Opening in 2012 – The Upper Darby Center at Barclay Square

When it opens in 2012, the Upper Darby Center, located in the Barclay Square Shopping Center at 1570 Garrett Road, will be the College’s seventh location serving residents of Delaware and Chester counties. The Center will provide easy access to quality, affordable education for residents of Upper Darby, Drexel Hill, Highland Park and neighboring communities. In its first year, the Center is expected to serve 600 students with the capacity to accommodate 1,500-1,800.

“Through the brainstorming session, the College solicited feedback from local academic, business, health care and community leaders regarding their interests and needs for specific course offerings, career certificate programs, and workforce training for this area of the county. Among their special interests were GED courses, computer training, allied health programs and courses leading to associate degrees. Also mentioned was continuing education for emergency responders. This focus will be on creating new pathways for non-credit certificates to articulate with associate degrees to prepare community members for higher-paying jobs.”

Delaware County Community College hosted a focus group in November to introduce its new teaching site in Upper Darby. More than 20 civic and community partners attended the event, which was held at the Perkins Restaurant & Bakery in Drexel Hill, PA. Among the participants were Upper Darby Mayor Thomas Micozzie, State Representative Margo Davidson, Councilman Thomas Wagner and College President Dr. Jerry Parker.

“The Upper Darby Center will provide students with access to the non-credit and credit courses and certificates that they need in order to advance in their careers or secure employment,” said Dr. Mary Jo Boyer, Vice Provost and Vice-President, Branch Campus Operations. She said that the focus will be on creating new pathways for non-credit certificates to articulate with associate degrees to prepare community members for higher-paying jobs.

Opening in 2012 – The Upper Darby Center at Barclay Square

Focus Group Offers Suggestions for New Upper Darby Center

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Focus Group Offers Suggestions for New Upper Darby Center

College Earns “Leader College” Status in Achieving the Dream Initiative

Delaware County Community College was recognized as a leader in the national student completion movement by Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit that helps 3.5 million community college students – particularly low-income or students of color – stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. The College was selected to participate in Achieving the Dream in 2006 by a national panel made up of community college experts. Now one of 23 institutions designated as a 2011 Leader College, the College was recognized for demonstrating sustained improvement and accomplishments on key student achievement indicators.

Leader Colleges have demonstrated commitment to and made progress on the four principles of Achieving the Dream: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement and systemic institutional improvement. Leader Colleges have also shown three years of sustained student success.

“We are excited to be recognized as a Leader College,” said Dr. Virginia Carter, Provost. “Since we began our relationship with the Achieving the Dream organization, student success became a college priority that involved everyone. Initiatives and processes to help each student move towards his/her educational goal are integrated into the fabric of the college – from fiscal planning to hiring and program development. The recognition is a tribute to the dedication of our faculty, staff and communities.”

Since participating in Achieving the Dream, the College has increased fall-to-spring retention from 68% in 2007 to 73% in 2011.

Every new Leader College has pioneered promising practices and policies to help more students succeed. At Delaware County Community College, these have involved a combination of interventions: English conferencing, Supplemental Instruction, Jump Start Math (see story on page 2), Academy for College Excellence, Reading/Counselor Pairings, New Student Orientation and Mentoring.
president’s letter

As we mark our 45th anniversary in 2012, it is appropriate to look back on our modest beginnings in 1967 with 307 students in evening classes at Ridley High School. Today, we enroll 28,000 students annually in credit and non-credit courses at six separate locations in two counties. In summer 2012, we will open a seventh location in Upper Darby, and more teaching sites are planned for the future.

Our early history records a lengthy, frequently controversial, approval process for the founding of Delaware County Community College. Today, we are welcomed with open arms in Delaware and Chester Counties. Local and national leaders have grown to appreciate the value of a community college in addressing the unique needs of the industries and individuals within its region. With more than half the undergraduate population in the 1,200 community colleges throughout the nation, the community college indeed has created an indelible niche in the higher education landscape.

The College’s new $60 million STEM Complex for the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics has placed us in the forefront of the region’s efforts to attract more individuals to 21st Century careers. Partnerships with major local industries provide opportunities for new programs and student employment. While our facilities and technological resources rival educational facilities anywhere, our cost is the most affordable on the market.

