

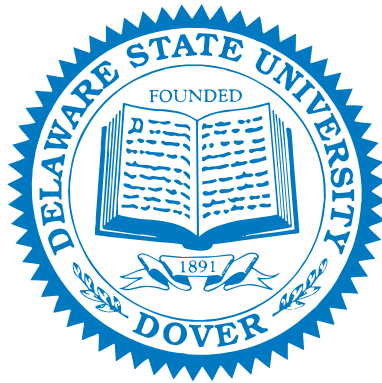
M A Y
Commencement
2 0 1 9

134th Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, the eleventh day of May
Two thousand and nineteen
Ten o'clock in the morning

Delaware State University
1200 North DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Alumni Stadium



M A Y *Commencement* 2 0 1 9

To Our Guests

Delaware State University has had a long tradition of Commencement ceremonies through the years that have been marked by joyous, yet dignified proceedings. The University will ask the audience to assist in honoring the graduates for their years of study and sacrifice and in preserving the solemn tenor of the ceremony. Unless otherwise directed, please remain seated throughout the exercises. No standing in the aisle is permitted, and guests are not allowed near the stage in Alumni Stadium. Please see a ceremony usher should you need assistance at any time during the Commencement ceremony.

**Members of the audience are asked to silence cell phones
and all other audible electronic devices.**

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School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies

College of Agriculture, Science and Technology

College of Business

College of Health and Behavioral Sciences

College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

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Message from the President



Graduates of the Class of 2019:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Staff of Delaware State University, I would like to personally congratulate you on obtaining your degree from one of the finest universities in the nation. Be proud of your academic achievement and share it with others as an inspiration for the next generation to aspire.

I hope during your stay at Delaware State University, you were able to find time to enjoy the Hornet experience with your participation in service projects, cheering your classmates to victory, cultural exchanges around the world, research projects that have a global impact and many other interactions.

Today as you cross the stage, you will join the nearly 30,000 outstanding professionals who call Delaware State University their alma mater. Please stay connected to the University, join one of our alumni clubs and advance interest in Delaware State University by recruiting new students to replace you.

I trust that your time at Delaware State University has informed you of the values of service. Our core values — Outreach, Community, Scholarship, Diversity and Integrity — are standards for which we are known and for which we advance in the service of others.

As you celebrate your achievements today, take a moment to thank all who have supported you in your efforts to get here. I challenge you to take to the skies, to the classrooms, to the boardrooms and to research laboratories. Innovate new technologies and serve humanity with excellence and distinction. I implore you to use your knowledge and acquired skills to make your communities, your nations and the universe a better place for all.

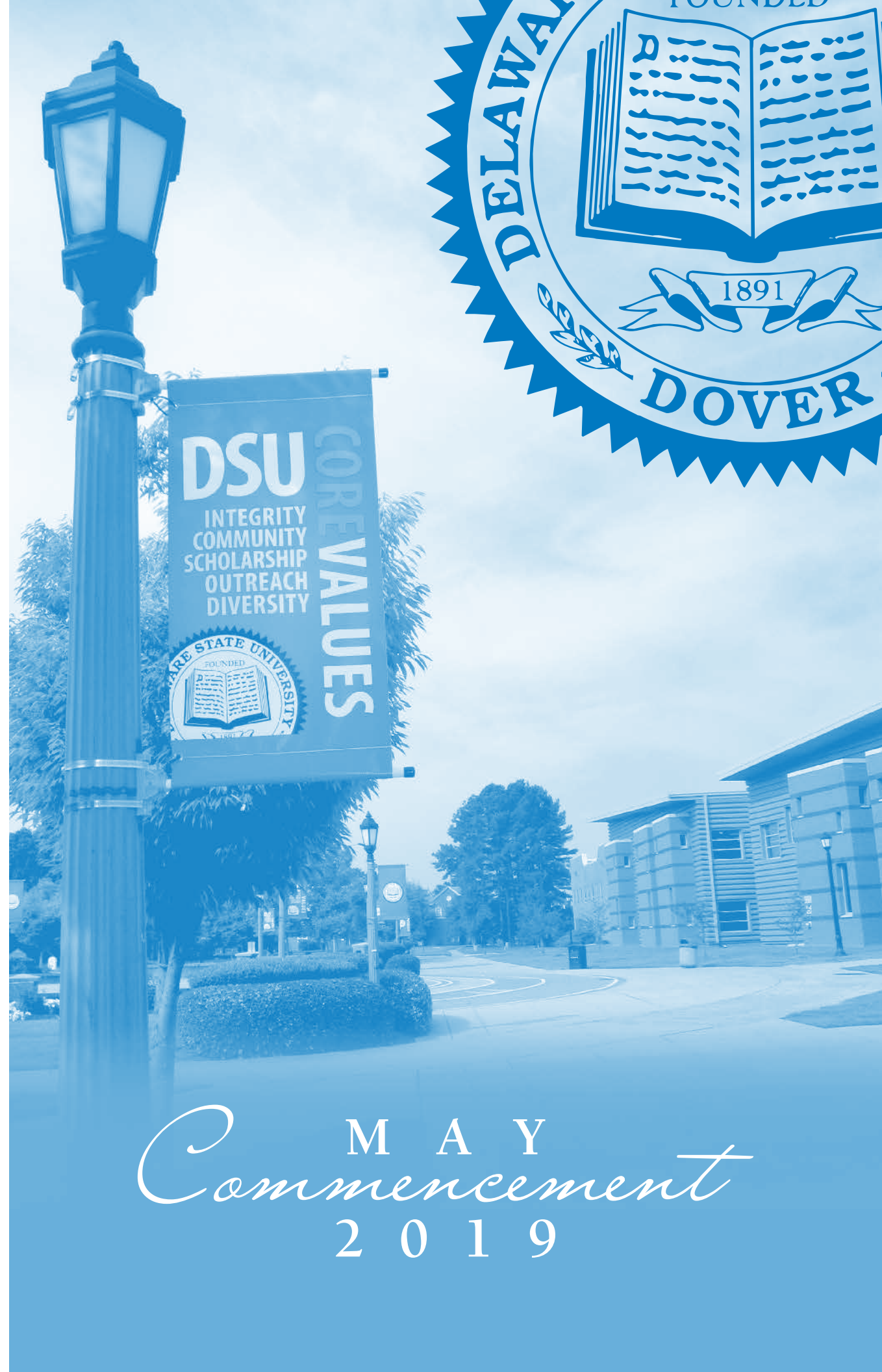
Today marks the commencement of a new chapter in your life, but the journey never ends.

