



# DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

## 2020 | DONOR IMPACT REPORT



*Education is not preparation  
for life; education is life itself.*

-John Dewey





Dear friend of Delaware Valley University,

What is essential? I believe that many of us have been rethinking the answer to this question since early 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic entered our lives. At DelVal, we believe not only that higher education is essential, but that a specific kind of education – “science with practice” – is needed to prepare students to solve the challenges faced in the 21st century.

We also know that you are essential to DelVal. Without your support, we would not be able to deliver the quality, hands-on experience that defines a DelVal education.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30th with the highest level of giving in over nine years. Because of you, we are able to accomplish many of our strategic goals, including providing an affordable education and enhancing the quality and delivery of our experiential education to our students. Your support of The DelVal Fund, scholarships, planned giving, and strategic initiatives helps us expand programs and makes the DelVal educational experience possible for so many. Your support of the Emergency Financial Aid Fund this year is crucial for so many students whose families have been especially impacted by the pandemic, and gives new meaning to the phrase “Aggies helping Aggies.”

We thank you all, and encourage you to view the full list of donors on the Honor Roll page of our website.

I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support.

*Maria Gallo, Ph.D.*  
*President*

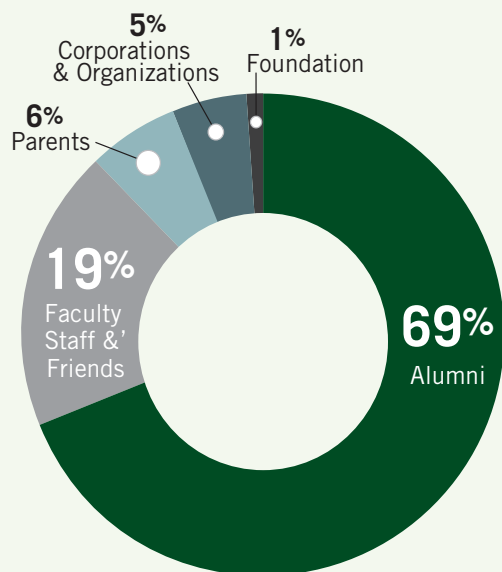


TO VIEW THE LIST OF DONORS:  
[delval.edu/thankyou](https://delval.edu/thankyou)

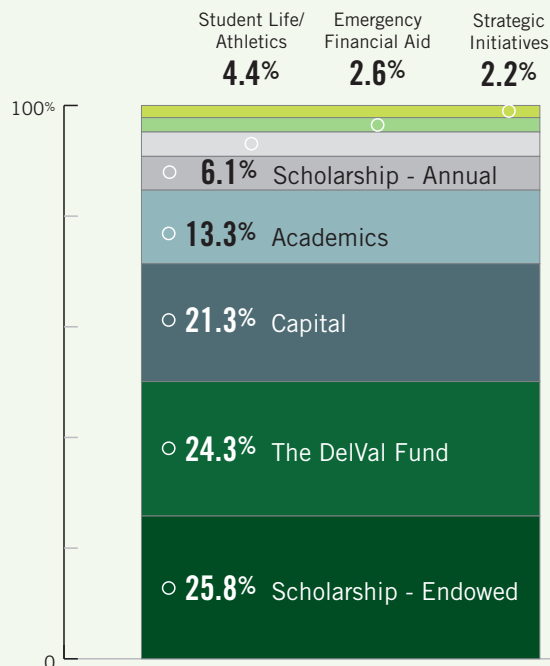
# Your Support Is Essential

Your donations are essential to delivering the unique DelVal educational experience to our students. In addition to scholarships, your contributions support faculty-mentored undergraduate research, our award-winning Experience360 program, the purchase of new technology and equipment, and student access to cultural and athletic activities.