In addition to celebrating our anniversary in 2012, the College is celebrating the success of our students. Our commitment to the Achieving the Dream principles has promoted student progress, as never before. Achieving the Dream has not only brought about improvement in programs and services that ensure student success, but it has also influenced our strategic plan.

We face the future in an enviable position with surging enrollment, cutting-edge facilities and the knowledge that we are truly making a difference in the community and the lives of our students – fulfilling a promise made 45 years ago by our founding fathers.

Jerome S. Parker
President

Jump Start Math

A two-week refresher program, Jump Start Math serves as a review for placement in the College’s non-credit, developmental courses. The immersion class is designed to refresh arithmetic skills and introduce students to available support services.

“The program is designed for a variety of students,” said Professor Rebekah Albrecht. “Some are fresh out of high school, others are mothers, grandmothers or individuals returning to school after a decision to change careers.”

“Like so many programs, it is a way for us to meet the needs of the students,” said Albrecht. “We see where they are academically and try to help them connect.”

Students chosen for the 12-day program are those whose placement tests register them in MAT 040, but with scores on the higher end of the spectrum. The students, who agree to regular attendance and participation, sign a contract at the start of the program. They are guaranteed admission to Arcadia as long as they meet certain requirements. Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees included in the agreement are: Behavioral Science, Liberal Arts, Natural Science and Science for Health Professions. The core-to-core agreement also allows students to transfer general education credits earned at the college to Arcadia.

On November 22, officials from Delaware County Community College and Arcadia University signed a Dual Admission and Core-to-Core Transfer Agreement that offers students guaranteed admission to Arcadia as long as they meet certain requirements and graduate with a designated associate degree. Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees included in the agreement are: Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Computer Information Systems, Education, Human Service, Liberal Arts, Natural Science and Science for Health Professions. The core-to-core agreement also allows students to transfer general education credits earned at the college to Arcadia.

CONGRATULATIONS, MAYOR

John Linder, Professor Public Service and Social Sciences, and Chester City Councilman, defeated incumbent Wendell N. Butler, Jr. in the November mayoral race in Chester.

REMEMBERING HARRY LEEFEVER

Former students or colleagues of Harry Lefeever (DCCC Communications and Humanities Professor 1969 - 1992) may be interested in a newly published book of selected poetry. His wife Mary, with the support and encouragement of his colleagues, Al DiFusco (editor), Tom Micalizio, Jim Roman and deceased colleague, Desha Crawford (selection and editing), has published a hardback library edition of Call Me Shmuel. If interested in obtaining a copy, please contact the Alumni Office (alumni@dccc.edu).

New Transfer Agreement with Arcadia University

On November 22, officials from Delaware County Community College and Arcadia University signed a Dual Admission and Core-to-Core Transfer Agreement that offers students guaranteed admission to Arcadia University. The agreement between the two institutions includes a core-to-core agreement that allows students to transfer general education credits earned at the college to Arcadia.

WELCOME!

Michelle M. Tooker joined the Institutional Advancement Office as Associate Director of Public Relations and Publications. Her most recent experience was at Arcadia University. She holds a B.A. in Print and Video Communications and an M.A. in English.

Great College to Work For

Named one of the “Great Colleges to Work For” in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s annual survey for the second consecutive year, Delaware County Community College is also proud to be on the Honor Roll in 2011, with special recognition in seven categories, including professional and career development programs, diversity and work-life balance.
College Welcomes Students From 204 Nations

After educating local students for nearly 40 years, Delaware County Community College made the bold decision in 1996 to expand into neighboring Chester County. Compared to its international recruiting program, however, the move was a minor one.

The College is a member of a five-school consortium which encourages students throughout the world to spend their post-high school years in the United States. For the current school year, 204 individuals representing 51 countries are enjoying their college experience in the Philadelphia suburbs.

“The program provides an excellent way for students not only to study, but also to become immersed in the culture,” said Lydia J. Dell’Osa, Director, International Student Services. “It can be an added benefit for their resumes when they return to their home country.”

The service is very attractive to those from nations with a minimum number of schools and maximum number of students wishing to attend them. The College offers not only the chance to learn or improve English through the English as a Second Language (ESL) program but the opportunity to earn two-year transfer or career degrees or shorter-term certificates. Participating in campus events, clubs and sports’ teams also serves to enhance the exchange.

Unlike schools that provide accommodations in a freshman dorm, students arrive with an F-1 study visa but without lodging. Through its host family program, the College allows them to live locally and gain both an in-class and beyond-its-walls experience.

