



Read Aloud Delaware Raises Over \$40,000 for 40th Anniversary Celebration

More than 100 supporters gathered to celebrate Read Aloud Delaware's 40th anniversary on May 3, at Riverfront Events. With the generous support of donors and sponsors such as Incyte, WSFS Bank, Morris James LLP, and more, Read Aloud Delaware announced that they surpassed their fundraising goal of \$40,000.

Executive Director James Spadola remarked, "It's astounding to think our volunteers have read two million times to kids one-on-one in 40 years. Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on expanding our volunteer and child care network, expanding our bilingual outreach program, and focusing on partnerships designed to increase the literacy levels of Delaware's children."

Board Chair Jeanne Brennan said, "Whether you are a grantor, a donor, or one of our volunteer readers, you are helping us to accomplish our mission: to create a lifelong impact through early childhood literacy. Thank you!"

DART Announces Poster Contest Winners

DART announced the winners of their Annual Statewide Transit Poster Contest. Seven winners were selected and received prizes from DART and its Business Partners.

More than 85 students from schools and/or after-school programs across the state enthusiastically participated in the contest, each presenting their unique interpretation of this year's theme, "The Colors of Travel." DART passionately encouraged students to embrace the chance to capture the essence of their daily journeys. The contest invited students from 6th to 12th grade, crowning a first place winner from each grade level and ultimately selecting an outstanding grand prize winner.

This year's grand prize winner is 11th Grader Cailyn Pan from the Charter School of Wilmington. Cailyn's artwork will be placed on all DART

buses statewide and will be placed in several public buildings for thousands to see and appreciate. Her poster will also be featured on DART's website, DartFirstState.com, the Heart of DART Happenings employee newsletter, in other business partners' publications, and on DART's social media platforms.

Harvey Hanna & Associates Announce Promotions

Harvey Hanna & Associates (HHA), a leading commercial real estate redevelopment firm, announced the promotions of two leadership team members.

Will Harvey was promoted to the position of executive vice president of operations. In his expanded role, Harvey is responsible for HHA's property management, field services, and construction management groups.

Michael T. Nash has been promoted to the position of vice president of



construction management. In this capacity, Nash is primarily responsible for oversight of HHA construction management services for new and existing industrial, commercial and hospitality facilities.

"We are all proud of Will and Mike's contributions to the HHA team. Their passion, expertise, and dedication to our company's mission have been instrumental in our continued growth and success," said Thomas J. Hanna, president and CEO of Harvey, Hanna & Associates, Inc. "We are excited to see them thrive in their new roles and continue to drive HHA's commitment to impactful economic development projects through commercial real estate."

Delaware EARNs Launches Pilot Ahead of Launch

Delaware EARNs is a retirement savings program for private-sector workers who don't have access to a workplace plan through their jobs. Beginning on July 1, 2024, employers with five or more Delaware employees (full- or part-time) are required to facilitate EARNs if they do not offer a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k).

In preparation of the official program launch, nearly a dozen private-sector employers participated in a pilot of EARNs during the month of May to help ensure systems are fully ready.

"The start of the employer pilot is a true milestone," Treasurer Colleen C. Davis said. "It's thrilling to see a goal we have been working toward for years become a reality. We have nearly 150,000 private-sector workers in our state with no access to retirement savings through their employers. We now have a real opportunity to change that with the EARNs program."

Delaware employers that want to get a head start on offering access to a competitive retirement benefit can register starting as early as July 1 at earn.delaware.com. For employers, there is no cost for facilitating the EARNs program and no plan-sponsor liability. For more information about Delaware EARNs, visit earn.delaware.com.

New Technology to Enhance Cancer Care at Beebe

Beebe Healthcare is proud to announce that it is the first health system in Delaware to offer the Ion Endoluminal System. The state-of-the-art robotic-assisted navigational bronchoscopy advances the possibilities for streamlined minimally invasive lung cancer care.



Chase Celebrates Opening of Branch in Dover

Chase proudly celebrated the opening of its new full-service, free-standing bank branch in the state capital. The opening of the Dover branch makes ten total bank branches in the state of Delaware. Visitors will discover the branch looks and feels different from a "typical" bank—combining a modern design, layout, and state-of-the-art banking technology, reflecting how customers engage with Chase today. Six enthusiastic employees welcome customers in casual meeting spaces, emphasizing a more consultative approach, with personal banking, credit cards, mortgages, auto financing, investment advice, small business loans, and payment processing. Self-service transaction areas are also available, including a digital access bar, indoor ATM, outdoor 24-hour ATM, and night depository. The branch, located at 837 N. Dupont Highway, also features Chase teller services and free Wi-Fi.

The healthcare system acquired the new technology in March and began offering procedures in April at the Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus.

