

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: **Delaware Safety Council** BY TYLER MICIK

» When one hears the name Delaware Safety Council, it may seem clear what the organization offers: strategies around safety. But the phrase, “don’t judge a book by its cover,” has never rung truer. The Delaware Safety Council offers far more than safety strategies.

The Delaware Safety Council is a private, nongovernmental, nonprofit safety and resource training organization. The organization provides safety training to over 10,000 Delawareans each year, including driver, industrial/workplace, first aid, and cyber security training to name a few.

“Our mission is to promote the protection of life and health in the workplace, in the home, on the highway, and in the community by actively providing education, training, resources, and services,” said Executive Director Pete Booker.

The Delaware Safety Council has been providing safety training to Delawareans since 1919. The organization was founded by Irénée du Pont with the goal of creating a robust system of safety training for industrial workers. But as travel increased and advancements to roadways were made, more safety issues followed. Eventually the need for better safety standards in all facets of daily life became evident and the organization responded by expanding to provide training beyond the industrial setting. The Council advocated for paved roads with proper signage, helped to create school bus laws, and established the State’s first driver’s education program.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Safety Council, like many other



organizations, has adapted to continue serving Delawareans. Over the course of the pandemic, they continued to offer remote training called Remote Skills Verification (RSV) to their members and the public. People could receive training like CPR/AED from home by watching an online video on how to properly perform the procedure. In order to receive the certification, a manikin is sent to participants’ home address so they can demonstrate what they’ve learned live to an instructor.

The Delaware Safety Council even offers workforce development programs and skills training to employers and people struggling to find work. The Council is the State’s largest provider of flagger training services. They also offer an innovative approach to training prisoners, so they have more opportunity to find work once released.

SmartDrive, a nonprofit that provides

safe and defensive driving skills training to teens, recently merged with the Delaware Safety Council. Now individuals that enroll and complete the program’s defensive driving course can receive a 3-point credit on their driving record from the State of Delaware and a 10% discount on their vehicle liability insurance cost upon completion.

“Try us, you’ll like us,” said Pete Booker. “There’s a lot to like about an organization that offers over 35 courses, many of which offer benefits beyond learning valuable safety information and skills.”

So, what is the Delaware Safety Council? It’s your one-stop-shop training and information center for all things safety. They offer a wide selection of training programs, networking/skills sharing events as well as onsite training for employers. For anyone interested in learning more about the Delaware Safety Council, visit www.delawaresafety.org.