“Students are required to test into the ESL program to determine their proficiency, but living with a family really works to improve their English,” said Dell’Osa. “It helps them learn innuendos not taught in a textbook and to get a sense of the area.”

The initial group of six host families has grown to a larger number who ultimately receive far more than they give. While serving as tour guides and sounding boards for all things American, host families gain insight into the cultures, languages and learning styles of students from around the world.

Many international students transfer prior to completing their studies, but others take advantage of the transfer agreements with various colleges and universities. Andrew Lukwano earned three degrees at the College before completing his studies at Drexel University. A native of Tanzania, he is now working for Brandywine CAD Design in Wilmington.

Phoebe Loh, recruited during a college fair in Hong Kong, also has her sights set on Drexel. Currently enrolled in the College’s 2+2 program, she is on track to earn an associate degree in Applied Engineering Technology (ADT), followed by a bachelor’s degree from Drexel. After graduation, she is hoping to gain experience with an American company before possibly returning to Asia or opting to remain in the United States.

“I really like it here,” said Loh. “I am learning English and making so many American friends and friends from other countries.”

Leon Arnold – 45 years later, he’s still here.

While the progression has been less dramatic than the evolution from the abacus to the TI-83 Plus, Leon Arnold has experienced definite changes throughout his more than half century in education.

A professor of math, Arnold has taught a spectrum of courses to a spectrum of undergrads. His students have ranged from those for whom math often seems paralyzing to the logical, analytical left-brain-types who crave the challenge of linear algebra.

“When I started here 45 years ago, there were only three of us in the math department,” said Arnold. “Our desire to help students, however, is the same.”

Arnold has always been committed to the concept of community colleges. Commuting the first two years as the then-named East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, he transferred to Dickinson College to earn his bachelor’s degree. He subsequently completed a master’s degree at Villanova University.

After teaching for 12 years at the former York Junior College, he opted to leave his position in 1967 for a budding institution that planned to serve the residents of Delaware County. He and 23 fellow faculty members taught the first 307 night students in rented facilities at Ridley High School.

“I was advised, ‘Don’t buy a house – we may not be here next year,’” said Arnold. “We were really taking a chance.”

While he currently teaches Calculus 1, 2 and 3 and Differential Equations, he has also served as an instructor for MAT 040 (Basic Mathematics) and MAT 060 (Developmental Mathematics).

“One of the important things we do is fit the courses to the students, as opposed to fitting the students to the courses,” said Arnold. “We give people an opportunity.”

Arnold countered the obvious differences during his tenure, such as the College’s sheer size and his sleek new office in the $60 million STEM complex, with the more subtle transformations.

The expansion of the facility and correspondingly increase in the number of students and full-time and adjunct faculty is critical to the College’s viability, yet at times there is a longing for the atmosphere of the days of the school’s uncertain but determined future. “It’s just different – we are spread out in two counties and there are faculty members I don’t even know,” said Arnold. “The students are different, too. Back in the day, their attitude was ‘everyone helping one another to provide an opportunity,’ now they look upon it as an entitlement.”

Although the distance from Arnold’s office to his classroom has necessitated the use of a pack with wheels, rather than one that fits on his back, it is his only concession. The affinity for his students and his courses is a rapport that will not change. “I have no plans to retire,” said Arnold. “I continue to be drawn to the students.”

Festival Celebrates Diversity

The Campus Life Office and International Student Services held the 17th Annual Multicultural Festival in November. This event celebrates the cultural diversity of the College with booths representing a country or ethnic heritage, and cultural foods and entertainment. Ethnic food dishes are provided by the College’s Campus Dining Service; however, students enjoy their college experience in the Philadelphia suburbs.

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Delaware County Community College Receives $1.1 Million Federal Grant for Training and Skills Building

Delaware County Community College will share in a three-year, $20 million grant that was recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to the 14 community colleges in Pennsylvania. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grant will be used to strengthen the College’s services and career programs to assist individuals who have lost their jobs or are in danger of losing their jobs because of inadequate skills. The idea is to quickly create skilled workers to meet regional labor demands. The grant also involves industry partners representing the training that will be developed at each of the colleges.

Focusing on high-demand fields in advanced manufacturing, health care and energy, the grant will support curriculum development, alignment of course work with the other Pennsylvania community colleges, equipment acquisition, student assessment, and career coaches. The U.S. Department of Labor, which received more than 200 applications, reports that Pennsylvania’s $20 million grant is among the largest TAACCCT grants awarded in the nation.

