Collaboration is the Key

It’s no surprise that collaboration—the key ingredient in so much of our state’s progress this year—is the theme of the 2018 Vision Coalition Conference. So we asked each member of the Vision Coalition Leadership Team:

What is one Delaware collaboration that’s helping students succeed?

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tony Allen, Ph.D.
Provost/Executive Vice President
Delaware State University

Jeffrey T. Benson, Jr.
President
One Direction Insurance
Benson Development Group, LLC

Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
State of Delaware

Heath Chasanov
Superintendent
Woodbridge School District

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Farley-Ripple, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education and Public Policy
School of Education
affiliate of the Institute for Public Administration
University of Delaware

Dorrell Green
Director of Innovation and Improvement
Delaware Department of Education

Paul A. Herdman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rodel Foundation of Delaware

Mark Holodick
Superintendent
Brandywine School District

Mike Matthews
President
Delaware State Education Association

Leslie Newman
Chief Executive Officer
Children & Families First of Delaware

Justina M. Sapna
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Delaware Technical Community College

Gary Stockbridge
President
Delmarva Power

Javier G. Torrijos
Chair
Delaware Hispanic Commission
Assistant Director of Construction
Delaware Department of Transportation

Margie López Waite
Head of School
Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Collectively, the skills found in the North Star—a distillation of comments shared by 4,000 Delawareans—will prepare students for a lifetime of success.
Progress in the 6 Core Areas

Early Learning

**Our challenge:** Nearly half of Delaware children aren’t entering kindergarten with the social and emotional skills needed for success, and less than 10 percent of Delaware four-year-olds are enrolled in state-sponsored pre-K.

**Progress:**
- Delaware Readiness Teams launched its first kindergarten registration campaign
- A $3.8 million state investment will help grow Stars quality improvement system
- At least $2 million was added to Delaware’s Purchase of Care reimbursement rate, increasing access to quality care for low-income families
- Delaware increased its commitment to providing developmental screenings to early learners and climbed up national rankings (now 21st in the country, from dead last just a few years ago)
- The state was awarded national grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the National Governors Association that will support the early learning workforce

System Governance, Alignment, and Performance

**Our challenge:** Advancements in instruction and technology beg for system-wide changes across schools to improve family engagement and cross-school collaboration.

**Progress:**
- Upcoming school and district “report cards” will help increase community transparency and access, student subgroup data, and a more holistic definition of student and school success
- 9 districts in the BRINC consortium dedicated to blended learning now sharing lessons across district lines online and beginning to offer cross-district courses

Personalized Learning

**Our challenge:** To respond to a rapidly changing world, students need an educational experience that is not cookie-cutter, but one that maximizes who they are as individuals.

**Progress:**
- 17 school districts and 14 charter schools now using Schoology, the statewide online learning management system
- All Delaware institutions of higher education shared their commitment to accept mastery-based transcripts, enabling K-12 to further develop modern systems
- Delaware Senate Bill 85 brings new requirements for discipline reporting and implementing restorative justice
- Educators and LEAs collaborating to develop social and emotional learning competencies

Fair and Efficient Funding

**Our challenge:** Delaware’s 70-year-old school funding system holds back innovation, flexibility, transparency, and most importantly—equity.

**Progress:**
- Increased funding will provide more resources for middle school math coaches, reading interventionists, and K-3 basic special education
- Increased advocacy and legislative attention to the funding system, including a lawsuit and several bills in the legislature
- Gov. Carney established the Advisory Council on English Learners to implement the English Learner Strategic Plan, which calls for weighted funding for English learners and more investment in certified teachers and early learning
- Opportunity Grants provide increased funding for schools to support English learners, low-income students, and students who have experienced trauma
- New federal guidelines will provide Delaware with increased school-level financial reporting

Early Learning
Our challenge: Some economists predict that by 2020, 65 percent of jobs will require education beyond a high school diploma (like a professional certification, a two-year degree, or a four-year degree). Today in Delaware, around 50 percent of young adults age 18-24 have some postsecondary education.