## Our Donors

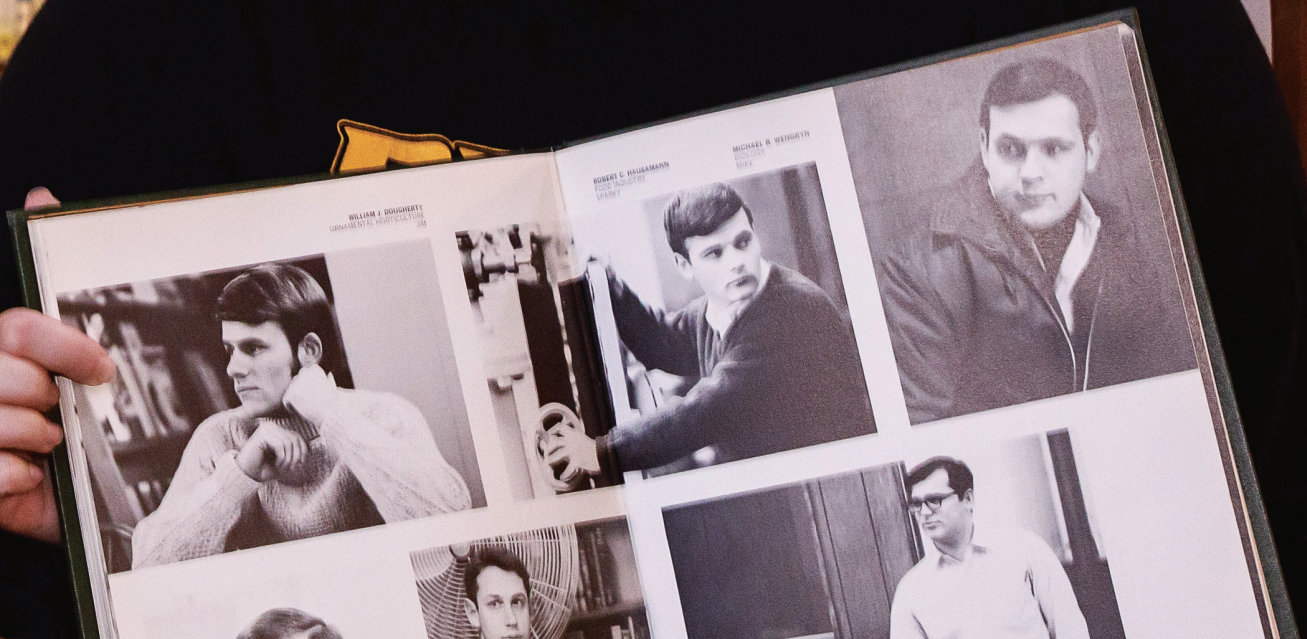


## Areas of Support



\*All data is from fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). Source: Institutional Research and Effectiveness 10/15/20.

Liliana Dougherty '20



WILLIAM J. DOUGHERTY  
GERMAN BY THE BERRY CREEK  
1988

ROBERT C. HAUBAMANN  
FOOT INDUSTRY  
SPARE T

MICHAEL B. WETGORTH  
1988

US OUT!

ATIVELY)

know

## Donor Support is Helping Liliana Follow in Her Grandfather's Footsteps



“I was searching for somewhere with strong animal programs. When I found out my Pop Pop went to DelVal, I became even more interested.”

**Liliana Dougherty '20**

**B.S., Conservation and  
Wildlife Management**

Liliana Dougherty was really close to her grandfather, William “Jim” Dougherty '69.

He taught her how to ice skate and how to swim. And, he would take her on outings to places like the zoo.

“He always knew I loved animals and wanted to work with animals,” said Liliana, a conservation and wildlife management major.

Her grandfather passed away when she was in elementary school. When Liliana was deciding where to apply to college, she came across DelVal.

An alumni scholarship is giving her the opportunity to attend the same school as her grandfather.

“I feel like being here brings me a little closer to my Pop Pop,” said Liliana. “I always think about whether he studied in the same spots as me on campus.”

She hopes to work for a zoo or in a wildlife rehabilitation center, and knows that her DelVal education is going to help her stand out in a competitive field.

“DelVal may be a small school, but they put a lot of money and time into the student experience,” said Liliana. “I got to suture, take blood, and practice handling animals at DelVal. That type of experience is going to help me stand out.”

She's grateful that donors choose to give to scholarships at DelVal.

“College is expensive, and having scholarships has really helped me,” said Liliana. “Any amount helps. Giving to scholarships helps students achieve their goals.”

Liliana is excited to graduate. And, when she does, she'll be thinking of her Pop Pop.

