

A photograph of a young woman and a young man standing outdoors at what appears to be a community event. The woman on the left is wearing sunglasses and a blue t-shirt. The man on the right is also wearing a blue t-shirt with a small gold 'UD' logo on the chest. They are both smiling. The background is blurred, showing other people and trees.

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Annual Report

JUL 2018 – DEC 2019



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE**

PHC MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission: Align and strengthen University of Delaware research, educational, and service capabilities to improve the health and well-being of Delaware communities and beyond through effective community partnerships.

Our Focus: We will focus especially on communities currently experiencing social inequities.

Our Vision:
Healthy, Thriving
Communities for All



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE**

Dear Partners,

As we reflect on the second year of the partnership, and think broadly about the possibilities that a new decade brings, we are reminded of the power of civic engagement to address community and social inequities in a democratic society. Our commitment to ensure that engaged scholarship aims to both understand and be responsive to community experience, knowledge, needs, and expectations is reflected in our values, the partnerships we support, and the processes in which we operate.

This report highlights our efforts over the past year to:

- Advance statewide initiatives and partnerships such as Healthy Communities Delaware and the Delaware State Health Improvement Planning (SHIP) process that work to address priority health areas as determined by and with communities and stakeholders;
- Cultivate funding and enhance partnerships for students and faculty to work side by side to intentionally and purposefully address community-identified needs, such as our new mobile health unit and student fellowships in local health initiatives across the state;
- Expand educational opportunities that will strengthen the workforce from a public health frame; and,
- Develop organizational structures and activities like the PHC policy academy and policy briefs that are guided by research and have shared input from our campus and community partners.

As we advance for the year ahead, we are grateful for the dedicated, innovative, and agile faculty, staff, students, and state and community partners, who are committed to connectivity, overcoming silos and barriers, strengthening interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration, advancing research to results, and building an environment of inclusive excellence. We value and honor your work with us on this journey to healthy, thriving communities for all.

In Partnership,

Rita Landgraf

Director,

UD Partnership for Healthy Communities

PHC BY THE NUMBERS

16 PUBLICATIONS

4 Journal Articles

Dover Micro Open Street Events: Evaluation Results and Implications for Community-Based Physical Activity Programming

Holding Course for Health Impact: All Aboard Delaware's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

UD Partnership for Healthy Communities: Expanding Campus-Community Channels for Delaware's SHIP

Align and Invest for Impact with Our Communities

3 Policy Briefs

Structural Racism as a Fundamental Cause of Health Inequities

Delaware Focus: Health Inequities and Race in the First State

Community Reentry Barriers for Youth Transitioning Out of the Juvenile Justice System

5 Evaluation Reports

Delaware State Health Improvement Plan 2019 Annual Report

Wilmington Play Streets (2018, 2019)

Wilmington Wellness Day, Wilmington Health Planning Council (2018, 2019)

4 Resources

National Public Health Week Statewide Calendar of Events and Companion Guide

Glossary of Terms- Policy Academy and REACH Riverside

Reading List- Policy Academy

3 NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES

Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology

Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology

MPH in Health Policy and Management

15 PRESENTATIONS/MEDIA

3 conference presentations

Addressing Community Health through University-Community Partnerships: Evaluation Challenges And Early Lessons Learned

Building State Health Department Capacity for Health Equity through a Racial Justice Framework

Partnership for Healthy Communities: A University of Delaware Community Engagement Initiative

5 poster presentations

Dover Micro Open Street Events: Evaluation Results and Implications for Community-Based Physical Activity Programming

Partnership for Healthy Communities

Social Determinants of Health: Life Expectancy and the Relationship with Race, Education and Poverty in Delaware

7 media mentions

27 ENGAGED CAMPUS PARTNERS

18 Engaged Faculty

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources-
Cooperative Extension

College of Arts and Sciences – Anthropology;
Associates of Arts Program – Wilmington and Dover;
Biden School of Public Policy and Administration;
Sociology and Criminal Justice

College of Education and Human Development- Center
for Research in Education & Social Policy, Human
Development and Family Sciences

