code, race, ethnicity and age, based on the DRJC-inspired "equity pillars" of health, criminal justice, wealth creation, and education. During the health equity conference, Emily and I shared how people and organizations can power up their work at the intersections of racial justice, equity and data as Ms. Dawes challenged us to never forget about the impact we can make on a person's life.

Every day, we take steps toward progress and are grateful for wide-ranging community support. However, the work is far from complete. There is space available in the health equity and other DRJC workstreams to advance the fight. It requires one to steel their spine and make tough choices. And yes, its worth it. If you're not already a member, I urge you to join us. Visit uwde.org/drjc to learn more and join the movement!

Sincerely,

Raina

Raina Allen
Director
Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative

DRJC: Who We Are and What We Do

By Tierra Fair

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) was founded in response to the systemic racism and inequality that continue to affect communities of color in Delaware. The collaborative brings together a diverse group of organizations, individuals, and leaders to work towards racial justice and equity in the state.



Despite progress, the need for the DRJC remains relevant here. Delaware is a state with a long history of racial injustice, including slavery, segregation, and discrimination. The legacy of this history continues to impact communities of color in Delaware today, from disproportionate rates of poverty and unemployment to unequal access to education and healthcare.

DRJC serves as a vital resource for the Delaware community, providing education, advocacy, and support for those impacted by racial injustice. Through partnerships with local organizations and community leaders, DRJC works to address issues of systemic racism and inequality in areas such as criminal justice, housing, and education.

Additionally, DRJC is a platform for voices and perspectives that have been historically marginalized. By bringing together diverse individuals and organizations, DRJC is able to amplify the voices of those who have been silenced or ignored. This leads to more inclusive and equitable solutions to the challenges facing the Delaware community.

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative is imperative in the Delaware community due to the continued presence of systemic racism and inequality, but more importantly *the DRJC needs YOU*. The collaborative serves as a vital resource for education, advocacy, and support, and provides a platform for community voices like yours to be heard. Through our work together, DRJC is helping to build a more just and equitable Delaware for all. Sign up now to volunteer.

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.

Legislative Watch to Champion Racial Equity

By Alexandra Southerst

With the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee Markup approaching, we're on the homestretch toward the end of this legislative session! We are grateful for the enthusiasm of our advocates as we continue to fight for legislation that champions racial equity. Below are some of the bills that we are currently advocating for and some of the action that we have taken recently to advance racial justice in Delaware.

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

Legislation in Focus:

SB 1: Right to Representation During Eviction Proceedings Delivered public comment at House Housing Committee meeting 4/5

SB 4: Probation Reform Letter sent to Senate Corrections & Public Safety Committee

HB 150: Cover All Delaware Children Act Delivered public comment at House Health & Human Development Committee meeting 5/16

HB 142: LGBTQ+ "Panic" Defense Ban Letter to House Judiciary Committee

HB 80: Medicaid Coverage of Doula Services

HB 118: Smoking in Vehicle with Minor Present

SB 34: Equal Accommodations

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

SB 58: Childcare Copay Removal for Families in Need

SB 59: Childcare Support & Reimbursement

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. on [DRJC's Facebook page](#) for a deeper dive into legislation and to learn how to join the movement!

Amplifying Student Voices

By Jalyn Powell

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are at the heart of our work. We also are committed to empowering student leaders and amplifying youth voices. It is important to us to make sure youth feel connected to and included. Hosting student-led summits targeting Black, Hispanic/Latinx and LGBTQ+ students is one way we foster a culture of inclusion. These summits bring together students and adults from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful conversations, share their experiences, and develop strategies to overcome the challenges that they face.



Our *Black Student Summit* has not only tripled in size in under a year, it has also opened doors for other opportunities to amplify student voices. We are proud to announce that we will be offering our very first *Youth Participatory Action Research* (YPAR) Internship opportunity in partnership with *Up 4 Learning* and the *Delaware Department of Education*. This internship is for students of color who wish to make an impact through research. During this 10-month program, students will develop a research question, conduct research, collect and analyze data and create findings and recommendations. This internship will allow students to earn up to \$1,500 while

making a difference! We expect to launch in June.

This Fall we will host our first *Latinx Student Summit!* While our summits focus on community-specific themes, they are open to all. In fact, some students from our Black Student Summit Planning Committee have volunteered to assist with planning of this event because they felt it was important to stand with their friends. Our youth are surely setting the example of the lengths we can go when we work together.

