

The Power of Partnerships

A Q&A WITH DELCASTLE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL DR. CLIFTON HAYES

»» **Can you share some of the history around Delcastle's relationship and membership with the Chamber?**

For a number of years prior to Delcastle officially joining the Chamber, a few of my colleagues and I attended some of the Chamber networking events and saw the value of being a Chamber member.

Being a vocational school, it is extremely important that we have strong relationships with businesses. The countless networking opportunities that the Chamber provides made it an easy decision to join such a great organization. Within the first few weeks of being a part of the Chamber, we were able to secure a few cooperative-learning opportunities for some of our senior students. This was huge. The Chamber also gave Delcastle another chance to market our school to others in the Delaware community.

What are your thoughts on the importance of a school or district being involved with the Chamber, and the necessity of educational and business partnering?

It is vital that strong partnerships exist between educational and business entities. The future of our state and country depends on it. As educators, we are tasked with equipping students to be career and college ready. Our business partners assist in making CTE curriculum modifications, donate equipment/

materials, and hire student to work in their establishments as co-op students. Research indicates that students are better prepared for their post-secondary experience and career when they have an opportunity to work in the field of their choice prior to graduating from high school.

Tell us about your advocacy work in D.C., and share how your involvement made a difference.

I am the Delaware State Coordinator for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). An NASSP Advocacy Conference was held in Washington, D.C. for two-days. The conference focused on federal education policy and advocacy. The conference program consists of panel discussions with representatives from other national education associations, congressional staff members, and officials from the U.S. Department of Education or the White House; a briefing on the latest news in Congress and NASSP's legislative priorities for middle level and high school reform and school leadership; and a day on Capitol Hill. The Capitol Hill Day provided two other Delaware representatives, Dr. Evelyn Edney (Early College High School Principal/ President of the Delaware Association of School Principals), Charles Sheppard (William Henry Middle School Principal/



State Representative to the National Association of Elementary School Principals) and me with an opportunity to meet with the education staff of both Senator Coons and Senator Carper. During our meeting, we urged them to support an increase in funding for the Title II, Part A, program of ESSA as they considered appropriations for FY 2020 and beyond.

Congress passed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015 and authorized the Title II, Part A, program to provide critical funding to states for the purposes of preparing, training, recruiting, and retaining high-quality teachers, principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders. Given the unique role that principals play in ensuring that our nation's teachers are supported, and that our students have a high-quality learning experience throughout high school in order to be college and career

ready, principals must be afforded the necessary opportunities for professional learning and growth as they work to improve teaching and learning in all schools.

Title II saw a drastic reduction in FY 2017 when Congress cut \$249 million from the program. Despite the harmful cuts that have remained in place in recent years, President Trump has proposed going even further and eliminate funding for Title II, Part A, in his budget. This is not only dangerously shortsighted; it would severely disrupt many states' ESSA implementation plans and have a detrimental impact on student achievement in our state.

Despite the setbacks in recent years, we were extremely encouraged to see the House Appropriations Committee pass a significant \$500 million increase for Title II in their Labor-HHS-Ed FY 2020 funding bill. This is a bold step in the right direction that invests in the future of our nation's children. As the House and Senate continue to work through the appropriations process, we asked them to support the new \$2.6 billion funding level that has been proposed.

What is a memorable networking experience Delcastle has had with DSCC?

Words cannot describe what the Taste of Delaware means to Delcastle. Each year our culinary students and chefs are filled with so much anticipation. Our students have the opportunity to work with the top Delaware restaurants from across the state of Delaware. This is also a time for our culinary arts program to showcase some of Delcastle's specialties.

Diverse Suppliers

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Our website gets nearly 15,000 views per month, providing an additional opportunity to set your business apart from the competition.

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List as of June 18, 2019. Please see our website for the most up-to-date directory.