College of Health Sciences- Behavioral Health and
Nutrition; Center for Innovative Health Research;
Epidemiology; Employee Health and Wellbeing; School
of Nursing

19 Student Fellows

8 sponsored by PHC: PhD Graduate Assistant; PHC
Undergraduate Summer Fellow; Wilmington Play
Streets Fellow; Westside Family Healthcare Summer
Undergraduate Fellow, (2018, 2019); Westside Family
Healthcare Summer Graduate Fellow (2018, 2019);
Veggie Meter Graduate Research Assistant

40 events with 4,848 attendees

7 led by PHC:

- Reducing Inequities in Health and Well-being
by Addressing Structural Racism in the U.S.
- 2019 Delaware SHIP Statewide
Stakeholder Meeting
- Trauma-Informed Community Building
- The “S” Word Documentary and Panel Discussion
- Peace Week Delaware:
 - Trauma-Informed Community
Engagement and Resilience
 - Ending the Silence: A Discussion
on Mental Illness
 - Tools to Tap into Your Inner Peace
and Promote Well Being

34 events co-hosted with 274 community partners



ADVANCING RESEARCH AND POLICY

As the Partnership for Healthy Communities entered its second year, we focused on the role of policy as a root cause for health inequities. Initiating a policy academy was identified as a core activity of the partnership. Results from the PHC launch conference (late fall 2018) action-planning segment established that the inaugural policy academy would focus on structural racism and health. In April 2019, *“Reducing Inequities in Health and Well-Being by Addressing Structural Racism in the U.S.”* brought together nearly 200 community residents, community practitioners, faculty, and students to provide a foundation for collective, multi-sector health equity efforts in Delaware that address policy, practice and research at the state and community level. The Academy was planned and hosted by the Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) and the Partnership for Arts and Culture (PAC), in collaboration with Delaware State University (DSU).

At the event, PHC released two briefs, “Structural Racism as a Fundamental Cause of Health Inequities,” and, “Delaware Focus: Health Inequities and Race in the First State,” that were peer reviewed by both UD faculty and subject matter experts from the community. Several partners, including health and community development organizations are working with PHC to integrate an explicit focus on structural racism and health inequities in their organizational and community-level work moving forward. State government, planning agencies, and neighborhood coalitions are also using the policy briefs and a May 2019 PHC op-ed, *“Housing segregation continues. And it is cutting short black Americans’ lives,”* to provide context and advance dialogue around place-based approaches to address social determinants of health. Moving forward, PHC is supporting engaged research on the state of Black girls in Delaware through a partnership with the Delaware Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.



EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PHC provided support this year in developing several new UD public health degree programs. The University is now offering a Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology and Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology through the new Epidemiology program in the College of Health Sciences. A Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management is also available through the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration. The two MPH tracks share 15 credits of core courses, and diverge in specialized coursework based on primary student interest. Applicants to the MPH must apply to a specific track.

The new Epidemiology Program is collaborating with the University's Disaster Research Center and community groups to conduct a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). The CASPER aims to assess residents' perceptions of the health impacts of living near the Chester, Pennsylvania incinerator, where municipal waste, medical waste, and recyclables are burned. Self-reported mental and physical health was lower for households living closer to the incinerator. Households living closer to the incinerator were also more likely to be Black, aware of the incinerator, and perceive increased pollution. Complete results of the assessment will be shared with stakeholders to assess the potential for future research that could improve the health of residents.



Additionally, PHC leadership serve as faculty for a Public Health in Practice undergraduate course, and for population-health teaching modules as part of a UD Lerner School of Business Pocket Masters in Business Administration (MBA). The PocketMBA is designed for current and aspiring healthcare leaders who are selected by ChristianaCare to attend the program.

ENHANCING OUR SERVICE CAPACITY

Upstream Partnerships

PHC has been coordinating interdisciplinary research, evaluation and service partnerships across the state to support communities, systems and sectors with engagement in strategies to advance health and well-being. This includes implementation and evaluation support of programs such as the following: Open Streets Dover, Wilmington Play Streets, the Domestic Violence Community Health Worker Initiative, Westside Family Healthcare Student Fellowships, and an evaluation and research partnership to measure fruit and vegetable intake in community settings in Sussex and New Castle County.