“There's a picture of my grandfather in his cap and gown with my Nana, who was holding my dad as a baby in front of a big tree by Lasker Hall,” said Liliana. “When I graduate, I want to take a picture with his diploma and my diploma in that same spot.”

## DONOR PROFILE: Endowed Scholarship



### Dr. Matt Iager '93 Gives Because DeVal Helped Him Achieve His Childhood Dream

**“Since DeVal gave me so much,  
I love giving back. My gift was  
inspired by my experience at DeVal.  
It also serves to recognize  
outstanding individuals at DeVal.”**

Dr. Matt Iager '93 grew up on a dairy farm in Fulton, Maryland. When he was nine, his prized show cow developed Left Displaced Abomasum and he assisted the veterinarian with the surgery. From that day on, he knew that he wanted to be a veterinarian.

After earning his dairy science degree at DeVal, he attended Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. He is now licensed and accredited in five states and serves clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic area.

“DeVal has truly given me the opportunities, tools, and skills to successfully live my dream,” said Dr. Iager.

Dr. Iager enjoys sharing his knowledge and experience by volunteering with dairy- and agriculture-related organizations.

In addition to volunteering, he believes in investing in the next generation. At DeVal, he established the Dr. Matt Iager, DVM Endowed Scholarship,



which supports dairy science majors who want to pursue veterinary medicine.

“Gratitude is truly important to me,” said Dr. Iager. “The faculty, staff, administrators, volunteers, students and animals all played vital roles in my development during my undergraduate education. I want to show gratitude to those who have been a blessing to me. My goal is to show appreciation, kindness, and be a blessing to others through my giving. I hope this gift helps inspire other generous people to continue the long-lasting tradition of philanthropy.”

## Tiara Dwight '20



## *Gifts to DelVal are Helping Tiara Share Her Love of Science*



“ I am grateful to the donors who invested in my education. I wouldn't have been able to grow the way that I have at DelVal without scholarships. ”

**Tiara Dwight '20**  
B.S., Biology and B.S., Secondary Education-Biology

Tiara Dwight, a double major in biology and secondary education, said scholarship support is helping her achieve her dream of teaching science. She will be returning to her former high school to student teach with the biology teacher who helped her discover her interest in science.

“I want to spark that love of science in my students,” said Tiara.

Scholarship support was one of the deciding factors for Tiara when looking at colleges.

“I think supporting scholarships is essential because that support increases opportunities for people,” said Tiara. “Sometimes a scholarship is the difference between attending a school or looking for another place. Scholarships allow students to experience all that DelVal has to offer.”

Tiara appreciates the opportunities she has had to work one-on-one with DelVal's biology faculty. She spent a semester doing student research with

Dr. Elizabeth Skendzic and meets weekly with Dr. Kathryn Ponnock to discuss advanced physiology.

“I didn't want to go anywhere else because the level of teaching and experience that I would get at DelVal just wasn't going to be matched somewhere else,” said Tiara. “I am grateful to the donors who invested in my education. I wouldn't have been able to grow the way that I have at DelVal without scholarships.”

Tiara received the Aggie Spirit Scholarship in recognition of her contributions to campus, including serving as president of the Black Student Union. The scholarship made her feel like her efforts on campus were appreciated and gave her the extra financial support she needed.

“I make the effort to be involved and give back as much as I can to my DelVal community,” said Dwight. “To me, that is what the Aggie Spirit is, and I am an Aggie to my very core.”

## The Impact of your Support



Dear Donor -

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donations to support the students of Delaware Valley University. As Director of Financial Aid, I know firsthand how these funds impact the lives of our students and their families.

In addition to helping students find financial resources to defray the cost of education and lower student loan debt, our office provides critical support to students and families who find themselves in an unanticipated financial crisis. Life events like a sudden job loss, unusually high medical expenses, or a change in the family structure that could lead to a potentially harmful environment for the students are some of the reasons students look to us for help. Unfortunately, as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we see these requests increasing.

Please know that the funds you donate to the University are essential lifelines to these students and their families. Your generous gifts allow our students to continue to work toward their degrees uninterrupted due to financial constraints beyond their control.