Ion's robotic-assisted navigational bronchoscopy is performed using an ultra-thin scope to examine lesions that are smaller and deeper in the lungs than traditional scopes are able to reach. With this technology, Beebe patients can undergo this procedure to identify possible cancerous tumors even

sooner, which is critical to lung cancer care and survivorship. In addition to the technology's reach within the lung, the core benefit is that diagnosis and removal of lung cancer may be able to take place at the same time.

"The traditional pathway to care for patients diagnosed with lung cancer requires many steps to get from the point of incidental finding to the point of treatment," said Victor Banzon, MD, board-certified pulmonologist, who

completed the first Ion procedure at Beebe. “Beebe’s use of robotic-assisted navigational bronchoscopy offers a linear pathway and streamlined approach that makes it possible for us to detect and treat cancer sooner in a minimally invasive approach. This is critical to patient outcomes.”

Avelo Flies 350,000 Customers in the Philadelphia Region

Avelo Airlines recently celebrated flying over 350,000 customers on over 2,500 flights at the Philadelphia region’s most convenient airport—Wilmington Airport (ILG). Avelo has also achieved

an impressive level of reliability during its operation at ILG. When excluding weather-related cancellations outside Avelo’s control, the airline achieved a 99.6% completion rate, meaning the airline canceled less than 0.4% of flights at ILG.

Avelo Airlines Founder and CEO Andrew Levy said, “Since arriving at ILG 15 months ago, Avelo has introduced travelers in the Philadelphia and Delaware Valley area to a new era of affordability, convenience, and reliability. [This] milestone demonstrates the appeal our low fares, nonstop access, and friendly service are having with travelers throughout the region. It is also clear the fast and easy travel-friendly experience ILG offers has played an equally significant role in inspiring so many people to fly with us. I am grateful to every Avelo Customer who has chosen Avelo.”

Incyte Invests in New Wilmington Site

Incyte, a Delaware-founded global biopharmaceutical company with a robust portfolio of treatments across oncology and inflammation and autoimmunity, has chosen downtown Wilmington, Delaware, for an expansion.

Incyte purchased the Bracebridge I and Bracebridge III buildings at King and French streets in downtown Wilmington. Incyte will renovate the buildings, whose 517,307 square feet will almost double the company’s Delaware footprint, starting with Bracebridge I. The new space will allow Incyte to continue building its Delaware employee base by bringing in more than 300 employees currently working in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and provide space to grow and add more than 500 new positions across the two buildings in the future.



“Incyte’s decision to move their headquarters to downtown Wilmington is not only a big deal for the city—it’s a big deal for our state,” said Governor John Carney.

Expanding its offices to downtown

Wilmington will create numerous benefits for Incyte – vacated office space at the Alapocas campus will be converted into much-needed lab space and will accommodate the company’s projected future growth. The City of Wilmington will also benefit from the resulting reduction in office vacancies and the new-to-Wilmington jobs, which will be skilled, technical and managerial positions with annual salaries ranging from over \$90,000 to over \$200,000.

“I am extremely pleased to welcome Incyte to Wilmington, a city historically known as the home of corporate innovation, creativity and development,” said Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki.

“Delaware has been our home for more than 20 years, and we are looking forward to expanding our operations in Wilmington and continuing to grow our company here,” said Incyte Chief Executive Officer Hervé Hoppenot. “We are grateful to the continued support of the state, the city and others, including DPP, who have supported our company and fostered innovation and growth in our region.”

Home Builders Association of DE Wins National Award

The Home Builders Association of Delaware (HBADE) has been recognized for its outstanding local government affairs effort with an Award of Excellence from the Executive Officers Council (EOC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). This award was presented to HBADE for its efforts in defeating a proposed ordinance that would mandate residential fire sprinklers be installed in all new single-family construction.

“It is truly an honor for the hard work and professionalism of the HBA to be recognized with this Association Excellence Award,” said Mike Riemann, HBADE president. “I applaud our association’s dedication to representing Delaware’s home builders and preserving the American Dream of homeownership for all Delawareans.”

The Association Excellence Awards is an annual program designed to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of state and local home builders' associations and executive officers in the field of association management. EOC membership is comprised of the staff executives who direct more than 590 NAHB-affiliated state and local home builders' associations representing more than 130,000 home builders in communities across the United States.

"I am inspired by the outstanding achievements of our local associations that won AEA honors this year. Their dedication to excellence, innovation, and community impact sets a high standard for all of us," said Natalie Fryer, EOC president and executive officer of the HBA of Fayetteville. "These associations are shining examples of what can be accomplished with vision, hard work, and a commitment to quality. Congratulations to all the award-winning associations for their well-deserved recognition. Your accomplishments not only benefit your members but also enhance the entire Federation."

