Committee co-chair Tom Shopa, the Committee sought a leader with a collaborative mindset, an outward-facing focus and a vision for the future.

"We were looking for someone with outstanding skills as a listener, a communicator and a motivator, someone both entrepreneurial and responsive, who will be an exemplary ambassador for DCAD," Shopa says. "Jean is all of that and much more, and we are thrilled she will be DCAD's next president."

Dahlgren, who most recently was dean of undergraduate programs at Sage College of Albany in New York, has been a working artist and designer throughout her career as an instructor and academic administrator. She is equally thrilled with the opportunity to continue DCAD's path forward.

"Creating dynamic curriculum choices, fostering strategic partnerships, supporting the faculty and expanding the boundaries of what is possible for artists and designers intrigues and energizes me," Dahlgren says. "Developing strong internal and external relationships is extremely important to supporting those goals and creating a vibrant learning environment." ■

Delaware Tech Offers Delaware High School Students Economical Degree Pathways BY ALLISON HAYES

TWO OF THE BEST-KEPT SECRETS at the state's only community college provide high school students with an economical pathway to a college degree.

Delaware Technical Community College's Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) scholarship program provides eligible Delaware high school graduates the opportunity to attain an associate degree tuition-free. And by combining the SEED program with one of the College's 260+ connected degree programs, students can enter a four-year institution as a junior and earn a bachelor's degree for half the cost of a student attending for four years.

The SEED scholarship program is available to Delaware high school graduates who maintain a 2.5 grade point average and stay out of trouble. Since the fall of 2006, approximately 10,000 Delaware high school graduates have benefited from the SEED scholarship program at Delaware Tech. This program has helped students be successful with data showing that SEED students complete more credits, have a higher grade point average, and are more likely to complete a degree than non-SEED students.

Connected degrees, formally called articulation agreements, provide Delaware Tech students with clear and accessible pathways to continue their education. These agreements between Delaware Tech and four-year higher education institutions allow students guaranteed admission as a junior, so students only have two years of coursework or less remaining before they graduate with a bachelor's degree.

Currently, the College has agreements with 23 different senior institutions in a wide variety of majors ranging from business to engineering to health sciences. And new agreements are constantly being crafted with student value in mind.

"Earning an associate degree is a key milestone for students who want to transfer from Delaware Tech through a connected degree. It ensures that students are on track to complete a bachelor's degree without losing time or money," said Karen Deichert, collegewide articulation coordinator at Delaware Tech.

For Cole Barratt, a hospitality management student at Delaware Tech, combining a SEED scholarship with a scholarship from Wilmington University allowed him to earn his bachelor's with no educational debt. "After graduating from Delaware Tech, I completed my degree in a little over a year at Wilmington University and due to the flexibility – much like Delaware Tech – I was able to work full time as well. I gained the knowledge, education, and practical skills to become a successful business leader. I can say with 100% certainty I felt more than prepared when I transferred to Wilmington University."

Today Barratt works as a human resources generalist with the Casino at Delaware Park. Of his experience, he says "I would definitely recommend a connected degree - it fits your schedule, offers smaller class sizes, and you gain a valuable education."

To learn more about the SEED program, visit www.dtcc.edu/seed.

For a list of all of the connected degree options offered by the College, visit go.dtcc.edu/connected. ■