LISLE, IL (August 8, 2013) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that Delaware State University (DSU) Arboretum has been awarded a Level II Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, DSU Arboretum is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in The Morton Register of Arboreta.

“It’s an honor for the Delaware State University Arboretum to have been awarded accreditation on the Morton Register of Arboreta. This accreditation will help raise awareness and appreciation of the great value and many uses of the campus trees and shrubs.”
Susan Yost, Ph.D.
Educator, Claude E. Phillips Herbarium
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Delaware State University
1200 North Dupont Highway
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DSU’s Arboretum is on the 400-acre main campus in Dover, the state capital of Delaware. The Arboretum is comprised of hundreds of planted trees across the campus, totaling 172 different species of trees and shrubs. Each species is labeled and a map of these plants, with lists of scientific and common names with map coordinates, is on the DSU Arboretum brochure. The trees are documented with species descriptions, GPS locations, pressed plant voucher specimens, photographs and scanned herbarium specimen images.

The DSU Arboretum’s tree and shrub collection is diverse, making it a valuable teaching, research and ecological resource as well as beautifying the campus year-round. The 68 native species represent 40 percent of the total species. The collection includes a state record shingle oak, the second largest in Delaware, and a large black walnut, which is on the waiting list for state record tree. Recent plantings include Delaware natives, such as a beach plum, American chestnut and chinquapin, as well as intriguing non-native species, such as a monkey puzzle tree, franklinia and umbrella-pine.

The Arboretum is used for teaching about trees and conservation to students as well as members of the public. Outreach programs include Master Gardener training, teacher in-service classes, elementary school programming and monthly nature walks.
Delaware State University, a historically black university, was founded in 1891, and some of the campus trees are at least that old. The DSU Arboretum was formally designated in 2012, following recent plantings that resulted in a 26 percent increase in the number of tree species. In 2011, DSU became the first Tree Campus USA in Delaware. The work of the Arboretum is supported through the DSU Claude E. Phillips Herbarium in the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences.

**About the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program**
The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This international initiative offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum’s level of achievement of accreditation standards. Standards include planning, governance, labeling of species, staff or volunteer support, public access and programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at [www.arbnet.org](http://www.arbnet.org).

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