It is the mission of the Office of Financial Aid to help these students and their families to the best of our ability, but it is the funds that you contribute that make this happen! I cannot tell you the relief that families feel when they know that our office can help because of the support provided by you – the donors.

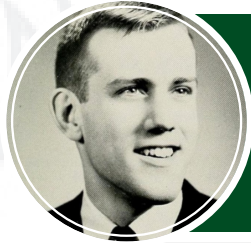
The Office of Financial Aid staff wishes to thank you for your generosity and commitment to the University. Please know that these funds are even more essential to our students now as they face the unexpected challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

*Joan Hock, M.S. '05*



## DONOR PROFILE: Annual Scholarship



### **Dave Heebner '64 Gives Because DelVal Will Always Be Close to His Heart**

Dave Heebner '64, a horticulture alumnus, credits DelVal with inspiring his work ethic and helping him succeed. Originally from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, he now lives in Wisconsin but stays in touch with the University and the students. He loves DelVal's focus on experiential learning and personal attention. Dave enjoys hearing from students about how the opportunities at DelVal are positively impacting them.

He is helping students gain access to those opportunities by funding an annual scholarship for horticulture students. Dave believes that the sense of community and personal attention that DelVal provides are important to helping all students reach their full potential.

"Delaware Valley University is very close to my heart," said Dave. "I participated in athletic events, such as basketball and track, and other activities, such

as the newspaper and A-Day. It's a foundation and a feeling of grass-roots. DelVal never went back on its word. Dr. Feldstein mentored students and instilled in us the ideals of togetherness and loyalty. He was always there from the first day on campus until graduation. It was wonderful. It felt like home. It felt like an anchor to me. DelVal is unbelievably special."

**"It felt like home. It felt like an anchor to me. DelVal is unbelievably special."**



## Javon Speid '21 (B.A.), '22 (M.A.)

Media and Communication

4+1 program, M.A. in Management and Organizational Leadership

Resident Advisor

Football player

## Devon Speid '21 (B.S.)

Business Administration, Sports Management

Resident Advisor

Football player

## *Donor Support is Helping Twin Brothers Chase Their Dreams*

Devon and Javon Speid are both working hard to pursue their goals at DelVal. When they're not in the classroom, they mentor other students on campus through their jobs as resident advisors and play for the Aggies football program.

When they were looking at schools, they knew that having twins in college at the same time was going to be expensive.

"It is really helpful [that we both receive financial aid]," said Devon.

"Scholarships are very important because they give students like us, who work very hard to excel in and out of the classroom, the opportunity to further their education," said Javon. "Scholarships definitely took some of the burden off of our mom's shoulders."

Javon said their mother is "more than proud" of what her sons are achieving at DelVal.

"She taught us to never doubt ourselves," said Javon. "She always supports us and just wants us to be happy, no matter what goals we choose to pursue."

Devon is majoring in business administration with a focus on sports management. Javon is studying media and communication and planning to pursue his M.A. in Management and Organizational Leadership through DelVal's 4+1 program. Devon wants to work in a role in the business side of athletics. Javon would like to put his creativity to use working in a leadership role in the marketing and advertising industry.

Javon and Devon both feel that they're gaining a quality education, combined with great experiences that will help them succeed after DelVal.

"I feel like the program at DelVal is preparing me to compete with others and achieve my goals," said Javon.

**"We were raised by a single parent, and we try to take any financial stress off of our mother if we are able to."**

**- Devon Speid**



## **Aggies Aiding Aggies**

**"DelVal has been a foundation in my life that has shaped my confidence, sharpened my skills, and boosted my career. As a Continuing Ed student for my undergraduate degree, DelVal not only afforded me the flexibility to work, raise my family, and attend classes, but also prepared me for my MBA, which led to career promotions and, eventually, senior leadership roles. I hope to ensure that students can continue to find success the way that I did. This is why I choose to continue to support DelVal."**

**-Francie Babik '10, MBA '14**

# Facts & Figures



STUDENTS ARE FROM:

**31** STATES | **7** COUNTRIES



**99%**

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE  
**INSTITUTIONAL  
FINANCIAL AID**