Excellence in ALL we do!

Congratulations, best regards and much love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilma Mishoe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wilma Mishoe, Ed.D.
President



MAY
Commencement
2019

Program

Greetings and Announcement of the Processional	Dr. Tony Allen, <i>Executive Vice President and Provost</i>
Processional	“Pomp and Circumstance” Performed by the Delaware State University Band Dr. Harvey D. Bullock Jr. '95, <i>Director of University Bands</i> Grand Marshal Platform party and University officials 50-year Class of 1969 Distinguished faculty Candidates for doctorate degrees Candidates for master's degrees Candidates for baccalaureate degrees with honors (<i>by college</i>) Candidates for baccalaureate degrees
Presentation of Colors	Delaware State University Police Honor Guard Under the direction of Chief Harry Downes
The National Anthem <i>(Please stand)</i>	“The Star-Spangled Banner” by Mr. Francis Scott Key Performed by the Delaware State University Choir Directed by Dr. Lloyd B. Mallory Jr., <i>Director of Choral Activities</i>
Flyover	Delaware State University Hornet Flight Team Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel (<i>Retired</i>) Michael Hales <i>Director of Aviation Programs</i>
Invocation	Chaplain Pamela Adams, <i>University Chaplain</i>
Opening Remarks	The Honorable John Carney, <i>Governor of Delaware</i>
Board of Trustees' Remarks	Dr. Devona E.G. Williams <i>Chair of the Delaware State University Board of Trustees</i>
President's Remarks and Introduction of the Commencement Speaker	Dr. Wilma Mishoe, <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	The Honorable Alma Adams, <i>Congresswoman</i> <i>12th Congressional District of North Carolina</i>
Musical Performance	“Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel” Performed by the Delaware State University Choir Arrangement by Dr. Carl Haywood Directed by Dr. Lloyd B. Mallory Jr.
Class Challenge	Mr. Kyle Sheppard '17, <i>President, Graduate Student Association</i> Ms. Talia Casey, <i>President, Senior Class</i>

Presidential Academic and Leadership Awards	Dr. Wilma Mishoe
Presentation of Honorary Degrees	Dr. Wilma Mishoe Dr. Tony Allen
Candidates for Degrees	Dr. Tony Allen School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson, <i>Dean</i> College of Agriculture, Science and Technology Dr. Dyremple B. Marsh, <i>Dean</i> College of Business Dr. Michael H. Casson Jr., <i>Dean</i> College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Marshá T. Horton, <i>Dean</i> College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences Dr. Francine Edwards, <i>Dean</i> Heralds: Ms. Ava Perrine, <i>Instructor and Radio Advisor</i> Ms. Renee Marine, <i>Mass Communications Program Director</i>
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Wilma Mishoe
Induction of Graduates into Delaware State University Alumni Association	Mr. Clifton Burrell '87 <i>President of the Delaware State University Alumni Association</i>
Closing Remarks	Dr. Wilma Mishoe
Alma Mater	Lyrics by Ms. Pauline Williams LeCompte '26 Music by Mr. Alexis F. Lvov (<i>1799-1870</i>) Performed by the Delaware State University Choir and Band
Benediction	Graduates and Audience Chaplain Pamela Adams
Recessional	“Pomp and Circumstance” Performed by the Delaware State University Band

(Please remain in place until the platform party has recessed.)

