

Strategic Plan for the Partnership for Public Education Approved Spring 2021

The University of Delaware launched the Partnership for Public Education (the Partnership) in 2015 as part of the Community Engagement Initiative. Since then, the Partnership has been mobilizing UD expertise, evaluation, professional development, and advocacy resources in an effort to benefit Delaware's public education system and promote sustainable partnerships with Delaware's public education stakeholders. Guided by firm commitments to equity, respect, and mutually beneficial partnerships, the Partnership will continue under the Community Engagement Initiative to enhance the University's capacity to transform P-12 education policy and practice while also serving as a critical University infrastructure for linking research to our broader land grant and engagement missions.

Moving forward, the Partnership will amplify the power of its work by identifying, mobilizing, and optimizing UD research to directly address critical needs in Delaware's education system in ways that have measurable impacts on Delaware's P-12 policy and practice. Recognizing the underutilization of research in education across the nation, and the potential for UD research to address critical policy and practice needs within the state, the Partnership seeks to expand UD's leadership in research impact. Building on knowledge mobilization models such as the Friday Institute at North Carolina State University and the Equity Knowledge Network at the University of Ottawa, the Partnership will use its unique position within the university and state to mobilize UD research to meet the needs of Delaware's P-12 education system and beyond.

Our enhanced knowledge mobilization work is guided by three overarching goals:

1. *Increase the utilization and impact of UD research in policy and practice by P-12 stakeholders through the mobilization of knowledge around 1-2 collaboratively agreed upon focal problems that promote and advance equitable public education outcomes.*
2. *Improve and sustain trust, communication, and engagement between UD and Delaware's P-12 stakeholders.*
3. *Increase capacity for education-focused community-engaged scholarship among faculty, staff, and students.*

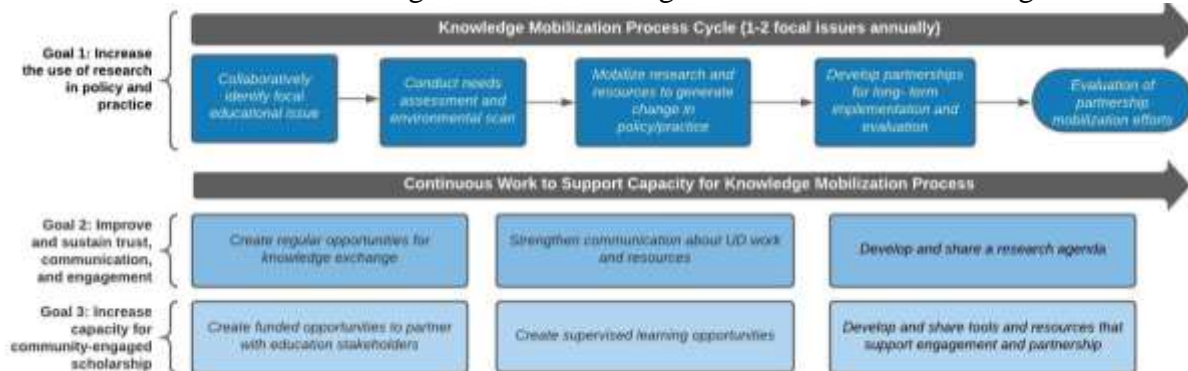
How will we achieve these goals?

In order to achieve these goals, the Partnership will engage in a strategic set of activities, which include:

- *Identifying policy- and practice- relevant research* from UD that, if implemented, can measurably impact systemic inequities in our educational system and improve outcomes for students, families, and communities;
- *Developing an advisory board* of members of the UD community and key P-12 stakeholders to collaboratively set the Partnership agenda through *matching UD research to critical educational issues Delaware*;
- *Conducting needs assessment and environmental scan* on focal issue(s) surfaced in agenda setting;
- *Implementing knowledge mobilization strategies* to generate change in policy or practice, including, coalition building, research communication, and advocacy;
- *Establishing partnerships for long term implementation and sustainability* of the focal issue policy or practice change;

- *Measuring the Partnership’s impact* on policy and practice changes that benefit students, families, and communities;
- Developing and *promoting a research agenda* that reflects the needs of the broader education community to ensure the research needs of our education system are being met.
- Creating *opportunities for knowledge exchange*, such as listening sessions, webinars, and other forums, between the University and the P-12 community that enhance the University’s presence as a partner committed to mutually beneficial and impactful work;
- *Strengthening communication* about UD’s work, resources, and opportunities;
- Creating *opportunities for faculty, professional staff, and students* to work in collaboration with P-12 stakeholders on focal issues through fellowships, independent studies, and internships;
- Developing *shareable resources that support equitable and sustainable engagement and partnership* among UD and public education stakeholders
- *Identify and secure external funding* to support both knowledge mobilization and long-term implementation and evaluation of changes to policy and practice.

This set of activities and their alignment to our core goals are visualized in the figure below.



PPE believes that the university's capacity for community-engaged scholarship and ability to sustain trust and engagement with Delaware's P-12 stakeholders (Goals 2 and 3) is essential to increasing the impact of UD research in education policy and practice across the state (Goal 1). Therefore, the steps taken to advance Goals 2 and 3 also achieve Goal 1 objectives. Conversely, strategies designed to mobilize UD research into policy and practice will also fulfill objectives set for goals 2 and 3. While PPE views these goals as distinct from one another, we do not believe that they exist independently.

What impact will this have?

The Partnership’s knowledge mobilization work seeks to have *measurable impact* on policy and practice in Delaware in ways that promote more equitable opportunities and outcomes for students, families, and communities. Examples of measurable impact include:

- increasing the number of schools and teachers using evidence-based, equity centered curricular materials;
- integrating culturally-responsive practices into college counseling to improve postsecondary aspirations, access and success of students of color;
- changes to state and local funding that target instructional support for students with special needs
- adjustments to district and school discipline policies that remedy implicit gender and racial biases and result in proportional representation in disciplinary actions.