**3,612**

LIFELONG LEARNERS

**445**

GRADUATE

**1,924**

UNDERGRADUATE

**1,243**

CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

FALL 2019 UNDERGRADUATE DAY STUDENTS

NEW: **519** RETURNING: **1,148**

UNDERGRADUATE

## MOST POPULAR MAJORS

1. Business Administration
2. Animal Science
3. Conservation and Wildlife Management
4. Biology
5. Small Animal Science
6. Criminal Justice

**473**

DEGREES CONFERRED

**465**

DEGREES

**8**

CERTIFICATES

Aug. 2019 -May 2020

## DONOR PROFILE: Emergency Financial Aid Fund



### **NJM Insurance Group Stepped Up to Support Emergency Financial Aid When Students Needed it the Most**

DelVal students and their families are facing increasing financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for emergency financial aid is growing. Support from corporate donors has been a critical part of making sure that students can continue to attend DelVal and pursue their dreams.

NJM Insurance Group, a leading insurer in the Mid-Atlantic region, awarded much-needed emergency financial aid to help bridge the gap for students who were struggling to pay tuition due to changes in their financial situations.

“The path to leadership is built by the experiences and relationships of young people,” said Mike Van Wagner, vice president, public affairs, for NJM Insurance Group. “It is why NJM is proud to support Delaware Valley University, where many students are having those life experiences and interactions with mentors, helping to position them to lead on campus, in the community, and in their future careers.”

In addition to funding emergency financial aid, NJM Insurance Group co-sponsored LeaderShape, a leadership training for DelVal students. They also sponsored cybersecurity training and participated in our 2019 Golf Classic, which supports student scholarships.

## Zuzanna Pankowska '21

### *Emergency Financial Aid has Given her a New Life*

Zuzanna Pankowska, an RA who is from Poland, said scholarship support has given her a new life.

“Getting this scholarship has changed my life,” said Zuzanna. “If I didn’t get the scholarship from the Copernicus Society of America, I wouldn’t be here living this beautiful life that I’m living now.”

Emergency financial aid also helped her, especially during the challenges of 2020.



“Getting this scholarship has changed my life. If I didn’t get the scholarship, I wouldn’t be living this beautiful life I have now...”

**Zuzanna Pankowska '21**

B.S., Business Administration  
International Student  
Resident Advisor

“I couldn’t go back to Poland because there was a risk of me not being able to come back to DelVal if I did. The scholarships allowed me to stay here and find people who became family to me.”

In 2019, through the University’s “Shark Tank”-style competition, Spark Bowl, Zuzanna was able to apply what she was learning in class by helping a real-world business.

“I had the opportunity to work on a business plan for Spark Bowl as a student and be part of a competition with real businesses, which was a great experience,” said Zuzanna.

She’s grateful for the opportunity to come to DelVal and have a chance to pursue her goals.

Zuzanna’s goal is to get her MBA at DelVal through the 4+1 Program.

“There are no words that can express my gratitude,” said Zuzanna. “I believe that your generosity towards me, as well as other students who receive scholarships, will transform into helping more students through our hands. Maybe we’ll be sponsoring students someday.”

## Nicholas Eberhardt '21



# Scholarships Are Helping Him Graduate Debt-Free

Nicholas Eberhardt set the goal of earning his bachelor's degree debt-free. Thanks to the help of scholarships, he's on track to do that.

Nicholas, a secondary education major, transferred to DelVal from Bucks County Community College. He commutes from Levittown, Pennsylvania.

"Graduating debt-free was a tough goal, but it is becoming a reality," said Nicholas. "I worked part-time while being a full-time college student and was able to save up for most of my tuition costs, but I still needed support. DelVal was very generous with scholarships, and that got me closer to this goal. I'm thankful to the donors who helped make this possible. I'm very proud not only that I will have a quality education from a great university, but also that I'm graduating without debt hanging over me."

"Every student has a different challenge, whether it's a financial situation or an educational path," said Nicholas. "A lot of students shy away from going to college because they think they can't afford it. Scholarships encourage students to consider college as possible and allow them to focus on school so that they can do well academically."

After DelVal, Nicholas plans to teach English.

"As a teacher, you can pass your experience down to the next generation," said Nicholas. "I'm going to take what I am learning at DelVal and do that. Starting my teaching career without debt will allow me to focus on influencing the next generation."