We recognize the passing of members of our family with the flower arrangement located in front of the podium, under the seal of this great University.

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient



The Honorable Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

United States House of Representatives, representing 12th Congressional District of North Carolina

Dr. Alma S. Adams was elected to her third term representing the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina on November 6, 2018. After winning a special election in November 2014, Congresswoman Adams was sworn in immediately as the 100th woman elected to the 113th Congress.

Congresswoman Adams serves on the following House Committees: Education and Labor, Financial Services and Agriculture. The Congresswoman is Chair of the Higher Education and Labor Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and is Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee.

She is a member of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition and the Financial Services Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion. Congresswoman Adams is a former member of the Small Business Committee and the Joint Economic Committee and formerly served in several leadership positions including Assistant Whip for the Democratic Caucus, Vice Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee and ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulation.

Congresswoman Adams is the founder and co-chair of the first Congressional Bi-partisan HBCU Caucus and is part of the Women's Caucus, Diabetes Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Progressive Education Caucus, Historic Preservation Caucus, AIDS/HIV Caucus, Hunger Caucus, Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and Arts Caucus.

Throughout her career, Representative Adams has promoted quality education for all students, spearheading legislation to boost funds for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, providing nutritious breakfasts in schools and supporting increased pay for teachers. For 40 years, Dr. Adams taught Art at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. While at Bennett, she led the effort to increase student civic participation, coining the phrase "Bennett Belles are Voting Belles" and organizing annual marches to the polls.

In 1994, Dr. Adams was appointed by her peers to serve in the North Carolina House District 26 seat. She went on to serve ten terms in the state House. During her tenure, she rose to become the chair of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and was instrumental in passing legislation that improved the climate for quality affordable health care in the state and the first \$3.1 billion University Bond Referendum. Representative Adams also pioneered the Displaced Homemakers Bill and in 2006 successfully spearheaded the state's first minimum wage increase in nine years.

Before serving as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, Congresswoman Adams served nine years on the Greensboro City Council. Throughout her service to the second district in Greensboro, Dr. Adams worked to create safe and affordable housing and revitalization of neighbors. She began her political career in the 1980s by becoming the first African American woman ever elected to the Greensboro City School Board.

Congresswoman Adams has one daughter, Linda Jeanelle Lindsay, one son, Billy E. Adams II, and four grandchildren, Joslyn Lindsay, Aaron Lindsay, Billy E. Adams III and Miracle Sumner. Adams graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1968 and received her master's degree in Art Education in 1972. She earned her Ph.D. in Art Education and Multicultural Education from The Ohio State University in 1981.

Honorary Degree Recipient



The Honorable Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester

United States House of Representatives, representing Delaware's At-Large Congressional District

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester represents Delaware in the U.S. House of Representatives and serves as an Assistant Whip for House Leadership. As the Energy and Commerce Committee's only former statewide health official, Lisa understands health care from a number of different perspectives. She is focused on reducing the cost of health care and prescription drugs for middle-class families, addressing the disparity in outcomes for communities of color and tackling our nation's opioid and addiction epidemic.

Lisa is a leading voice in Congress on economic and future of work-related issues. As former Secretary of Labor and State Personnel Director, Lisa leverages her professional experience to advocate for legislation that boosts start-up business growth, removes barriers for citizens re-entering society and addresses college affordability and ballooning student debt. She is a Member of the New Democrat Coalition's Future of Work Taskforce and serves as the sole Member of Congress on the Aspen Institute's National Advisory Council for the Future of Work Initiative. She is also the founder of the Congressional Future of Work Caucus.

In the 115th Congress, Lisa was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture – the first Delawarean to serve on the committee in over 120 years. In this role, she helped craft the 2018 Farm Bill, which is a five-year re-authorization that extends U.S. Department of Agriculture programs related to the farm safety net; nutrition programs that feed children, seniors, people with disabilities, and families who rely on the social support programs; land-grant and 1890 universities; and agriculture research.

As a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a proponent of reforming our criminal justice system, Lisa introduced first-in-the-nation legislation, the Clean Slate Act, sealing the federal records of former nonviolent offenders that remain crime-free and have earned a second chance. According to estimates by the Center for American Progress, the passage of the Clean Slate Act could boost the U.S. economy by as much as \$87 billion per year.

