



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE**

**PARTNERSHIP FOR
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

2018 Annual Report

“Achieving greater equity in health outcomes will require collaboration and collective action across sectors and new forms of community engagement and partnership.”

– **NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE**

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Changing conditions where people live, learn, work, pray, and play – to give everyone the opportunity to be healthy

DEAR PARTNERS,

As we reflect on the inaugural year of the **Partnership for Health Communities (PHC)**, we are humbled and transformed by our experiences working with you to improve the health and well-being of Delaware residents. We've seen so many signs of engagement - including community partners inviting us to work alongside residents, students and faculty sharing their research and scholarship, youth advancing the concept of a teen warehouse in an urban environment, and children in Wilmington and Dover asking us to 'come and play.' These experiences and relationships cultivate our collective ability to heal, thrive and create the healthy communities that everyone deserves.

This annual report will give you insights into our work to date and also set the stage for our ongoing engagement. There is increasing recognition that the environments in which people live, work, learn, pray and play have a tremendous impact on their health. Re-shaping people's economic, physical, social and service environments can help ensure opportunities for optimal health and support healthy behaviors.

Promoting equity is a key strategy for the Partnership for Healthy Communities, and that effort is enhanced through the collective engagement and effort of multiple sectors, including those impacted firsthand by inequities. As we advance healthy equity on the ground, our scholarship investigates the policies and practices that create and continue these inequities as well as those that ameliorate them.

This fall, the Partnership for Healthy Communities will launch our Policy Academy for faculty, students, staff, state and local government leaders and representatives, advocates, community partners and residents. Our goal is to engage in policy discussions that lead to refinement, adoption and implementation. The Policy Academy has several aims: increase our collective understanding of key issues that impact the health of communities; give voice and clarity to why certain communities are most impacted by health inequities; facilitate authentic partnerships; and advance informed decision-making related to the complex nature of health inquiries and the policies that impact them. As we enter our second year, we are excited to collaborate on policy efforts.

Thank you for your partnership – we are honored to work with you and be a part of such meaningful engagement. In Health and Wellness,

RITA LANDGRAF

Director,
Partnership for Healthy Communities





“The Open Streets Initiative has been very successful in bringing together a number of entities to work on the same goals.”

– **CHANDRA JACKSON**, Community Engagement Specialist,
NCALL Research, Inc./Restoring Central Dover



WORKING IN AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIP

“Thank you for all your support and time dedicated to Play Streets. Truly appreciate our UD family!”

– **RYSHEEMA DIXON**, Wilmington Playstreets
Coordinator

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PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The University of Delaware has a long tradition of applying knowledge and creativity to the critical challenges facing communities – in Delaware and around the world. In 2015, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching designated UD as a *community engaged university*, acknowledging UD's deep commitment to addressing social issues and contributing to the public good. To sustain and strengthen UD's contributions, the **Community Engagement Initiative** was created, followed by a university-wide Civic Action Plan with strategic objectives and action steps. The **Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC)** is a critical component of that plan to expand UD's role in cultivating active citizens through real partnerships that impact civic needs.

SPOTLIGHT:

PHC conducted a campus-wide survey in Fall 2017 (n=392) that focused on assessing health-related community partnerships

FINDINGS:

There is much work to build upon: 73 respondents reported they were currently engaged in 91 health-related partnerships. Some partnerships were active for 25+ years.

- **Top Focus Areas of Partnerships:** Inequities, Health care Transformation, Population Health, Health Policy

There is momentum for future opportunities: Of those not currently engaged, 53 reported interest in pursuing health-related partnerships.

- **Top Interest Areas:** Children & Youth Development, Health Literacy/Coaching, Racism/Discrimination/Bias, Health care Transformation



Our Vision:

HEALTHY THRIVING COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

Health is affected by more than what happens in the doctor's office. Critical factors include the community where we live, work, attend school, play and pray. Residents in communities that lack the resources needed for good health often shoulder a disproportionate share of threats or risks to their health. On the other side, communities with affordable, high-quality housing, well-paying jobs, good schools and welcoming community spaces translate into positive health outcomes for their residents.

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the UD **Partnership for Healthy Communities** is to 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 ROLE:

PHC's role is to facilitate and enhance connections in both directions between UD and the community to advance "upstream" thinking for building healthy communities and addressing the social determinants of health. We prioritize partnerships working toward collective impact. We focus especially on building partnerships to support communities currently experiencing social inequities.

