

Delaware State News



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Success Beyond 18 program launched to aid foster care

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DigiGirlz stresses high-tech fields

Delaware State News/Dave Chambers

Caesar Rodney High freshmen Megann Martinez, 13, left, and Kyla Lavender, 14, participated in the CyberPatriot workshop Friday during the 2013 Delaware DigiGirlz Day at Wilmington University. The program was designed to encourage eighth- and ninth-grade girls to explore higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math. See Schools, Page 15, for the story.

DSU board keeps tuition unchanged

By Eleanor La Prade
Delaware State News

DOVER — For Delaware State University students, the cost of tuition, fees, and housing will remain the same next year.

The Board of Trustees voted not to raise the rates at a special meeting Monday afternoon.

“Number one, we would be a good stewards by providing this recommendation,” said David Turner, vice chair of the board, just before the vote.

“And two, it would accelerate some of our growth with the students coming into the university by maintaining a flat tuition.”

He said the plan was to tell students the news before they leave for the summer.

Tuition and fees combined for in-state students will remain at \$7,336. For out-of-state students, they cost \$15,692.

The fees are for student activities, technology, and the Student Center Complex.

The cost to live in the campus’s

traditional housing ranges from \$6,976 to \$7,490.

To manage expenses, Mr. Turner said that the finance committee discussed focusing on student retention, keeping operations efficient, and divesting money from certain areas.

The board also voted to raise the cost of the meal plan by 3 percent.

“This is going to really help our students. It’s going to have a direct

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Wesley College introduces speaker for commencement

DOVER — Jeffrey Brown, senior correspondent for the NewsHour, has been selected to speak at Wesley College's spring commencement on May 8.

Mr. Brown is responsible for conducting studio discussions and reporting from the field, especially in the areas of culture, arts and the media. As a correspondent for the NewsHour since 1998, Brown has profiled and interviewed dozens of leading American and international writers, musicians and other artistic figures.

Classroom Clips

DTCC announces speakers for commencement

DOVER — Delaware Technical Community College's Terry Campus will hold its commencement ceremonies May 20 at 6 p.m.

The speaker will be Terence Murphy, the president and CEO of Bayhealth Medical Center. Mr. Murphy is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of operations at both Kent General and Milford Memorial Hospitals.

He serves as Chairman of the Bayhealth Medical Center Board and is a member of other affiliated boards including Bayhealth, Inc. and Bayhealth Cancer Institute.

National MS Society names annual scholarship winners

WILMINGTON — The Delaware chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has announced the nine recipients of its annual scholarship Program.

Kent County winners are Kayla Boyd and Revecca Grier, both Caesar Rodney High School students.

The program helps students affected by multiple sclerosis pursue a college or technical school education. It is open to high school seniors who live with MS or have a parent who does; or anybody living with MS who has not yet been to a

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DigiGirlz events tap in to high-tech fields

By Eleanor La Prade
Delaware State News

DOVER — Almost 90 eighth- and ninth-grade girls from across the state visited Dover on Friday to explore careers in technology.

At DigiGirlz Day, held at Wilmington University, students learned about cyber defense, writing programming for video games and building robots.

The event gave girls an inside-look at what high-tech careers are like.

"Although there's been great advancements evening up the numbers in other career fields, we're not seeing it as much, it hasn't leveled in IT (information technology) as much as you would think," said Elayne Starkey, the chief security officer at the state Department of Technology and Information.

Studies show that girls in eighth and ninth grades have just as much potential to pursue a computer science career as the guys.

"But IT is considered geeky," Ms. Starkey said, "And pressure takes over. It's not because they can't handle it or can't do it, they just choose different types of careers other than IT."

At the day-long event, sponsored by Microsoft worldwide, girls meet women who worked through the challenges. And they learn that IT jobs can be exciting — they can battle hackers and design games.

"We try to show them role-models of people that have survived, and really have made a good career for themselves," Ms. Starkey said, "Just to try to dispel some of those myths."

According to the National Center for Women and Information Technology, women held only 25 percent of computing jobs in the 2011 workforce.

The intent of DigiGirlz Day isn't to turn every attendee into a techie — but it introduces them to new options to consider.

"There's some good teaching going on, and how to manipulate some things, and they actually get to practice their new skills, but they are also given material to take home, so they can take it further when they leave here today," Ms. Starkey said.

Many girls that day weren't interested in IT. First thing in the morning, they were asked to share their aspirations. The answers ran the gamut: a mechanic, a novel writer, an engineer.

But working on computers, Ms. Starkey pointed out, is unavoidable.



Delaware State News/Dave Chambers
Delaware Department of Technology and Information Chief Security Officer Elayne M. Starkey told the eighth- and ninth-graders in attendance at Wilmington University during DigiGirlz Day to take the day seriously and to "find your passion" while participating in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workshops.



Students from schools throughout the First State listen to an instructor give them details on the robotics workshop at DigiGirlz Day 2013, held at Wilmington University.

"Think about the difference between being a mechanic today and a mechanic 20 years ago," she said. "You still need a lot of IT skills and trouble-shooting skills and everything's going to be computerized."

DigiGirlz was co-sponsored by

the Department of Technology and Information, Department of Education, Delaware Center for Education Technology, Wilmington University and Microsoft.

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