Lisa is an advocate for the needs of every community, which informs her work in Washington. She learned of an error in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's coastal mapping unit for the town – preventing homeowners in the South Shore Marina development in North Bethany Beach from taking advantage of the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA aid in the event of a disaster. Lisa reached across the aisle to work with Democrats and Republicans across the country with similarly affected mapping units and introduced the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act. She worked to help usher this of legislation into law – aiding homeowners and setting aside hundreds of acres for environmental protection.

Lisa graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in International Relations and put herself through graduate school as a working mom – earning a master's degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware.

Presidential Academic Awards

Adriante Carter
College of Humanities,
Education and Social Sciences
Political Science major
Havre De Grace, MD

Jasmine Herring
College of Agriculture,
Science and Technology
Biological Sciences major
Waldorf, MD

**Jazmyn Robinson
Stockton**
College of Health
and Behavioral Sciences
Psychology
Newark, DE

Micaela Cummings
College of Agriculture,
Science and Technology
Engineering Physics major
Owings, MD

Stephanie Lynn
College of Agriculture,
Science and Technology
Agriculture major
Felton, DE

Logan Faux-Dugan
College of Health
and Behavioral Sciences
Movement Science major
Wilmington, DE

Morgan Poole
College of Humanities,
Education and Social Sciences
Mass Communications major
Niagara Falls, NY

Presidential Leadership Award

To be announced.

2018-2019 Student Government Association (SGA)

SGA President
Steven Ortiz
Management, Business
Economics major
Wilmington, DE

SGA Treasurer
Tyler Sims
Accounting major
Staten Island, NY

SGA Corresponding Secretary
Markese Elliott
Sport Management major
Brooklyn, NY

SGA Vice President
Tarik Jackson
Kinesiology major
Queens, NY

SGA Recording Secretary
Nikela Roderique
Political Science major
Brooklyn, NY

Mr. and Miss Delaware State University 2018–19



Mr. Delaware State University
Raphael Jason-Morgan
Kinesiology major
Harlem, NY

Miss Delaware State University
Olivia Nichole Moncrieffe
Mass Communications major
Chester, PA

In Memory of Dr. Ulysses S. Washington Jr.



As the former Grand Marshal at Delaware State University for 41 years, Dr. Ulysses S. Washington Jr. proudly carried the institution's mace at Commencements, Convocations and other special events from 1953 to 2004.

Dr. Washington, who passed away Oct. 25, 2018, at age 98, began his long tenure at then-Delaware State College as an Assistant Professor of Agriculture Education and Farm Mechanics in 1949. He went on to become the Acting Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1967 and the permanent Chair in 1971, a leadership post he held until his retirement in 1991. Dr. Washington also served for many years as a Hornet assistant football coach and as head coach for two years in the 1960s.

Dr. Washington continued to live on campus in the little house behind Lookerman Hall up until last year. He was the father of Diane Carroll and CBS 3 Eyewitness News Co-Anchor Ukee Washington.

Faculty Excellence Awards 2018

Faculty Excellence Award in Advising

Dr. Faith Newton
College of Humanities,
Education and Social Sciences

Faculty Excellence Award in Research

Dr. Kalpalatha Melmaiee
College of Agriculture,
Science and Technology

Faculty Excellence Award in Service

Dr. Kwame Matthews
College of Agriculture,
Science and Technology

Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching

Dr. Carla Becker
College of Humanities,
Education and Social Sciences

Delaware State University 2018-2019 Retirees

Mr. Thomas Campbell
Facilities Management
7 years

Ms. Tracy Channel '08
Public Relations
18 years

Dr. Samuel Hoff
History/Political Science
30 years

Ms. Molly Brown '15
Wellness & Recreation
27 years

Ms. Terri Nicholls Harrington '03
Psychology
40 years

Mr. George H. Jones Sr.
Facilities Management
30 years

Mr. David Doughty
Facilities Management
30 years

Dr. John N. Austin
Social Work
22 years

Ms. Robin L. Krawitz
History/Political Science
8 years

Dr. Asgede Hagos
Mass Communications
23 years

Dr. Peter DiMaria
Chemistry Department
29 years

Dr. Andrew Lloyd
Biological Sciences
25 years

Ms. Denese Lindsey '98 '11
Finance Administration
32 years

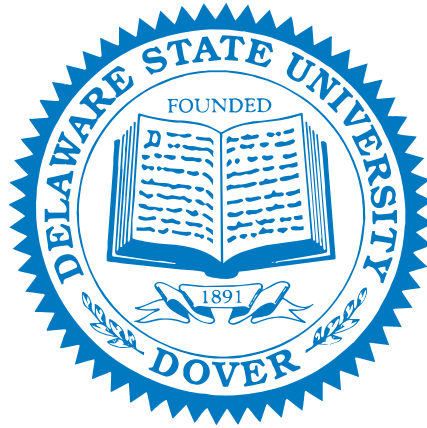
Dr. Dolores Finger Wright
Social Work
30 years