We seek to:

- Connect community-based organizations and state agencies with existing University resources and faculty to advance shared interests in health promotion.
- Build the University's capacity for translational research—including interdisciplinary and multi-sector research and evaluation—that focuses on the development of healthy communities and populations.
- Engage the University and broader community in health-related teaching and service that promote improved health outcomes at the population level and reduced health inequities.
- Inform state and national health policy discussions through research, program evaluation and dissemination that focus on social determinants of health and health system improvements.

2018 NEW AND EXPA

PHC is engaged in over **40** strategic initiatives to support local and national partnerships. This ranges from alignment and environmental factors that promote well-being.

Recreation & Opportunities to Socialize

Open Streets

Kent County ranks as the least healthy county in Delaware, with higher rates of obesity, less physical activity among residents, and fewer parks or safe paths. To overcome these challenges, the

Dover/Smyrna Healthy Neighborhoods, with implementation led by NCALL/Restoring Central Dover and funding from Delaware's State Innovation Model (SIM) federal grant, began conducting monthly "Open Streets" in spring 2018. Select streets close to vehicle traffic and are turned into temporary recreation spaces with activity hubs. Early data from a UD research team of faculty and students coordinated by PHC to provide evaluation support show the following:

- 71% of participants surveyed strongly or somewhat agree that they intend to be physically active in the next 7 days as a result of Open Streets.
- 55% of those surveyed say they learned about places to be physically active at an Open Streets event.
- 96% of respondents said that their participation in Open Streets will very much or somewhat increase their use of recreational facilities.

The UD team is also measuring perceptions related to neighborhood safety, community connectedness, and economic impact on businesses along the routes.

Healthy & Safe Physical Environments

Play Streets

In the summer of 2017, following outrage of numerous shootings including that of a 6-year-old boy who marked the ninth child to be struck by gunfire in the city that year, the Chronic Disease and Healthy Living Task Force

of the Wilmington/Claymont Healthy Neighborhoods recognized that creating safe and nurturing collective spaces is paramount to healthy living. As a result, the Wilmington Play Streets initiative was launched in Summer 2018, thanks to funding by Christiana Care Health System and leadership from Wilmington Parks and Recreation. Play Streets temporarily closes a neighborhood block to traffic and provides play equipment to create safe, fun, and healthy spaces for children, families and neighbors to connect. Play Streets was held each Monday through Thursday, rotating across eight neighborhoods for 26 total events, drawing 64 people on average. PHC coordinated an interdisciplinary team of UD students and faculty to collect data and gather information to tell the story of Play Streets, while working closely with UD Cooperative Extension who helped plan logistics and activity hubs with over 20 community partners.

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ENDED PARTNERSHIPS

ent via board and committee memberships to engagement in campus-community partnerships to impact social

Public
ation

Strengthening Partnerships in Health and Education : Delaware and the Nation

In October 2017, the University of Delaware launched the Partnership for Healthy Communities at the 10th Annual Vision Coalition Conference. Over 500 people attended the conference in Clayton Hall with a keynote provided by Joe Biden, 47th vice president of the United States, a UD alumnus and founding chair of UD's Biden Institute. An afternoon seminar and workshop allowed members of the education and health fields to share ideas and offer solutions to the critical challenges facing Delaware communities. The day concluded with a planning forum for the UD Partnership for Healthy Communities led by Tony Allen, provost and executive vice president for Delaware State University.

Healthcare
ices

Westside Health Summer Fellows

In summer 2018, PHC coordinated a College of Health Sciences donor-funded project at Westside Family Healthcare to support service learning for cross-college graduate and undergraduate students. The PHC Westside Health Fellows planned, coordinated and implemented the Westside Family Healthcare's third-annual community event at their Northeast Wilmington location. This event brought the highest participation since

the event's inception: 679 attendees; 444 health screenings; 42 vendors, 126 Food Bank food boxes and over 400 backpacks.