We also are proud to also support this year's *GSA/Anti-Bullying Summit* that provides opportunities for students to interact with others who share similar experiences and challenges. By sharing their stories and perspectives, students can develop a greater appreciation for the experiences of others. This helps to break down stereotypes and promote a more inclusive environment in our schools and communities.

For more information on how to join the planning committees or to support our students, please reach out to Raina Allen at Rallen@uwde.org.

Black Student Summit Meet-Up

By Jalyn Powell

We recently had the first *Meet Up* since the Black Student Summit. We recognize that while some organizations prepare for the now, they don't think about what's next. As the school year is coming to an end we met with students and advisors to talk about next steps in setting up their Black Student Organizations for success for the upcoming year. UWDE Vice President of Engagement, Tierra Fair, gave a very impactful presentation on Succession Planning.

The group appreciated the meeting, as most hadn't thought about what's next for their Black Student Unions. Seniors mentioned that the presentation allowed them to see how unprepared they were for the next year and it encouraged them to implement some of the recommendations, such as selecting officers, setting goals, and pre-planning events.

The advisors and students went into breakout rooms to reflect on this year's organizational impact and strategize ways to grow for the upcoming year. We plan to have another meet-up this fall. Soon we will be planning for our 3rd annual Black Student Summit set for Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Meet the Hodgson Vo-Tech High School Black Student Union

Year established - 2021

Advisors LaCole Hearne and Adriane Brown

Number of years Serving as advisors 1 year

BSU President Sydney McLean

Number of BSU members: 105

Meeting Frequency : Monthly



Why did you become an advisor?

I became an advisor so that I can be a part of the change that is needed here at our school for our students. Our students need to have a sense of belonging. They also need to learn about their culture and to take pride in themselves. They need to be able to be in a place where they can “let their hair down” and be themselves without having to prove anything to anyone and I would like to provide them the space they need to do that. ~ Hearne



Young people today have so many skills but oftentimes do not know how to use these skills in a positive and professional setting. I accepted the responsibility of being an advisor to help young leaders find their leadership and find their voice. I wanted to be a part of the process for young people owning their voice, learning about their culture and being empowered to exude their blackness with confidence. I also wanted to belong to something that not only enabled me to forge healthy relationships with students and colleagues but also give students a safe space to build relationships with each other. ~ Brown

What has been the highlight of serving as a BSU advisor?

The highlight for us as advisors was watching the students plan Black History Month. The students had many meetings prior to BHM to ensure the experience was not only insightful for their peers but contemporary enough to grab their attention. The visit to The National Museum of African American History and Culture was also an enlightening experience. The students had the opportunity to explore the museum and were transported back to different eras and learned what it felt like to be Black in those respective times. Hearing their reflections of the day provided proof positive that we need to provide more trips and exposure. Additionally, as the year progressed it was exciting to watch the group leaders grow into their leadership roles. They learned to work together and made great strides in becoming young leaders.

What would you like to share with others in the community about students in your BSU?

Our BSU comprises young people who are committed to providing a safe space for students of color. They have planned and provided many activities for the group including lunchtime BSU meetings complete with games and music. These activities have included many fundraisers, raising the second-highest proceeds of all *The Forever a Movement (FAM) Groups*. We hosted two afterschool socials, which included guest speakers, both of whom were entrepreneurs. They shared their struggles and success and stressed the importance of representation in all careers. We have had a busy year and our young leaders have already begun planning for next year. They have agreed that this year BSU focused on the “fun” to garner members and interest, next year they will incorporate more education, history and enlightenment to the BSU community.

We congratulate Hodgson’s BSU for winning the second-place prize for the largest student delegation at the 2023 Black Student Summit. In addition, HBSU president Sydney McLean was named one of the planning committee MVPs.



How to Become a Better Ally in the Fight for Racial Equity

The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is an opportunity for individuals to continue their learning journey towards becoming better allies in the fight for racial equity. The upcoming session spans May 22 to May 26.

This month's topic is *Implicit Bias in Healthcare*. By participating in the challenge, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of how implicit bias affects healthcare outcomes and can learn about strategies to mitigate its impact. The challenge also provides a platform for individuals to engage in meaningful discussions and share experiences with others who are committed to creating a more equitable society.



As allies, we want to continue to educate ourselves and use our power to affect change. The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is an excellent opportunity to do just that. By signing up for the challenge, individuals can take an important step towards creating a more just and equitable world for all.