Dr. Sheridan Quarless Kingsberry
Social Work
16 years

Mr. Thomas Preston, Esq.
General Counsel
6 years

Ms. Janet Hill
Education
11 years

Mr. Lee Streetman
Sociology
22 years



Candidates for Graduation

Graduate Class of 2019

Registrar - Dr. Terrell D. Holmes

School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies
Dr. Patrice Gilliam-Johnson, Dean

Candidates for Doctorate of Education Degree

Tara Allen-Butler | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Case Study Analysis: *Overrepresentation of African American males in special education*
 Advisor: Dr. Richard Phillips

Meredith Kissel Malone | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Dissertation: *Exploring the impact of educating student nurses in higher education on trauma and trauma-informed care*
 Advisor: Dr. Richard Phillips

Jeanmarie Carney Maloney | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Dissertation: *An examination of nurse educators' experiences with clinically failing students*
 Advisor: Dr. Richard Phillips

Charity Cartwright Shockley | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Case Study Analysis: The relationship between student engagement and alumni giving at higher education institutions
 Advisor: Dr. Nirmaljit Rathee

Calvin Simpson | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Case Study Analysis: *The effect of cultural congruence and leadership practices on the academic achievement of African American students post-enactment of Brown v. Board of Education in the state of Delaware*
 Advisor: Dr. Richard Phillips

Candra Nichelle Sudler | Educational Leadership (EdD)
 Dissertation: *Comparative case study analysis of systematic racism in education as self-perpetuating and casual of racial disparities for African-Americans*
 Advisor: Dr. Richard Phillips

Candidates for Doctorate of Philosophy Degree

Jason M. Cornelius | Interdisciplinary Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Physics (PhD)
 Dissertation: *Dual grid finite-difference time-domain method for Maxwell's equations in complex media*
 Advisor: Jinjie Liu

Candidates for Master of Business Administration Degree

Jamelle Christian	Business Administration
Xin Fang	Business Administration
Wenjin Gao	Business Administration
Christopher D. Garland	Business Administration
Chrishaad S. Rojielle Gibson	Business Administration
Wendell Harper	Business Administration
Harold E. Hazzard	Business Administration
Imani Vivian Lurry	Business Administration
Edgar E. Ortiz	Business Administration
Kevin Leeroy Perry Jr.	Business Administration
Emma Pollock	Business Administration
Jiahui Wang	Business Administration
Chensong Xu	Business Administration

Candidates for Master of Public Administration Degree

Leah Brown	Public Administration
Liang Liang	Public Administration
Aleesha Rogers	Public Administration
Yue Zhang	Public Administration

Candidates for Master of Science Degree

Carla A. Auguste	Sport Administration
Bruce Barrios	Applied Optics
Nelson V. Brittingham	Mathematics
Jason Paul Challandes	Natural Resources
Alex DiJohnson	Natural Resources
Christiane A. Ebongue	Applied Optics
Elizabeth Fiedler	Agriculture
Brian Alberto Galvez	Natural Resources
Jasmine C. Smalls	Agriculture
Megan Ann Wallrichs	Natural Resources
Du Wang	Applied Optics
Ulonda Tranee Whitehead	Sport Administration
Eric William Wilt	Computer Science

Candidates for Master of Social Work Degree

Michelle Rene Adams	Social Work
Sherreika S. Brown	Social Work
Patricia F. Buck	Social Work
Nyeirah M. Carson	Social Work
Ariele Lillian Castro	Social Work
Brandi Ciamarra	Social Work
Travia Nicole Collins	Social Work
Destiny O. Dunston	Social Work
Kalyn B. Fauntleroy	Social Work
Chelsea Gardner	Social Work
Samantha L. Gault Blanchard	Social Work
Erika L. Gibbs	Social Work
Brittney Breon Giddens	Social Work
Barbara J. Griffin	Social Work
Shwana Mccrimmon	Social Work
Laniece McIntyre	Social Work
Monyah D. McQueen	Social Work
Antony L. Mcrae	Social Work
Ellese Kiliah Melton	Social Work
Geeta Shelly Prasad	Social Work
Javonne Rich	Social Work
Shanice V. Rodgers	Social Work
Mary E. Santell	Social Work
Shaneika S. Smith	Social Work
Taylor Ayanna Smith	Social Work
Maya Angela Thomas	Social Work
Jade Nicole Thornton	Social Work
Asia M. Tillison	Social Work
Sandra M. Tineo	Social Work
Susan Truitt	Social Work
Brandi K. Walker	Social Work
Taylor Renee Waters	Social Work
Briana N. Azure White	Social Work

As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program goes to press, this list of degree candidates and those receiving honors is tentative. The appearance of a student's name herein or its absence does not necessarily mean that the student has or has not been awarded a degree from Delaware State University. The student's transcript is the official record/documentation of the University.