Delaware County Community College will receive approximately $1.1 million of the funding. College President Dr. Jerry Parker said, “The grant will help augment the College's capacity to deliver support services, career coaches and accelerated education and training to individuals seeking high-wage, high-skill occupations.” Parker said that approximately 100 people are expected to benefit over three years from the College’s grant. Interested persons should contact the Admissions Office.

Community College of Philadelphia leads the community college consortium. The TAACCCT grant was funded by an appropriation of $2 billion for fiscal years 2011-2014 ($500 million annually) as a part of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. In this first round of funding, grants ranging from $24.5 million to $2.5 million were awarded to 49 community colleges across the country, many of which are sharing the funding across consortia.

Phoenixville Foundation Supports Its Residents

The mission of the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation does more than provide health care services for its residents. It also helps to provide an education to aspiring health care workers as well as public safety workers. Since 2003, the Foundation has supported 308 Delaware County Community College students with $195,000 in scholarships. Because Chester County residents do not reside in a sponsoring school district, the Foundation offers assistance by providing one-half of the tuition costs for its students. Among the majors in which the Phoenixville students are enrolled are nursing, nursing assistant, medical coding and billing, perioperative nursing, surgical technology, radiation therapy, respiratory therapy, fire science technology and more. For the current year, the Foundation awarded the College $20,000, which is supporting 19 students.

Keeping Dreams Alive

Dreamkeepers provides emergency financial assistance to community college students who would otherwise be forced to drop out of school because of a financial crisis. The national program was established at the College in 2010 with a grant of $75,000 from Scholarship America. The College is required to match these funds over a three-year period.

Dreamkeepers helps students in the following ways:

- Empowers students to overcome financial emergencies
- Connects students to support systems
- Provides an online financial literacy tool

In 2010, the Foundation raised $28,421, exceeding the $25,000 matching gift requirement. Because of the diversity of funding sources (alumni, students, friends, corporations, foundations, employees) that contributed toward our goal, the College received special recognition.

Out of the 45 students who received assistance from fall 2010 to spring 2011, only four students withdrew. The College’s experience with the Dreamkeepers program reinforces its claim that emergency assistance is indeed effective in keeping students in school.

In 2012, we must again match the $25,000 grant. For questions, or to make a gift, contact the Foundation office at 610-359-5131.
The 2011 Delaware County Community College Educational Foundation Annual Dinner was held in November at the Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center. As in the past, the event brought scholarship recipients together with scholarship donors to acknowledge the generosity of the donors and the accomplishments of the students. Over 200 students received scholarships in 2011 from 107 separate scholarship funds.

The keynote speaker at this year’s dinner was Kristen Hagopian, author of Brilliant Frugal Living, personal finance columnist, motivational speaker and talk show host on WFYL 1180 AM. Hagopian, a community college advocate, touted the cost-saving benefits of a community college education. She also offered advice on managing debt and building wealth.

The Jim McCann Family congratulates Kathryn Honea (far right with her father on receiving the Meghan E. Smith Scholarship. Meghan Smith is pictured on the left (foreground).

Trustee Robert McCauley extends congratulations to winners of the Wong Moss Scholarship (left to right: Jacqueline Tally, Laura Welsh and Elisa Freud.

The Act 101 Scholarship was presented to Jessica DelRosario by Kay Ricker.

Foundation board member, Bob Cassidy, right, presents Annie Balmeesto and Best Courter with Sovereign Bank STEM Scholars Awards.

Karen Bogosian, Foundation board member (third from right) congratulates the winners of the Independence Foundation Endowed Nursing Scholarships.

The Act 101 Scholarship was presented to Jessica DelRosario by Kay Ricker.

Foundation board member, Bob Cassidy, right, presents Annie Balmeesto and Best Courter with Sovereign Bank STEM Scholars Awards.

Karen Bogosian, Foundation board member (third from right) congratulates the winners of the Independence Foundation Endowed Nursing Scholarships.
Matt Sondermann may not have had the opportunity to take advantage of the newly opened Veterans Service Center at Delaware County Community College, but those who did can understand his affinity for it.