Progress:
• Students have more career preparation options than before—with nearly 12,000 students enrolled in 14 state model pathways that provide access to industry credentials, early college credits, and work-based learning experiences in 2018
• A new Foundations of College English course allows high school juniors and seniors to better prepare for college-level English
• Delaware Advance Scholarship Program was created so that students with disabilities can more easily access comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs

Our challenge: Teachers and leaders are the two most important in-school factors impacting student learning. But Delaware schools that serve high percentages of low-income students see more teachers leaving the classroom after one year.

Progress:
• A $200,000 loan forgiveness fund was established for educators to work in schools serving typically under-resourced students, including English learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and students of color
• Alternative evaluation and coaching roles have helped support “grow your own leader” models
Areas of Progress

Delaware has made great progress just three years into Student Success 2025, but in other areas, there is more work ahead.

61% of Delaware class of 2015 high schoolers seamlessly enrolled in college (directly after high school), up from 52% in 2012.

86% of students graduated high school in 2017, up from 80% in 2012.

Areas Needing Improvement

3rd grade reading proficiencies—a predictor of high school graduation—needs improvement.

English Learners (EL) Delaware is one of four states that does not provide state funding for English Learners. Districts and charters are expected to meet their civil rights obligations to immigrant and EL students without extra funding per student.

45% of Delaware children are unprepared for kindergarten, lacking the academic, social, and emotional skills for success.

College remediation rates are still alarmingly high. Four out of ten high school grads are not ready for college-level coursework.

College Remediation

- Special Education 78%
- African American 54%
- Low-Income 54%
- English Learners 49%
- Hispanic 47%
- White 34%
- Asian 14%
- All Students 41%

Meet 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency

- Special Education 12%
- English Learners 36%
- African American 36%
- Low-Income 37%
- Hispanic 38%
- White 67%
- All Students 52%
Delaware Advances

Delaware Pathways Continues its Momentum

“Economic growth depends on having a strong middle class open to all Americans. @BloombergDotOrg will help bolster Gov. @JohnCarneyDE’s Delaware Pathways program, working to prepare young people for high-demand jobs.” –Michael Bloomberg, via Twitter, April 27

What’s Next?

• A $3.25 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies (on the heels of a $2 million grant from JP Morgan Chase and Co.) will help bolster Delaware Pathways, including expanding the Office of Work-Based Learning at Delaware Technical Community College, and engaging 20,000 youth in career pathways in high-demand fields while supporting over 7,000 secondary and postsecondary students in work-based learning experiences by 2020.

Funding Hits the Headlines

“There’s a rich history of advocacy in Delaware for educational equity. And yet, we know there’s so much more to do. Resource allocation isn’t just an esoteric policy question, it’s about what kids experience in school every day. How we ensure equitable access to resources is what opens up the opportunities for kids to make of their lives what they will.

For some kids, school is the only place where they get regular meals, where they have strong, positive relationships with results. That’s what’s at stake. When we talk about resource equity, we have to realize that too often we aren’t providing all kids with the things they need to thrive. Too often we give those who need the most—the least.” –John King, Education Trust and former U.S. Secretary of Education

What’s Next?

• While a lawsuit levied against the state by the ACLU and other civil rights groups awaits next steps, we can look forward to new school report cards as mandated by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Delaware Senate Bill 172. These new reports will capture school-level finance, new English learner data, and more.
• ESSA will require states, districts, and schools to identify resource inequities as part of the school improvement process, and will create more opportunities for communities to engage.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Goes Mainstream

“I am so impressed with the thoughtful approach Delaware has taken with SEL, with multiple constituents coming together around this. I see Delaware as so far ahead of other states in terms of all of the resources you’ve created, the thoughtful framing and thinking that you’ve already done. I see you as ready for this work and really excited to see the plan that you develop.” - Linda Dusenbury, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

What’s Next?

• As teachers, parents, students, and policymakers work to build more holistic approaches to student development, Delaware (led by the Rodel Teacher Council and district leaders) will join CASEL’s Collaborative States Initiative, which supports states in adopting SEL guidelines and standards.