History of Delaware State University

The Delaware College for Colored Students, now known as Delaware State University, was established May 15, 1891, by the Delaware General Assembly under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1890 by which land-grant colleges for blacks came into existence in states maintaining separate educational facilities.

Because there was already a private Delaware College (now the University of Delaware) located in Newark, Del., to avoid confusion new state legislation was passed and enacted in early 1893 to change the black school's name to the State College for Colored Students. That would be the institution's name for the next 54 years.

Through the conservative and practical planning of the Board of Trustees appointed by Delaware Gov. Robert J. Reynolds, the College was launched upon its mission of education and public service on February 2, 1892. Five courses of study leading to a baccalaureate degree were offered: Agricultural, Chemical, Classical, Engineering and Scientific. A Preparatory Department was established in 1893 for students who were not qualified to pursue a major course of study upon entrance. A three-year normal course leading to a teacher's certificate was initiated in 1897. The College graduated its first class of degree candidates in May 1898. The normal course of study (teacher education) was extended to four years in 1911 and the Bachelor of Pedagogy degree was awarded to students upon satisfactory completion of the curriculum.

In the 1916-1917 school year, the Preparatory Department was phased out, a Model School was established, and a high school diploma was granted on completion of a four-year course of study. In 1923, a Junior College Division was added. Four-year curricula in the Arts and Sciences, Elementary Education, Home Economics, Agriculture and Industrial Arts were established in 1932. The College graduated its first class of four-year, baccalaureate degree candidates in June 1934.

In 1944, the College received provisional accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). In 1947, the name of the institution was changed to Delaware State College by legislative action. At the end of the 1951-52 school year, the High School Division was discontinued. In April 1957, the College was accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education in 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2012 reaffirmed this accreditation. Concurrently, the University achieved and maintained accreditation of its teacher education programs by the Delaware State Board of Education.

On July 1, 1993, Delaware State College turned another chapter in its history when Governor Thomas Carper signed a name change into law, thus renaming the College to Delaware State University. Since 1957, the University has grown in stature as a center for teaching, research and public service. The purpose of the University has broadened in keeping with changing times.

While recognizing its heritage, the University is among the premier Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the country, while serving a diverse student population. Undergraduate studies are organized into four colleges that contain a total of 18 academic departments, which offer 42 bachelor's degrees, 16 master's degrees and five doctoral degrees.

Accreditations include the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, the Council on Social Work Education, the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (candidate status). The University's College of Business is an accredited member of AACSB International —The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The underpinning of the growth and development of Delaware State University has been the leadership of its eleven Presidents, including **Wesley P. Webb** (1891 – 1895), **William C. Jason** (1895 – 1923), **Richard S. Grossley** (1923 – 1942), **Dr. Howard D. Gregg** (1942 – 1949), **Dr. Oscar J. Chapman** (1950 – 1951), **Dr. Jerome H. Holland** (1953 – 1960), **Dr. Luna I. Mishoe** (1960 – 1987), **Dr. William B. DeLauder** (1987 – 2003), **Dr. Allen L. Sessoms** (2003 – 2008), **Dr. Harry L. Williams** (2010 – 2017) and **Dr. Wilma Mishoe** (2018 – present).

Dr. Maurice E. Thomasson served as Acting President from 1949 to 1950 and from 1951 to 1953.

Dr. Claibourne D. Smith served as Acting President from September 2008 to January 2010.

Dr. Wilma Mishoe served as Acting President from January 2018 to June 2018.

As a result of its Presidents' efforts, the University is well positioned to reach new levels of prestige.

The University's physical infrastructure has expanded from its 1891 beginning as a 100-acre property with three buildings to a beautiful 356-acre pedestrian campus with more than 50 buildings and four outdoor athletic fields. The University also has locations in Wilmington and Georgetown, DE, and two farm properties in Kenton and Smyrna, DE. The Airway Science Program maintains its fleet of planes and base of operation at the Delaware Air Park in Cheswold, DE, approximately five miles from the main campus.

Mission Statement

Delaware State University is a public, comprehensive, 1890 land-grant institution that offers access and opportunity to diverse populations from Delaware, the nation, and the world. Building on its heritage as a historically black college, the University purposefully integrates the highest standards of excellence in teaching, research, and service in its baccalaureate, master's and doctoral programs. Its commitment to advance science, technology, liberal arts, and the professions produces capable and productive leaders who contribute to the sustainability and economic development of the global community.