“I feel like being part of the Partnership for Healthy Communities actually made me happier to have gone to UD and learn what I did because **now I can give my education back to where I came from.”**

PHC Student Fellow

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY

Healthy Communities Delaware

As one of three partners providing managerial support to Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD), PHC serves as the operational partner. HCD is a collaborative place-based approach to address social determinants of health and make a significant and sustainable impact on health, by working in a more intentional way with communities, organizations and other funders. The tagline of HCD “Alignment. Investment. Impact” reflects the goal of HCD – to align resources and efforts with investments to achieve a greater impact. HCD aims to assist communities with the greatest need to address health equity.

This statewide initiative leverages resources from a variety of investors, including those in the banking, community development and health system arena. HCD supports and builds upon a variety of existing community-based planning initiatives, councils, and coalitions. The HCD Executive Director was hired in late 2019 as part of the PHC team and will be working with the Delaware Leadership Council, Community Investment Council, managerial partners, UD cross college, and communities across the state to implement and sustain equitable solutions. This partnership will facilitate broader UD engagement in opportunities for community-based research, evaluation, educational programming and student scholarship.



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY (CONT.)

Delaware State Health Improvement Plan

PHC leads Delaware's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) process in partnership with the Delaware Division of Public Health and in collaboration with the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. This process brings together campus and community stakeholders to work with the Delaware Division of Public Health in addressing Delaware's most pressing health issues. According to the National Public Health Accreditation Board, the purpose of a SHIP is to "describe how the health department and the community it serves will work together to improve the health of the population of the jurisdiction that the health department serves.

The community, stakeholders, and partners can use a solid SHIP to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies."

In 2019, PHC prepared the SHIP Annual Report and hosted a SHIP Statewide Stakeholders meeting that convened nearly 200 policy makers, public health practitioners, students, faculty and stakeholders from across the state. Participants communicated their respective progress, identified gaps, and worked together to refine the plan. Priority areas include chronic disease, maternal and child health, mental health, substance use disorder, and adopting a policy, systems and environmental approach. A SHIP is also a required process for health department accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Additional information and upcoming stakeholder engagement efforts can be found on the newly launched website, www.DelawareSHIP.org.



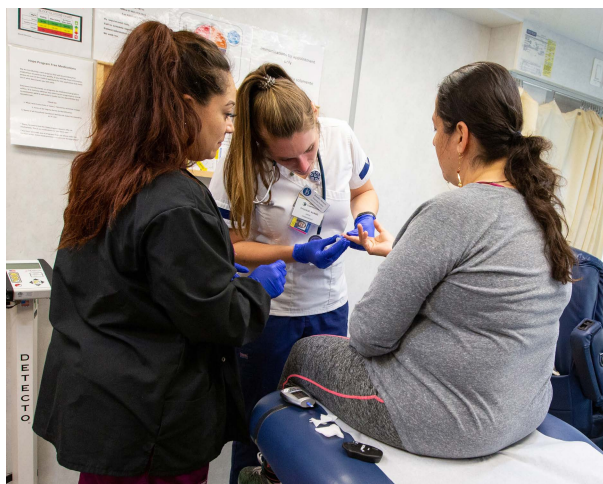
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY (CONT.)

Mobile Health

In collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor's office, and Saint Francis representatives, PHC secured funding from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware to support a partnership with Saint Francis Healthcare mobile health van. The van will enable faculty, staff and students to support improvements in health outcomes in Wilmington's most vulnerable neighborhoods, through Community Health Services Outreach. The van will also be devoted to community Health and Wellness Outreach (HWO). On HWO days the van will visit sites identified in collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor Challenge, a public health initiative to address community health needs, promote healthy living choices and wellness. Site activities will include physical and behavioral health screenings and education. A Mobile Health Coordinator was hired in late 2019 as part of the PHC team and will be working with partners to have the first cohort of students on the mobile health unit in spring 2020.