“Starting my teaching career without debt will allow me to focus on influencing the next generation.”

**Nicholas Eberhardt '21**

B.S., Secondary Education, English  
Bucks County Community College  
Transfer Student





## Special Funded Initiative: Spark Bowl

With the support of donors, DelVal held the first ever Spark Bowl in December 2019. This “Shark Tank”-like event, co-sponsored by the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, provided students with the opportunity to pitch an entrepreneurial idea to a panel of judges. Students worked with faculty advisors and gained the experience of developing and presenting a business model to request funding.

On Dec. 11, 2019, Delaware Valley University, its Small Business and Entrepreneurship Center (SBEC), and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce (CBCC) held the first Spark Bowl, a new annual “Shark Tank”-style competition.

The top teams presented ideas to a panel of judges to compete for funding at a public, community event that was held in the University’s Life Sciences Building auditorium. As part of the E360 experiential learning program, DelVal student teams were paired with the final contestants to help them prepare for the competition, under the guidance of DelVal faculty and SBEC advisors.

Contestants pitched their ideas to a panel of judges and competed for substantial monetary prizes to help get their ideas off the ground. By working with the CBCC on this new, annual event, Delaware Valley University is giving students the

opportunity to apply what they’re learning in class to help local entrepreneurs, innovative businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

The University is now building on the success of the 2019 event and getting ready to host the next Spark Bowl in April 2021. The contest will be judged by experienced investors who have a desire to support innovation and economic growth and prosperity within the local community. The judges will be local entrepreneurs who have a high degree of success in the business world, reported William Schutt, a DelVal Trustee, judge and event organizer, and Dr. Vail Garvin, CEO of the CBCC.

“The Board of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce is very proud to be working with Delaware Valley University on Spark Bowl,” said Dr. Garvin.

### Lead Sponsors

Michael Araten  
*Sterling Drive Ventures*

Fred Beans  
*Fred Beans Automotive Group*

Katherine H. Littlefield  
*Trustee, Delaware Valley University*

Susan Lonergan  
*Fulton Bank*

William R. Schutt  
*Trustee, Delaware Valley University*

Henry Van Blunk  
*Eastburn and Gray, P.C.*

To learn more about the competition, please visit [delval.edu/spark](http://delval.edu/spark).

# Ways to Give



# *Every gift makes a difference. Your support enriches the DelVal experience and puts college within reach for deserving students.*

## **The Annual Fund**

Your gift to our annual fund, The DelVal Fund, supports all aspects of life on our campus. From providing financial assistance to students in need to improving technology to offering cultural activities to expanding the opportunities in our award-winning Experience360 program, you make a DelVal education possible for so many.

## **Leave a Legacy: Planned Gifts**

Many donors choose to remember Delaware Valley University with a planned or estate gift. Through careful planned giving, you can fulfill your philanthropic goals and reduce income tax, avoid capital gains or estate taxes, or receive income for life while providing support through an endowment.

Since 1990, members of the Founders Society have pledged \$15M in planned gifts. \$2.2M in new commitments were pledged in fiscal year 2020.

## **Annual and Endowed Scholarships**

Your gift of an annual or endowed scholarship will change lives. The final decision for a student on whether or not they can attend DelVal is often based on the scholarships that bridge the gap between their dream and their reality.

## **Support the Strategic Initiatives Fund**

We are guided by the University's Strategic Plan to achieve our vision: to be the leader in experiential education, empowering all learners to transform the world. By giving in support of our strategic initiatives, you are directly impacting our progress in helping DelVal grow as a comprehensive and thriving institution. These gifts can support crucial initiatives like Experience360, assist in recruiting and retaining top-notch faculty, expand graduate and continuing education programs, and more.

## **1896 Society**

Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more in a fiscal year are members of the 1896 Society. In 2020, 313 donors were in the Society, an increase over the prior year. These leadership donors play an essential role at the University.

## **Emergency Financial Aid Fund**

The Emergency Financial Aid Fund has never been more essential than in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic created financial hardships for many of our students. We are grateful to all who have answered the call to help.

TO MAKE AN ONLINE GIFT:

[delval.edu/essential](https://delval.edu/essential)





DELAWARE VALLEY  
UNIVERSITY

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