Civic Engagement

National Public Health Week 2018

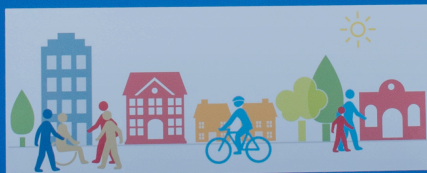
In spring 2018, PHC led local efforts with the Delaware Public Health Association and 12 campus and community partners to plan and coordinate National Public Health Week (NPHW). The week celebrated the power of prevention, advocated for healthy and fair policies, shared strategies for successful partnerships and championed a strong public health system. Students, faculty, staff, and community partners hosted 15 events and 25 hours of programming. Campus and community partners had similar levels of engagement and the campaign increased awareness of NPHW. Participants reported they were likely to use the information provided, with 100 percent of respondents asking for continued programming. This experience also increased community members' likelihood to engage with UD again in the future. PHC plans to sustain and expand NPHW programming within UD, across Delaware communities and in partnership with other colleges and universities, including members of the Mid-Atlantic Campus Compact Council, the largest organization committed to civic engagement of higher education.

TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES



Partnership for
Healthy Communities
A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Health happens where we live, go to
school, work, play, and pray.



“With PHC’s help, we gathered important information and planned community engaged storytelling so all partners could learn how coordinated efforts are affecting the lives of some of the state’s most at risk children”

- **GINA CRIST**, Cooperative Extension, UD **College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**



OUR GOALS

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND POLICY

PHC enhances research capacity and translation in areas of community health promotion, social determinants of health, health inequities and health policy. The Partnership initiates these briefs and develops specific ones in response to local requests. PHC briefs aim to: translate research into practice; provide resources and education for policymakers, practitioners, and others; provide a new approach and re-frame knowledge, creation and maintenance of healthy communities and the social determinants of health; highlight the work of the University of Delaware and community partners around evidence-based approaches to addressing health and the social determinants of health; and promote the Partnership for Healthy Communities agenda, aligning with our mission and focus. All briefs undergo peer review internally and with external subject matter experts. Three policy briefs, white papers, and other publications are in development.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PHC works to expand public health-related educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students through new and expanded instructional programs and enhanced experiential learning. A “Public Health in Practice” course was developed and offered spring semester 2018 with cross-college recruitment. A faculty workgroup has been established to develop interdisciplinary public health graduate offerings in the College of Health Sciences and College of Arts & Sciences. In the future, PHC plans to offer research grants, academic enrichment grants, faculty fellows, and undergrad and graduate student stipends.

ENHANCING OUR SERVICE CAPACITY

PHC aims to enhance the University’s capacity to partner with and support community-based organizations and state agencies that address health and well-being of residents living in the highest need communities in Delaware and beyond. This academic year, PHC has participated in over 40 strategic initiatives and helped support and foster new and expanded partnerships. With PHC’s support, the UD Center for Community Research and Service received a new state contract to lead the Delaware State Health Improvement Plan. Moving forward, we aim to have UD recognized as a model of excellence in community-engaged research and service around healthy communities.

PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Rita Landgraf

Director, Partnership for Healthy Communities;
Professor of Practice and Distinguished Health and Social
Services Administrator in Residence,
College of Health Sciences

Erin Knight

Assoc. Director, Partnership for Healthy Communities;
Assoc. Director, Center for Community Research & Service;
Asst. Professor, School of Public Policy & Administration,
College of Arts & Sciences

Noël Sincere Duckworth

Program Coordinator, Partnership for Healthy Communities

STUDENT SUPPORT

Kalyn McDonough

Graduate Research Asst.

Sarah Noonan Davis

Graduate Research Asst.

Hira Rashid

Summer Graduate Fellow

Alisia Drew

Summer Graduate Fellow

Sophia Choudhry

Summer Graduate Fellow

Penelope Velasco

Summer Undergraduate Fellow

Morgan Debnam

Undergraduate Fellow

STEERING COMMITTEE FY 2017-2018

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 seven colleges.

INTERNAL CO-CHAIRS

Kathleen S. Matt

Dean, College of Health Sciences

George Watson

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

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

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Professor, School of Nursing

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Engineering, College of Engineering

Sheryl Kline

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

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

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Director, Community Engagement Initiative, Professor, School of Public Policy & Administration

Michelle Rodgers

Assoc. Dean, UD Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Michael Vaughan

Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Engineering

Chrissy Visser

Director, UD Center for Drug and Health Studies

Valerie Yancy

Program Coordinator, Student Central

MEMBERSHIP - 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 Univ.

Omar Khan

President and CEO, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

Joe Myer

Exec. Dir., Nat'l Council on Ag Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL)

Brian Rahmer

Vice President of Health and Housing, Enterprise Community Partners



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