I cannot be more pleased with the response from our alumni, community leaders, and corporate friends. We are living in a moment so many of us have never experienced -- a health pandemic not seen in a century and a rallying cry for justice that rings loudly in every community in the country. Meeting this goal is just one indication that inertia is not an option.

Tony Allen, Ph.D.
President, Delaware State University
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU, OUR DONORS!

We are deeply grateful to the alumni, campus, and community partners and all donors for their strong financial support of the Delaware State University COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. Your overall concern and commitment to the students’ well-being and success is the reason our goal of $1 million was achieved in just two months.

The purpose of the Student Emergency Relief Fund is to provide immediate relief to students severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students, who come from Delaware’s most disadvantaged communities and similar environments throughout the United States, possess few options and resources to deal with a crisis of this magnitude. The stories of students’ challenges during this time are heartbreaking and underscore the importance of the support from compassionate donors like you.

Although we have made a tremendous difference together, the need remains greater than our current resources. We encourage your continued support to ensure the physical, emotional, and educational well-being of Delaware State University students.

In closing, thank you, again, from Delaware State University and the 1150+ students who received relief funding. Of that group, 40 are highlighted in this publication. These are some of the faces of your philanthropy and generosity. Your kindness is appreciated beyond words.

Thank you to the Development Committee whose work continues in support of Delaware State University.

To learn more about this important work and how you can continue to provide support, please visit: desu.edu/studentrelief

STUDENT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE

Joel Coppage
Margaret Rose Henry
Tom Horne
Antoine Oakley
Vita Pickrum*
LaShawne Pryor

Chip Rossi
Kathy Shelton
Gary Stockbridge
David Sysko
Enid Wallace-Simms
Bernadette Dorsey Whatley**

*President’s Transition Team Chair
**President’s Transition Team Co-Chair
**RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Launched COVID Student Emergency Relief Fund on April 10
- Housed 200 students on campus
- Weekly food drives — supported 400+ students
- Converted to a completely digital curriculum putting 1,447 courses online
- Reduced our student and employee campus footprint by 95%
- Provided over 120 tablets or laptops to students to work remotely
- First-ever virtual Commencement

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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<th><strong>1,560+ APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT</strong></th>
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**CLEARED ACCOUNT BALANCES FOR 96 GRADUATING SENIORS AND DREAMERS**

**SUPPORTING A REDUCED RESIDENTIAL POPULATION**

- Food Insecurities
- Housing
- Medical Care
- Mental Health Counseling
- Scholarship
- Technology Support

**MAJOR DONORS**

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At Bank of America, we believe access to quality education is essential to building strong, thriving communities. Delaware State University’s Student Emergency Relief Fund has made it possible for students from diverse backgrounds in Delaware, from across the nation and around the world to continue to learn and grow in the face of unprecedented challenges. We appreciate the opportunity to support DSU in this important effort.

FMC is proud to partner with Delaware State University, engaging through its programs, courses and opportunities for employment. We believe that the University’s students and employees play a valuable and distinct role in Delaware. FMC’s donation to the Student Emergency Relief Fund is to help assure that the Delaware State University community can continue to both succeed and flourish in these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an essential business for more than 100 years, Delmarva Power plays a vital role in the region’s economic recovery by not only providing energy to help power our communities but also investing in education programs, like Delaware State University’s COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund. We are focused on growing our diverse and talented workforce by providing educational opportunities and making strategic investments to ensure a sustainable pipeline of employees for our future.
In April of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 health crisis sweeping across the nation, Delaware State University established a Student Emergency Relief Fund to provide emergency resources to our students – many of whom come from the most disadvantaged communities in Delaware and across the country. The fund has allowed the University to address the student needs that are immediate and most pressing such as food insecurities, technology access, housing, and clothing needs. As stated by our President, Tony Allen, “Our work will ensure that we are ready for whatever comes our way, but our faith will get us through.”

**STUDENT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

**TESTIMONIALS**

**Lawrence Awosogba**
I and my family would like to take this time out and express our gratitude to Delaware State University for simply being there for us during this time. The University has not only shown that its students matter, but it has also shown that their families matter as well. As a graduating senior with things being difficult during this time and still managing to try and graduate on time, the University has shown great effort in trying to make its students succeed on and off the campus. I greatly thank the faculty and the leaders of the University for continuing to strive to show its students that We all Matter and we will get through this time. Once again, thank you.