Vision Statement

As one of America's most highly respected Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Delaware State University will be renowned for a standard of academic excellence that prepares our graduates to become the first choice of employers in a global market and invigorates the economy and the culture of Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic region.

Core Values

Community | Integrity | Diversity | Scholarship | Outreach

The University at a Glance

- 42 undergraduate degree programs, 16 master's degree programs and five doctoral degree programs
- Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), as well as by six specialized academic accrediting agencies
- The William C. Jason Library houses more than 490,333 publications, including books, electronic materials, media materials and microbooks
- 212 faculty members | 89% of faculty members possess a PhD or a terminal degree
- 18 academic departments | student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1
- Total enrollment in fall 2018: 4,872

International Representation

The Delaware State University Class of 2019 are from the following countries:

Bermuda	Korea	South Korea	Yugoslavia
China	Nigeria	Sri Lanka	United States
Jamaica	Poland	Thailand	

University Bible, Medallion, Mace, Academic Heraldry



The University Bible

The University Bible was presented to Delaware State College by the Class of 1942. It is located in the Office of the President.



Chain of Office (The Medallion)

The concept of the medallion began in the biblical days as a symbol of authority. During the Middle Ages, the medallion signified membership in the religious orders and guilds and, later, in the elite order of knighthood or government office. It is customary today for medallions to be made for chancellors and presidents of universities to wear at commencement and other academic events that require regalia. The University Medallion symbolizes the authority that the Board of Trustees entrusts to the president of Delaware State University.

The University Mace

The mace, borne by the grand marshal, is a traditional symbol of authority which dates back to the Middle Ages. The use of ceremonial maces by education institutions began in the 17th century when Cambridge and Oxford universities in England adopted the mace as an emblem to be carried in ceremonial occasions. In keeping with the tradition of many colleges and universities in the United States that began using ceremonial maces in the 20th century, Delaware State University adopted the mace in 1963 as an emblem of authority to be used at especially significant university affairs. The Delaware State University mace was designed and constructed in 1963 by the late John McCollough, assistant professor of art education at the institution. At today's Commencement, the entry of the grand marshal bearing the ceremonial mace signifies the beginning of the ceremony.

Academic Heraldry

A time-honored tradition of great dignity, the wearing of academic apparel is a survival of the ecclesiastical garb of the late Middle Ages — in turn, a survival of still earlier civilian fashions. The academic gown, necessary for a scholar's warmth, and the hood to protect his tonsured head were apparently first regularly adopted in the 13th century at the University of Cambridge (1294).

Grand Marshal

Dr. Mable Renee Morrison

Associate Professor of Music | Pianist, Soprano, Recital Collaborator

September 2019 will mark 57 years of her dedicated service at Delaware State University

Dr. Mable Morrison serves as this year's Grand Marshal for Delaware State University's Commencement ceremonies. The entry of the Grand Marshal bearing the ceremonial mace signifies the arrival of the academic procession and the beginning of the ceremony.

An Associate Professor of music, Dr. Morrison has been a highly respected faculty member at Delaware State University since 1962.

Dr. Morrison is the daughter of the late Dr. Viola Morrison and the late Rev. Evans, and a native of New Orleans, LA. She is an alumna of Xavier University in Louisiana, DePaul University in Chicago, IL and Fontainebleau Fine Arts and Music School in France.

Dr. Morrison has received several overseas grants during her career, including an intercultural grant for performances in Sierra Leone and Liberia, West Africa, a grant for studies at L'Academie Internationale D'Été in Nice, France, and a visiting lectureship at the University of Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia. She has performed piano/vocal recitals and has served as a recital collaborator in the United States, Italy, West Africa and France.

Dr. Morrison was the featured artist at the 1970 Convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians and one of four nominated for "Outstanding Woman of the Year" by the W. Russell Johnson Music Guild of Philadelphia in 2003.

During her tenure at Delaware State University, Dr. Morrison has served as Chairperson on numerous committees, including the President's Distinguished Lecture and Performance Series; the Beatrice Henry and John McCollough Annual Arts Festival; and the Great Performers Series, which presented renowned artists Andre Watts, Charles Treger, Ray Charles and Dizzy Gillespie, among others.

A faculty member for nearly 57 years, many of the students who have studied under her tutelage have participated in the UNICEF Play for Peace Performathon overseen by internationally known virtuoso pianist Lang and have gone on to become outstanding performers and music educators. This would include former student Charles R. Thompson '73, who visited her 50-year celebration (standing room only) reception a few years ago.