"To learn that they had a whole initiative to partner with people in different communities all over Delaware to try and make us healthier, changed my perspective about **what it means to be a Blue Hen.**"

PHC Student Fellow



PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Rita Landgraf

Director

Erin Knight

Assoc. Director

Barret Michalec

Faculty Advisor

Noël Sincere Duckworth

Program Coordinator

Paulette Hussey-Kasten

Administrative Specialist

Christine Sowinski

Mobile Health Coordinator

Katherine DuPont Phillips

Executive Director, Healthy Communities Delaware

STUDENT SUPPORT

Kalyn McDonough

PHC PhD Graduate Assistant

Sydney Rendon

PHC Graduate Assistant

Adaeze Ashiedu

PHC Wilmington Play Streets Fellow

Keani Craig

PHC Undergraduate Summer Fellow

Delaney Luman

PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Graduate Fellow

Sachi Braithwaite

PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Graduate Fellow

Sarah O'Brien

PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Undergraduate Fellow

Kelsey Coulter

PHC Westside Family Healthcare
Summer Undergraduate Fellow

Inaya Wahid

PHC SHIP Student Intern

Penelope Velasco

PHC Teaching Assistant

Amanda Kopetsky

PHC Veggie Meter Graduate Research Assistant

Elizabeth Ngugi

PHC REACH Riverside Health, Wellness
and Safety Committee Student Intern

Nolwazi Gumbi

PHC Graduate Independent Study
Student in Disability

Ed Williams

PHC Play Streets Evaluation Graduate Student

Amy Tullo

PHC Wilmington Wellness Day Student Volunteer

Debbie Mack

PHC Wilmington Wellness Day Student Volunteer

Meredith Hyland

PHC Policy Academy Student Volunteer

Deborah Ziomek

PHC NPHW Student Volunteer

The UD Partnership for Healthy Communities is guided by a Steering Committee with leadership and membership from both the community and the university, including all 7 colleges.

STEERING COMMITTEE FY 2018-2019

Internal Co-Chairs

Kathleen S. Matt

Dean, College of Health Sciences

Mark Rieger

Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

External Co-Chair

Robert Laskowski

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University; President and CEO, Christiana Care Health System (retired); Principal, Laskowski Advisors

MEMBERSHIP

University of Delaware

Estella Atekwana

Dean, College of Earth, Ocean and Environment

Elizabeth Farley-Ripple

Director, Partnership for Public Education, School of Education

Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long

Professor, School of Nursing

Kristi Kiick

Deputy Dean, College of Engineering

Sheryl Kline

Deputy Dean, Professor of Hospitality Business Management, College of Business

Barret Michalec

Associate Dean, Interprofessional Education, Joint Appointment in College of Health Sciences and College of Arts and Science

Julia O'Hanlon

Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration

University of Delaware (cont.)

Lynette Overby

Dep. Director, Community Engagement Initiative; Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture, Professor of Theater

Steve Peuquet

Emeritus, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration

Dan Rich

Director, Community Engagement Initiative, Professor, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration

Michelle Rodgers

Assoc. Dean, UD Cooperative Extension

Michael Vaughan

Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Engineering; Interim Vice Provost of Diversity

Christy Visser

Director, UD Center for Drug and Health Studies

Valerie Yancy

Program Coordinator, Student Central

Community Partners

Cassandra Codes-Johnson

Associate Deputy Director, Delaware Division of Public Health

Bernice Edwards

Executive Director, First State Community Action Agency

Cara Gomez

Asst. Professor, Dept. of Public and Allied Health Sciences, Delaware State University

Omar Khan

President and CEO, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

Megan Rothermal


Asst. Professor, Dept. of Public and Allied Health Sciences, Delaware State University

Karen Speakman

Executive Director, National Council on Agriculture Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL)

Brian Rahmer

Vice President, Health and Housing, Enterprise Community Partners



“UD’s Partnership for Healthy Communities is a truly amazing resource connecting students and faculty with the broader communities outside of the university. In a very short time, they were able to connect me and my students with more than a half-dozen organizations with whom we will partner for healthcare-related service learning opportunities working with Spanish speaking communities here in Delaware. These interactions will be invaluable to my students, and will ultimately help to create engaged healthcare professionals with the tools to address health inequities in their communities and beyond. ¡Mil gracias, PHC!”

Faculty Fellow



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE**

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Connect with PHC!

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