Sign up now at deraciaequitychallenge.org and spread the word.



Mt. Pleasant High School Black Student Union Creates Night of Cultural Expression and Family Fun

On Friday, April 28, Mount Pleasant High School's Black Student Union and Girls Empowered clubs collaborated under the leadership of MPHS '22-'23 Teacher of the Year and BSU advisor, Taria Pritchett to host the 3rd Annual Greek Knight Step Showcase.



Taria Pritchett has worked closely with the DRJC in planning both Black Student Summits, creating our advisors workshops and how to videos to help BSU advisors build the capacity of their groups. She has been integral to our success. We can't thank her enough for generously donating her time and talents to help amplify student voices.

The step showcase, a fundraiser for both clubs, was back for the first time since 2020. The fun-filled night included step exhibitions by six Black Greek Letter Sororities and Fraternities, a grand opening from Melodic Movements Performing Arts program, two student performances by HelenRose Atangcho and Scarlette Eggleston, and a grand finale by local drum line, Essence Legacy Performing Arts from the Walnut Street YMCA.

The evening also included vendor tables, in which the DRJC participated, and a student Black art showcase curated by MPHS art teacher, Joseph Marchese.

MPHS faculty, administrators, students, parents, and community members worked together to create this unique night of cultural expression, education, and family friendly entertainment for the roughly 200 people who attended. We were proud to support the event and to see MPHS BSU members that night who had also attended our Black Student Summit.

Hats off to Mt Pleasant Black Student Union for their hard work and leadership in creating this cultural experience for our community.



Teens: Help Plan the November Anti-Bullying Summit

JOIN THE 2023 GSA SUMMIT TEEN PLANNING TEAM

PRIDE



Help plan the next GSA/Anti-Bullying Summit
Planning meetings are virtual
Sign up and find out more at bit.ly/uwdegsa23



Celebrate Juneteenth to Promote Unity and Diversity

By Tierra Fair

Juneteenth is a significant holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved Africans in America. It is a day that holds great historical and cultural value for Black Americans, but it is also important for everyone to celebrate and acknowledge. As a former Miss Juneteenth Pageant contestant, I can attest to the importance of this holiday and how it has impacted my life.

The Miss Juneteenth Pageant is an annual event that celebrates the beauty, intelligence, and talent of young Black women. As a contestant, I was immersed in a world that celebrated my culture and encouraged me to embrace my heritage. It was a time of learning and making new friends, and it was my first time in a space where I was rewarded for being unapologetically black.

The pageant was not just about beauty, but about embracing one's heritage and understanding the significance of Juneteenth. We were encouraged to learn about our history, to understand the struggles and triumphs of our ancestors, and to use that knowledge to uplift ourselves and our community.

Celebrating Juneteenth is important for everyone because it is a reminder of the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality in America. It is an opportunity to honor the resilience and strength of the Black community and to reflect on the progress that has been made and the work that still needs to be done. By learning about Juneteenth and its significance, we can become more aware of our country's history and work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all.

Moreover, celebrating Juneteenth is also a way to promote unity and diversity. It provides an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to come together and

recognize the importance of the Black community's struggles and contributions. It is a time to celebrate Black culture, music, food, and traditions, and to learn about the impact that Black Americans have had on our country's history.

In conclusion, celebrating Juneteenth is important for everyone because it is a day that honors the struggles and contributions of Black Americans, promotes unity and awareness, and provides an opportunity for reflection and progress towards a more just and equitable society. As a former Miss Juneteenth Pageant contestant, I can attest to the significance of this holiday and how it has impacted my life. It is a time to celebrate our culture and heritage and to work towards a brighter future for all.

Find Exciting Summer Programs

Summer programs are no longer hard to find. Search Delaware 211's new program library on our website to find great opportunities for your child today!

Scan the QR Code



delaware211.org/summer-programs



Encuentra Emocionantes Programas de Verano

Los programas de verano ya no son difíciles de encontrar. Busque la nueva biblioteca de programas de Delaware 211 en nuestro sitio web para encontrar grandes oportunidades para su hijo hoy!

delaware211.org/summer-programs



Jwenn Pwogram Ete Enteresan

Pwogram ete yo pa difisil pou jwenn ankò. Chèche nouvo bibliyotèk pwogram Delaware 211 sou sitwèb nou an pou jwenn gwo opòtinite pou piti ou jodi a!

delaware211.org/summer-programs



Thanks for Working to Stamp Out Hunger

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who came out to support the **Stamp Out Hunger** event! Your dedication and hard work helped make a positive impact in our community.