**Savannah Ay**
Thank you so much!! I have been struggling financially to make rent, as well as to purchase groceries. I was ecstatic when I saw an email saying “congratulations, you’ve received the SERF!!” I cannot thank Delaware State University enough for helping me out through this difficult time!
TESTIMONIALS

VANESSA BARRON
I am writing to express my profound gratitude to DSU for the Emergency Relief Fund, although I know that just saying “thank you” is not enough to express my appreciation to DSU.

BLAYNE BELL
Thank you so much for having this fund available. As a recent undergrad graduate and now a grad student, this fund allowed to me to stay current on bills until work picked back up. I want to say thank you to the grant along with all the generous donors who have made this possible to the students at DSU.

CASSANDRA BOLTMAN
I would like to thank anyone who made this possible. It’s a blessing to be so far from home and be proud to be in a school that does the absolute most for their students. On behalf of my family and myself, we would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you.

ALEXIS BRIDGETT
I just wanted to extend my appreciation of what you guys have put together for students going through a rough time right now. It has been extremely hard adjusting to our new life at home and not being able to work. This Relief Fund will help thousands of students, and I am thankful that it was put together. This Relief Fund makes me want to continue pushing and being my absolute best despite what’s happening now. Thank you to everyone who was involved putting the fund together.
**TESTIMONIALS**

**TYSHEA BROWN**

Thank you so much for letting me be a recipient of the Student Emergency Relief Fund (SERF). This really helped me out a lot with getting food and transportation. I was really grateful to receive these funds.

**SHATIA BRUNSON**

Thank you for your consideration of me during these trying times. Words cannot describe how much I truly appreciate my award. I always like to be able to help others, and without my job, I was not able to do that financially. However, I am so grateful to you for my award because now I can take some of the financial burdens off of my Aunt. Thanks to you, she does not have to worry about me as much, and I will no longer feel like a burden to her. Thank you, I appreciate it, and I hope this blessing is reciprocated back to you!

**TAYLOR BUTCHER**

I would like to say thank you to all the donors and contributors who allowed me to receive the funds which were needed for me as a graduating senior who was unfortunately unable to work due to COVID-19. They were very helpful to my family and I and were greatly appreciated. Again, thank you so much!

**GRISELDA CEDENO**

Thank you to DSU and its donors for this grant. I can’t wait to tell my mom; I just know it’s going to be a huge help with all the bills we have. I hope you all have stayed safe, and God bless you all. My heart is truly filled with gratitude, and I know somehow God will give back for this kind action. I am proud to be a Hornet!
Braxton Clark
Thank you so much Delaware State! Thank you for looking out for me in this time of need. You lifted a weight off my family’s shoulders!

Celine Coverdale
Thank you again for the support; I really appreciate all that you and the University are doing during this difficult time.

Angal De La Rosa
Thank you for the support that you all have provided to me during this hard time. I cannot express how thankful I am that Del State was able to make this happen. I literally have no words except thank you for the gratitude that has been shown today. This has been a great 4 years, and thanks to DSU. Thank you to the donors that made this possible as well.

Da’Vonne Duncan
I would like to thank Delaware State University for not only making the Student Emergency Relief Fund available, but for selecting me to be a recipient. I never could have imagined that the coronavirus would personally impact me. Being a certified nurse assistant at a nursing home has been very problematic. I was constantly surrounded by the elderly population, who are highly susceptible to COVID-19. Unfortunately, I did test positive for the virus and I have not been able to work for weeks. I was stressed about providing food for my father and I. The Student Emergency Relief Fund has undoubtedly relieved my worries and provided me security during these trying times. I am proud to attend an HBCU that puts the needs of its students first and continues to have faith during this pandemic.
TESTIMONIALS

SOPHIA ELLIOTT
Thank you so much for considering me for this fund. It will allow me to attend summer school and purchase supplies needed to be successful in my future schooling. Thank you again.

SHAVONNE FAIR
Thank you for the opportunity to receive funding from your community initiative. With the funds received, I was able to provide food and gas for myself throughout the time spent quarantined. It has allowed for me to travel to New York to bury my father. I am grateful for the funding available to provide relief for us in this time. Thank you again.

CURTIS E. FLIPPEN
First and foremost, I just want to say thank you so much to Delaware State University for choosing me as a recipient of the Student Emergency Relief Fund and for everything they have done for the DSU community during this insane time in the battle against the coronavirus. I plan to use this Relief Fund to benefit myself to improve my access to technology for my education.