She was a University Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters recipient in May 2012, a University Diamond Extravaganza honoree and 2011 and 2012 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal. Recently, she was honored at the 2018 Margaret Oliver First Lady's Hats and Gloves Tea and by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Morrison is held in high esteem by all who know her and her quiet, yet firm, dignified approach to lifelong learning. She walks the campus every day with enthusiasm for teaching.

Commencement Marshals

Dr. Joe Amoako

Dr. Daniel Awodiya

Dr. Joseph O. Falodun

Dr. Dolores Finger Wright

Dr. Raymond Tutu



Grand Marshal Dr. Mable R. Morrison carrying the University mace

Alumni Celebration

Delaware State University's Oldest Living Alumna



Courtney Stevenson

Courtney Stevenson, retired Delaware State University Assistant Professor and the school's oldest known living alumna, received her degree in Home Economics from what was then the State College for Colored Students in a graduation ceremony held on her birthday in 1944.

She is preparing to return to the University on May 11, 2019 to witness this year's Commencement ceremony and celebrate the 75th anniversary of her graduation from the institution. In addition, the retired educator is also preparing to celebrate her 105th birthday on June 12.

Following college graduation, Courtney Stevenson taught at various grade levels in the state, including serving as a pre-school, elementary, junior high and senior high school teacher. Her secondary school teaching experience includes serving at the Garrett Pre-School Program in Wilmington, the Delaware State College Laboratory High School, the Thomas Clayton Elementary School in Smyrna, and the Louise L. Redding Comprehensive High School in Middletown.

In addition, she taught Home Economics at then Delaware State College—twice-serving as Interim Department Chair during her tenure. She served as Interim Chair in the 1970s under President Dr. Luna I. Mishoe and in the early 1990s under President Dr. William B. DeLauder. She retired from the institution in 1991 but returned at the request of Dr. DeLauder to again serve as Interim Department Chair. She finally retired in 1994.

Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Courtney Stevenson received her early education in the city's public schools and in the borough of Manhattan in New York City. She began her higher education pursuits at what is now Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, and later transferred to the now Delaware State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. She received her Master of Arts degree in Higher Education from New York University and did further graduate study in Higher Education at the University of Delaware, Iowa State University and Philadelphia College of Arts and Science.

Courtney Stevenson has been a resident of Dover since coming here as a college student in the early 1940s. Following graduation, she married William W. Stevenson, a Dover native and fellow alumnus. She is an active member of numerous civic, fraternal and professional organizations, including being a life member of Epsilon Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Dover, where she is Past President and Past Treasurer; as well as being a founding member and Past Graduate Advisor of the undergraduate Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on the Delaware State University campus. In addition, she is a member of the Delaware State Chapter of the Links, Inc; and the Order of the Eastern Star where she is Past Grand Worthy Matron and Past Delaware State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler. She also is a charter member of the Order of the Golden Circle No. 43 and is a member of the Daughters of Isis No. 54.

Courtney Stevenson remains an active member of Whatcoat United Methodist Church in Dover, where her membership spans more than 75 years. She previously served there as Sunday School Superintendent in addition to other church positions.



Alma Mater

Hail, Alma Mater
Thy children greet Thee
Greet Thee with loyalty, love, strength and truth
Here in Thine ancient halls
O'er Thy plains so verdant
Thou art our guide in the pathways of youth.

From the broad world without
Come Thy sons and daughters
Bearing our laurels to lay at Thy shrine
E'er shall we heed Thy call
Ne'er shall we fail Thee
Love Alma Mater, God Bless Thee and Thine

Music: Alexis F. Lvov (1799-1870)

Words: Pauline Williams LeCompte, Class of 1926

Pauline LeCompte has had more than 50 family members who have graduated from or are currently attending Delaware State University.

Alumni Oath

*"I solemnly promise...from this day forward...to be proactive...and positive.
I will always lift the name...and support the mission...of my alma mater.
I will forever point others...toward this place where they,
too...may successfully prepare...to make their marks...on the world."*

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Dr. Wilma Mishoe
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MAY Commencement 2019

Commencement Day University Bookstore Hours

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Commencement Notations

As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program goes to press, this list of degree candidates and those receiving honors is tentative. The appearance of a student's name herein or its absence does not necessarily mean that the student has or has not been awarded a degree from Delaware State University. The student's transcript is the official record/documentation of the University.

This is a souvenir program. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent, and the University cannot be held responsible.

Special thanks to all of the individuals who assisted in making the May Commencement a memorable occasion for the students and their families. Commencement is not possible without the selfless acts and commitment of the Delaware State University administration, faculty, staff and students.

It will be the policy of Delaware State University to recruit, hire, train and promote persons in all job titles without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, national origin or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. ©Delaware State University

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