We also want to acknowledge the great work of the Food Bank of Delaware, consistently a driving force in providing meals for those in need.

Together, we have helped make a difference in the lives of so many and we couldn't have done it without your support. Thank you all for your

generosity and compassion!



Dover Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
6th Annual

BLACK STREET

Financial Fortitude and Economic Development Expo

COAD Banquet Hall
1243 College Park Drive, Dover, DE 19904

1:00PM EST
Sunday, June 25, 2023

Generational Wealth | Financial Tips | Investing
Entrepreneurship | Vendors

Funds raised for programming activities and economic grants
Vendor Inquiries: econdevdst@doverdeltas.org



Scan the QR code to register



More info at doverdeltas.org



Jamar Taylor
Code Differently
Coding for Kids



Rachael Hanible
Keynote Speaker



Reserve Your Foursome Now!



JERRY HUNTER COMMUNITY CLASSIC

UWDE.ORG/EVENTS/JERRY-HUNTER-CLASSIC

22 MAY, 2023 | 11:00 AM
1 HARTEFELD DRIVE | AVONDALE, PA 19311

Spread the Word!

The **Food Bank of Delaware** will hold drive-through distributions for Delawareans in need throughout the month of May. The loss of pandemic emergency benefits is significant for many in our community. We hope these distributions will provide relief.



**EMERGENCY
FOOD
IS AVAILABLE!**

New Castle County

When: Friday, May 19 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Delaware Park Lot D, 777 Delaware Park Blvd., Wilmington 19804

Register in advance: <https://May19NCCo.eventbrite.com>

Sussex County

When: Monday, May 22 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Crossroad Community Church, 20684 State Forest Road, Georgetown

Register in advance: <https://may22sussex.eventbrite.com>

Kent County

When: Wednesday, May 31 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Dover Motor Speedway, 1131 North Dupont Highway, Dover (enter through Leipsic Road entrance and follow signs)

Register in advance: <https://may31kent.eventbrite.com>

Visit www.fbd.org/get-help to learn about other ways the Food Bank and our partners can help you!



**DRIVE-THRU
MOBILE PANTRY**

NEWS FROM THE LATINO COMMUNITY

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.

See www.demortgagehelp.com or call (888) 303-4374

PROGRAMA DE ALIVIO HIPOTECARIO DE DELAWARE



NO ESPERE!

El Programa de Alivio Hipotecario de Delaware, financiado por la Ley del Plan de Recaudación Tributaria y el Fondo de Asistencia para Propietarios de Vivienda, proporcionará hasta \$10,000 de financiación a los propietarios elegibles que padezcan dificultades financieras relacionadas con COVID-19 que resultaron en pagos retrasados o impagos hipotecarios.

Los propietarios elegibles deben cumplir con los siguientes requisitos:

- Residente de Delaware que posea y ocupe 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 (encuentra 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) 303-4374.

www.demortgagehelp.com or call (888) 303-4374

Community Announcements

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

Delaware Communities of Excellence | Delaware Libraries | LITERACY Delaware

HEALTH EQUITY EXPLORERS PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
9:30AM - 1:00PM

HELEN F. GRAHAM CANCER CENTER
AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE



APPLY TODAY

SPACE IS LIMITED
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
MAY 29, 2023
SCAN QR CODE FOR APPLICATION



HOLOGIC
The Science of Health

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Health Equity Explorer's Program will expose high school students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine designed to health equity topics, research, and biomedical careers. Participants will conduct hands-on activities in training labs, tour clinical areas, meet students, clinicians, and scientists at various stages of their careers, and discuss career development opportunities.

The Health Equity Explorers Program is hosted by The Helen F. Graham Cancer Center and Research Institute in collaboration with the with ChristianaCare's Office of Health Equity & and the Harrington Trust and sponsored by a grant from Hologic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL HARRINGTON@CHRISTIANACARE.ORG.

Independence Mall MICROGALA



OperaDelaware is ready to dive into the summer season with Pop-Up Opera. Join the launch party on Sunday, June 4 from 2-5 at Independence Mall and experience an outdoor operatic performance with stellar artists and a special wine tasting with Swigg - *and the wine tasting is just \$15!*



All ages welcome to attend the performance, must be 21+ to consume alcohol.

Visit operade.org/independence-mall-microgala and reserve your spot today!



OPERA DELAWARE
operade.org



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

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