To the whole Delaware State community, we will get through this together and come back from this situation stronger than ever. Whether it is small or big, always look for a way to make an impact in the battle against the coronavirus. Protect yourself and spend a lot of time with your family. No matter what, just know this major setback will NOT stop the Hornet comeback. Thank you so much for this opportunity, and much blessings.
RANITA GANGULY

As a recipient of the COVID Student Emergency Relief Fund, I wanted to thank you for helping make my college education a reality. Your generous donation will help me to accomplish my aspirations of obtaining a degree at Delaware State University. These funds have given me the ability to focus on my coursework for this school year with less anxiety at finances. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I am pursuing the doctoral program in Educational Leadership to provide people with good quality education. At a young age, I always wanted to study on how to use better technology into education. After some research, I understood that Delaware State University would be the best choice for me to receive a highly recognized doctoral education. Additionally, I knew this was the place for me. I am currently involved in the Graduate Student Association as well.

Once again, I want to thank you for your emergency relief. I understand that without people who are generous and caring, like you, a college education would not be possible for students like me. Knowing that someone else cares about my education motivates me to strive extra hard for excellence. I have been truly touched by your generosity and hope to give back just one day as you have. Again, I would like to say thank you.

JESSICA GARCIA RICO

I’m Jessica Garcia Rico, a graduating Nursing student at Delaware State University. I just want to say thank you for your most recent grant of $500 to all graduating seniors. This pleasant surprise has made my family and I so grateful to be able to receive such continuous support from my University. Your help throughout this difficult time does not go unnoticed. Thank you.

LANAHJA GORDON

Thank you so much for this financial help. This fund was helpful and came when I really needed it. I am grateful to all of the donors, faculty and staff at DSU. Thank you again!
TESTIMONIALS

LAUREN GRAVATT
Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity. This will help and go such a long way for myself as well as my family during these very difficult times we are living in. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the kindness and gratefulness I have because of the generosity through DSU and its donors. Thank you so much.

NICHOLE HENRY
Thank you to Delaware State University and all the private lenders who made this possible. My situation is not nearly as bad as others, but I am very appreciative of this money. Now I can help out my sister with groceries and bills that have increased up to 90% due to my other sister, my mother, and I getting stuck in her house due to the quarantine lockdown. It’s safe to say she is struggling with the extra load, but now at least for a bit I can help out. Thank you again!

NISLA JOHNSON
Delaware State University’s Student Emergency Relief Fund helped me to bring down my college balance and attend college for the Fall 2020 semester. Your help was greatly appreciated, and I thank you for taking the time to review my request and allowing me to be a recipient.

JEVANA LAMBERT
I just want to thank you for thinking about your fellow Hornets during this time of need. You didn’t have to do anything, but you did. I am and will be forever grateful for everything DSU has done for me. My family also thanks DSU for taking care of me for the past four years and allowing me to get such a rewarding education. It has been a wonderful opportunity to be able to go to an HBCU, represent DSU as a student, and graduate from such a close-knit family. President Tony Allen has done an amazing job adjusting to this change! Thank you for everything!
Kiya Long
Thank you for helping me and my son get through these uncertain times. This money will help me get caught up on rental payments. The food will give us a sense of security. Again, I would like to thank you! I now will not have to worry about paying my last month’s rent.

Kendra Marshall
I humbly accept this grant. I would like to thank the gracious donors for making this grant possible. During this pandemic, many lives have been affected, including mine. With this grant so many more things can be done than would have been done before, such as getting essential items. Thanks again for this blessing.

Zayidah Mayse
I want to thank the Division of Institutional Advancement for this kind grant to be utilized during the pandemic. As a student who is currently out of work, it’s difficult trying to make ends meet. This fund could not have come at a better time and will be used toward paying rent for the month of May. With the donation of goods from the DSU Food Pantry, I can use all of the grant on rent and not have to worry about food. In these hard and trying times, it’s amazing to know that students like myself are cared for and being looked after by our institute of higher education. It’s amazing that DSU really does treat students as family; I am forever grateful. I look forward to being able to come back to campus and resume all normal activities. Until then, thank you Delaware State University Division of Institutional Advancement.

Yolanda Mavhura
I want to thank everyone who has made it possible for me to be able to be eligible to receive this fund. It means a lot; I am grateful for people like you. May God bless you and keep your heart big and open and humble. My heart is full right now because of you all. Thank you!
ALEXIS MCCOY
I appreciate the help during these difficult times. It’s comforting to know that DSU and our donors care so deeply about the students. I am proud to be a Hornet!

TAMEEA MCKISSET
Thank you for this request. These funds will allow me to make sure that my family and I are secure and prepared for, however long this pandemic will be. These funds will keep enough food in the house as well as get the necessities necessary such as cleaning products and hygiene products. Lastly, because our things are currently still on campus, I don’t have enough clothing at home. I thought that after Spring Break we would be back on campus, but because of this pandemic we were unable to which has left me home without clothing, my computer, television, and other personal items. It has been hard these past weeks as I wish and pray for everyone's safety. Thank you for allowing me to be considered for these funds and for your generosity.

