1. Dr. Allen, you’ve said that Athletics serves as DSU’s front door. If sports is our front porch, then the band is the bench we invite people to sit on. Right now the band lacks a proper staff to ensure growth. What is your vision for the future of the band?

Over the past year, we have been having conversations about the Band. As you may know, the Band reports up to the Department of Mass Communications, Visual & Performing Arts. Our new Chair Dr. Charlise Edelin is working through several options for the Band’s long-term growth and investment. We are not ready to announce any plans, but Dr. Edelin and the Dean of the College, Dr. Francine Edwards, have been asked to take a thoughtful and thorough approach as we go through this process.

2. What is the most important thing that individuals can do to ensure DSU’s future success under your leadership? What has to be done differently through the Alumni Association?

As you know, we have an incredible story, but not enough loud storytellers. Our University should not be the best-kept secret in Delaware or in the University landscape.

We need our Alumni to be our biggest cheerleaders. For us, that means three things:

(1) The wider you help us spread our social media reach, the stronger we become, so like our pages, retweet our tweets, spread every piece of news over your LinkedIn and Facebook networks, Reddit, Instagram, etc . . .

(2) Tell your employer, and your business colleagues where you work, play or pray, about the high quality of Delaware State University students, and how they make great intern or prospective employees.

(3) Get involved on campus right now—even from a distance! Contact your old program—and ask what you can do to help. You’ll be amazed at the response.

In return, what we owe you is ongoing reasons to be proud, delivering on our promises and making sure that there is more vibrant, two-way conversation with you and the leadership at the University. Thanks to folks like Reggie and Cliff, we are moving in that direction.
3. Hello, how can we improve on the selection process for the DSU Hall of Fame? It has become politicized.

The critical point to be made is that Hall of Fame selections are Alumni-driven and we support that. The University recommends Alum for consideration and will continue, but we firmly believe that if there are changes to be made to the process, the Alumni need to lead the way. Our only expectation is that whatever is done is always done with “integrity” and “transparency.”

What we are excited about is a Hall of Fame that is beyond sports at the University. More to come on that score in the coming year.

4. When will athletes become a priority? The attraction to the school one sport at a time brings focus to the school as well.

Two weeks ago, Delaware State University signed two of the State’s top football prospects.

Delaware State University takes great pride in our student-athletes, and we have been pursuing a strategy to increase the support that the institution can provide them. Historically, these students have a higher overall GPA, a higher graduation rate, and consistently score at or near the top of all Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) schools, HBCUs, and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) across the nation. Just this past Fall, more than half earned academic honors and 32 earned a 4.0.

We’re proud of our students and this tradition of excellence. Don’t let anybody tell you that Athletics is not a priority here. Our long-term plan is to ensure that we can bring the best and the brightest, including those very talented students in Delaware, and invest in them and their surroundings with great pride.

In sports like football and basketball, don’t expect to see a lot of “revenue guarantee” games that many of you may remember from times past. Those mismatches bring in dollars at the expense of our competitive play. We’ve changed that model and are doing so with an eye toward thoughtful, targeted investment. That same investment is specific to our female athletes, too, a top priority for us as well. It will take time for us to get better on the field of play, but we don’t intend for it to take forever, and neither do any of the nine new coaches or the hundreds of students who already represent the institution so well.
5. Is the call over? It appears to be some technical difficulties. No worries. It happens. We are still on. :) this is so EXCITING!!

We hope you could hear the rest! We were excited, too. If not, here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHYqaBSXIOQ

6. Can you give us a quick overview of the plan for grad program expansion in Wilmington?

We are pleased to report that Delaware’s Higher Education Economic Development Investment Fund has awarded the University over $3.3 MM to begin the project to complete necessary repairs and renovations to our Kirkwood Highway campus. It will take about two years to complete, but to give you an example of how that will expand our capacity, we will go from the five currently available classrooms to twenty-four classrooms. That brings up the question of precisely what we do with that space. We are already offering new certificate programs, our Executive MBA program is kicking off, and we are looking closely at how to expand Social Work, Public Administration, and Sport Management, as well as shift the focus of our Education graduate program into the Wilmington area. We’ve enjoyed two years of unprecedented growth in our grad programs, and we believe that in Wilmington, we are only scratching the surface.

7. Why do we not have a NYC alumni chapter that is active and effective? When will we identify members like myself willing to participate and make a difference?

The NY Chapter is actively seeking energetic Alumni to join their chapter. There have been some past challenges with Alumni participation there, but the Chapter is ready to leave those challenges in the past. The Chapter President is Renee LeGendre. Please feel free to reach out to the national association at dsuaapresident2018@gmail.com for any additional information concerning the chapter.

8. Do we have an online doctorate program in Educational Leadership and Policy?

We are working on a number of changes to our graduate and online offerings. Over the past year, the Education Department’s primary focus has been on renewing our national accreditation (including for graduate degrees). Now that has been achieved, and we are turning our attention to how we can expand the scope of that graduate program. No final recommendations have yet been received, but an online Educational Leadership degree is still part of the discussion.