A member of the United States Marine Corps, Sondermann spent two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan before being injured in June 2008. The ability to attend community colleges and earn a degree while recovering exemplifies the numerous types of support provided for those who have served their country. “The College provided a great atmosphere and was there for me if something went wrong,” said Sondermann.

After graduating from Upper Darby High School in 2002, Sondermann opted to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. During his final stint, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he and three other Marines riding in a Humvee were severely injured in an IED explosion. The blast caused multiple compound fractures of his leg and forearm, lacerations on his face and eye and third degree burns on his legs. Sondermann subsequently received the Purple Heart, a decoration awarded for those wounded or killed in action.

While recuperating, he enrolled at St. Philip’s Community College in San Antonio. Initially participating in a wheelchair, then with a halo traction device on his right leg, he also trained and participated in several 5K races, including one with Team Semper Fi to benefit the Chance Phelps Foundation, which offers personal and financial assistance to veterans and their families.

Sondermann returned to Pennsylvania at the completion of his 18-month hospital stay, enrolling in the College in January 2010. Like many students, he was drawn to the small class size, interactive nature and opportunity to communicate with instructors. “In many ways I was still getting used to being back in public and the atmosphere was really helpful,” said Sondermann.

Sondermann continues to suffer effects from the attack, such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and short-term memory issues, and credited the College with adapting to his needs. His peers and professors accommodated him, whether it was a doctor’s appointment, chronic pain or “just a bad day.”

“The professors were always very concerned and compassionate and willing to work with me,” said Sondermann. “I was so grateful for their support.”

With his Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts in hand, which provides the core component of most bachelor’s degree programs, Sondermann transferred this fall to Drexel University,
Everyone’s a Winner

Current and past members of the Phantoms Men’s Baseball team met in September at Frawley Stadium in Wilmington, Delaware for the first official “Alumni Game” in conjunction with the College’s athletics department. In all, 23 members played a friendly seven-inning game on the home field of the Wilmington Blue Rocks minor-league team. It was a follow-up to the May reunion celebrating Coach Paul Motta’s 40 years as head of the Men’s Baseball program. “It was a chance for the alumni to play for coach once again because he was a great mentor to us all,” said Jason Harvey ’05. The two competing teams were made up of a combination of students and alumni. There were no losers in this game.

New Harris Directory Planned for 2012

The Alumni Association has entered into partnership with Harris Connect to create an updated alumni directory.

Speed Networking for Business Savvy Students

The Alumni Association co-hosted a speed networking session for members of the Student Business Society on Friday, November 18, 2011. Steffi Reinstein, the SBS President and Professor Susan Stranix arranged for alumni to meet with students interested in finance, accounting, entrepreneurship and other related business topics while learning how to network professionally.

ALUMNI, if you recognize yourself in one of these old photos, you may be eligible for a prize. Please contact the Alumni Office at 610-359-7399 or e-mail Doug Ferguson, Director of Alumni Programs, at dferguson@dccc.edu to claim your prize.

Food Drive a Success

Volunteers for the College’s Food Drive reveal in the bounty collected by various student organizations, including Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, Business Society and Campus Bible Fellowship. Participating in the collection are (left to right) Nichole Philipp, Kendrick Mickens, Kathleen Brockin, Rebecca Mitchell Jackson, John Griffin of Wells Fargo Bank, Lynda Lichti, and Doug Ferguson. The Food Drive is part of the City Team Ministries campaign to provide food during the holiday season for low-income or homeless men, women and children.

Find yourself here.
Alumni Awards
Nominations Welcome Now

Plan to celebrate Delaware County Community College’s 45th anniversary with alumni, friends, staff and faculty. As part of our tradition, the College will welcome five new members to its Galaxy of Star Alumni. The Star Awards will be presented in conjunction with the anniversary celebration at Harrah’s Race Track and Casino on September 28, 2012. Please submit your nomination for yourself or for an alumna or alumnus. Star Alumni nominees should have achieved prominence in any field—career, sports, public service, etc.

Nominations are also being accepted for the Wong Moss Outstanding Alumni Award, which emphasizes community service along with professional achievement. This award also will be presented at the anniversary celebration.

In addition, nominations for the Alumni Professional Achievement Award may be submitted at this time. This award focuses exclusively on professional achievement and will be presented at Commencement in May 2012.

For nomination forms, previous winners and award criteria, please visit the Alumni and Friends pages on the College website at www.dccc.edu.

The deadline for all nominations is February 28, 2012.