ANICE MEDINA
First off, I would like to say thank you to everyone who's involved. During this pandemic, my family and I are having a difficult time with food. My mother is a single parent of six and has been laid off due to COVID-19. Our money is very tight and will not be able to last much longer. The assistance from this fund will be greatly appreciated and put to good use with providing my family and I with adequate meals throughout this tough time.

ZYKEYA MILLER
To those awarding this relief, I wanna say thank you for doing what many other schools have not, which is take students and student problems into consideration during these hard times. Being as though I am still unable to get the rest of my own belongings from campus and am unemployed, I plan to graciously use this Relief Fund to supply myself with the everyday necessities I left at school and have to replace here at home. Thank you for helping me do that.
FEI RAO
I so much appreciate the help provided to me. It really helps me out in this special situation. I feel cared for and supported by the DSU community all the time. So again, thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

TAHLIAH SKINNER-LING
Words cannot express how grateful I am for this funding. As soon as the nation shut down, my medical bills started rolling in. I lost two of my jobs, and my paid internship was postponed. I had no income. Perfect timing, right? I was beginning to get discouraged because of all the other obligations I have. With being a first semester senior, I have to start my journey for graduate school. That begins with the GRE! I had planned on using my income to pay for that, but it was suddenly snatched away. However, with this reward, I will be able to pay the $205 to take the exam! I will then use the remainder to pay for some of my medical bills.

Again, thank you so much for this reward! You have no idea how much of a burden has been lifted off of my shoulders as a college student. This not only positively affects me, it relaxes my parents as well. I never wanted them to be solely responsible for my medical bills. This allows me to lift some of that weight off them as well. A huge sigh of relief has been breathed since receiving the confirmation email!

Thank you for what you are doing for the students of Delaware State University! It is greatly appreciated! May God continue to bless you for being a blessing unto others! Again, thank you! Stay safe!
ESSENCE SOMMERS

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your generous financial support towards helping those in need. I was beyond thankful and thrilled to hear that this fund has been created. This is a hard time for all of us in the world and it's great to know that people are helping towards creating a collection of resources for us students.

I am a graduating senior at Delaware State University and I never in a million years would have thought my last semester would take this route. Being back home and finishing school has been different and hard to settle into. I left school during spring break and expected to come back, but sadly the outbreak spread fast while I was home and I had to stay in New York. Unfortunately, I had to quit my job in Delaware and I left the majority of my belongings at school. My parents had to apply for unemployment and have multiple bills to pay and losing my job took a toll on me. Having the chance to receive this fund will help me pay for my bills and help me finish the payments for the books I had to buy to help me finish off the rest of my semester.

By awarding me with this fund it will help me to be able to concentrate on the rest of the semester and finish strong. Your generosity is strongly appreciated.

Thank you again for your thoughtful act in this fund.

CHANDRA THAPA

I would really like to thank you for awarding me this award. I appreciate your help in this situation of COVID-19. I will always remember DSU throughout my whole life.

DEMETRIUS L. THOMAS

Thank you DSU, thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It is one step closer of reassurance for me that through this anything is possible and that I am not alone.
TESTIMONIALS

TAJAN’E THOMPSON
Thank you so much for blessing me with this emergency relief award. I know that this has been a crazy start of the New Year/ semester, but I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart because you didn’t have to do it and for that, I am truly blessed.

MI WANG
It’s beyond words to say how much I appreciate the fund. I have never been more proud of being a member of DSU. This virus has changed our life entirely and I know many people are suffering, but I know we are not giving up and we will fight against it and we will win. Thank you so much to stand at our back to support.

PRENTICE WILLIAMS
Thank you for including me as a recipient of Delaware State University’s Student Emergency Relief Fund. My father is the primary income earner in my household and he has not been able to work due to his occupation as a barber during the COVID-19 pandemic. The money provided will help us to pay bills and buy groceries for the family. I am sure many other students and their families are facing similar situations and this fund will be able to help my family, so I’m sure it will be able to help others.

“…My students are going through so much: parents laid off, so the student is the bread-winner; sick grandparents; 5 family members sharing one antiquated desktop. My heart is breaking. I know I can’t save them all, but I want to. Our campus is more than just a place to take classes - for many, it’s their lifeline.”

Charlisa Holloway Edelin, JD, Chair
Department of Mass Communications, Visual and Performing Arts
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

It All MATTERS.
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