Morris Nichols Practices Ranked in Top Tiers

Morris Nichols continues its steady position as a leading Delaware law firm in the 2024 edition of Chambers USA. For the sixteenth year in a row, the firm secured a Band 1 ranking in four fundamental Delaware practice areas: bankruptcy/restructuring, chancery, corporate M&A & alternative entities, and intellectual property.

Clients and market commentators espoused Morris Nichols' reputation to Chambers researchers, emphasizing the firm's combination of courtroom experience, technical Delaware knowledge, and client service.

"They had the breadth of skills and



EDGE Competition Reaches Milestone

The Delaware Division of Small Business announced the most recent grant awards for the Encouraging Development, Growth and Expansion (EDGE) competition on May 23rd in Dover. The awards given to 10 Delaware small businesses for the spring 2024 round bring the total number of businesses awarded funds under the EDGE program to 100.

Awardees in the latest round of the competition include a company working to treat severe allergic disease and cancer, one Wilmington based company developing an app to teach baseball to inexperienced and underserved children, one company in Seaford looking to expand deliveries of their pies, and one in Dover opening a second location for counseling to families facing infertility.

Since the program launched in 2019, a total of \$6.51 million has been awarded to 100 promising Delaware small businesses in industries ranging from advanced medical technology to farming and restaurants.

The application period for the next round of the EDGE program will open in August.

relevant knowledge to handle what was a very complex, evolving case. Their advice was excellent."

"The attorneys excel in their legal contributions, the respect that they receive from the Delaware judiciary, and their consistent focus on the best business resolution from a legal dispute."

"Morris Nichols is the top pick for Delaware co-counsel. They are terrific team members, steeped in Delaware law,

Chancery Court details and the various judges' particulars. They also provide top-notch trial support."

Thirty-one Morris Nichols lawyers are recognized as leaders in their field, representing a third of the firm's deep bench of attorneys. Partners Derek Abbott and Jack Blumenfeld received special recognition as "Star Individuals," a distinction given to attorneys with exceptional recommendations.

Newsbites

Richards, Layton & Finger Receives Honors

Richards, Layton & Finger received the highest gold ranking and firm directors Fred Cottrell, Kelly Farnan, Travis Hunter, and Jeffrey Moyer were named among Delaware's top patent attorneys in the 2024 edition of IAM

Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals. IAM Patent 1000 reports that "Richards, Layton & Finger has a bench of practitioners who are truly excellent. Wonderful collaborators ... and truly invaluable, RLF is the top choice for patent work in Delaware."

Fred Cottrell, chair of Richards Layton's Litigation Department, is a

leading force in Delaware's IP bar. Kelly Farnan is "a great advocate" who has "instant credibility whenever she enters the courtroom" (Chambers USA). She is head of the firm's Intellectual Property Group. Travis Hunter has tried significant cases in all of Delaware's courts, including matters involving patents, trade secrets, cryptocurrency, and more. Jeffrey Moyer, senior vice president of the firm, focuses his practice on complex commercial and intellectual property litigation.



15 Ventures Win Startup302 Grants

Fifteen tech-enabled startups with at least one team member from an underfunded demographic are sharing \$170,000 in nondilutive, nonrestricted grant monies from Delaware's fourth Startup302 competition, which was coordinated by Delaware Prosperity Partnership (DPP) and partners from throughout Delaware and beyond.

"Startup 302's mission to support founders from underrepresented backgrounds is such an important one," said DPP Director of Innovation Noah Olson. "This year's finalists not only further enhance the wellspring of innovation developing in Delaware but offer technologies and solutions that truly will make the world a better place."

Startup302 launched in 2020 and is coordinated by DPP and partners from the local, regional and national innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems with an aim to foster diverse perspectives, promote inclusive and equitable consideration and attract diverse communities of founders to the region. Competing companies must be technology-based or tech-enabled with high-growth potential and at least one founding team member from an underrepresented group: women; people of color, including African Americans, Latin Americans and Native Americans; and members of the LGBTQ+ community – all of whose ventures are underinvested in relative to their demographic's percentage of overall United States population. Including this year, Startup302 has awarded \$813,000 in funding to 52 ventures since the first finals took place in 2021.

Whittaker joins TidalHealth Orthopedics

TidalHealth welcomed Joseph Whittaker, PA-C, to TidalHealth Orthopedics in Seaford and Millsboro, Delaware.

Whittaker received his Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Towson University in Baltimore, Md., obtaining his Physician Assistant certificate.

Whittaker began his clinical career with MedStar Orthopedic Institute as

a first assistant intra-operatively in various orthopedic surgeries, including joint arthroplasty, sports medicine, and trauma. He also has inpatient experience with injections, casting and splinting patients.



Joseph Whittaker,
PA-C

Whittaker is accepting new patients at TidalHealth Orthopedics, located in the TidalHealth Mears Campus at 100 Rawlins Drive in Seaford, and at 30265 Commerce Drive in Millsboro. To schedule an appointment, call 302-990-3280.