

# OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

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#### COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

##### **Department of Art Selected Highlights**

- The Art Department received accreditation from the National Association of School of Art and Design to offer a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (Low Residency) degree. MFA in Studio Art is the terminal degree in visual arts and design.
- Ted Fisher: Broadcast at PBS (Friday, August 5, 2022, 7:30 pm; Sunday, August 7, 2022, 11:00 am; Sunday, August 7, 2022, 5:00 pm)

##### **Division of Mathematics and Sciences Selected Highlights**

- Faculty of the Division of Math & sciences produced 41 peer-reviewed publications,

##### **Delta Music Institute Selected Highlights**

- After a 2-year break, the Thacker Mountain Radio Hour returned to DMI's Studio A for a live broadcast

##### **Division of Languages and Literature Selected Highlights**

- The Division of Languages and Literature hosted the annual Mississippi Writing Center Conference in April. This two-day event welcomed Writing Center staff, faculty, and student tutors from many of the state's 4-year and 2-year colleges.

##### **Division of Social Sciences and History Selected Highlights**

- In January 2022, Andrew Wegmann's book, *An American Color: Race and Identity in New Orleans and the Atlantic World*, was published by the University of Georgia Press.

##### **Department of Social Work Selected Highlights**

- DSU now has an interdisciplinary FORECAST Simulation Team. In the spring of 2022, Taylor Skelton, Loretta Jackson, Victoria Peay, Merideth Mullen, Donna Ossorio, Leslie Stewart, and Sarah Taylor led by Jana Donahoe, Team Leader, all completed certification to implement 5 FORECAST Problem-Based Learning Simulations about multi-disciplinary Child Abuse Investigation Processes to use for workforce development and training with DSU students and local professionals. The team conducted a simulation training for BSW seniors at the Child Advocacy Training Institute in Jackson in April and

for students in SWO 475 System Responses to Child Maltreatment in July. More simulations are planned for 2022-2023 and will be used primarily for workforce development and training on campus and in the community.

### **Department of Speech and Hearing Selected Highlights**

- 100% of graduates who applied for graduate school were accepted. Graduates will be attending Master's programs at Harding University (AR), Gannon University (FL), Southern University, and Nova Southeastern.

## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND AVIATION**

### **CCED**

- Received a 7-year, \$15,721,200 grant from the Department of Education to establish the MS Delta (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) GEAR UP in the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED).
- Received a 5-Year, \$1,365,000 grant from the Department of Education to continue the operation of the Delta Education Opportunity Center (DEOC) in the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED).
- Received a \$126,358 grant from Save The Children to establish Rural Accelerator Initiative (RAI) in Quitman County through the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED).
- The Women Minority Business Development Center (WMBDC) was selected by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) to serve as the host organization for the latest Model Contractor Development Program. This 9-week program provides training to small business owners on a variety of topics, including Business Planning and Management to Managing Growth and Success.

### **Department of Commercial Aviation**

- Received news of approximately \$2,000,000 Federal appropriation to establish an Agriculture Pilot program in partnership with local economic development agencies, community colleges, and industry entities.
- Received news of approximately \$2,499,000 State allocation to purchase five (5) new aircraft for the Department of Commercial Aviation flight operation program.
- The Air Force JRROTC Flight Program: In June and July 2021, the United States Air force granted the Department of Commercial Aviation to teach their top cadets our Private Pilot course with each student receiving their Private Pilot Certificate. These cadets were on campus as students enrolled in CAV 250 Private Pilot Ground and CAV 251 for 8 weeks. Students received their Private Pilot Certificate. Due to its success, the program has been awarded funding for 2022-2023.

## **Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration**

- Instructor April Mondy completed her doctoral coursework and passed her comprehensive exams in Spring 2022. She has started worked on her dissertation. Ms. Mondy is pursuing a Ph.D. in Business Administration with a concentration in management at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.
- Dr. Lisa Cooley received the OIT Connected Educator Award and Emerald Award of Excellence for the Top Female Faculty Member. Dr. Cooley was appointed to serve on the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; elected as President of the Cleveland Development Foundation; and, appointed to serve on the Operations Management and Entrepreneurship Association Board of Directors.
- Dr. Tomeka Harbin was selected as the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Outstanding Adviser of the Year for 2022; Delta State University S. E. Kossman Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 2022; Emerald Award of Excellence Top Administrator for 2022; Delta State University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion April Upstander in 2022.

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES**

### **Teacher Education, Leadership, and Research**

- The educator preparation programs (undergraduate and advanced) received a full 7-year accreditation on May 1, 2022, from the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP), with no areas for improvement cited.
- The Statesmen Residency Project, a grant supported by the Mississippi Department of Education through federal funding, was proposed and accepted for \$1,902,926.40. The purpose of the grant is to increase partnerships with surrounding districts to develop a pipeline of certified teachers through teacher preparation programs at DSU.

### **Health, Physical Education, and Recreation**

- Dr. Todd Davis, Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, received the IHL Excellence in Diversity Award.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

- The Hamilton-White Child Development Center received a Child Care Strong Grant totaling approximately \$364,000, enabling improvements in instructional resources and equipment.

## **ROBERT E. SMITH SCHOOL OF NURSING**

- Groundbreaking for the SON Expansion/Renovation Project occurred in March 2022 with construction initiated
- SON received a three-year grant in the amount of \$638,000 from the Bower Foundation to implement a *Summer Nursing Profession Program* to help students at the university, community colleges, and high schools to meet admission criteria for the BSN [pre-licensure] program by improving ACT scores and grades in math & science
- Achieved 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN for December 2021 graduates of the BSN [pre-licensure] cohort (all have taken)
- Achieved 100% pass rate on the FNP Certification Exam for May 2022 graduates (who have taken)

## **ROBERTS-LAFORGE LIBRARY**

- The Queen of Basketball won the Best Documentary Short Subject at the most recent Academy Awards Ceremony. Its subject is Delta State's basketball legend Luisa Harris and the archival footage and other resources were provided by the University Archives.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER**

### **Academic Support Services**

- Secured funding from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation to implement a summer *JumpStart* Program, a new four-week summer bridge program to help incoming freshmen transition from high school to college. *JumpStart* offers first-time freshmen the ability to become acclimated to academic, personal, and social challenges which often occur during the first semester of college.

### **Complete-2-Compete**

- Helped Rose Harts-Pegues, 75, graduate from the University Studies program with only one class needed to complete her degree.

### **International Education/Fulbright Office**

- Selected as one of 10 new 2022-24 U.S. host sites for a two-year Japan Outreach Initiative coordinator.

## **GRANTS**

- In the fall of 2021, Delta State received a United States Department of Education GEAR-UP grant, which is the largest multi-year grant that Delta State University has received. The grant funding of \$15,271,200 over seven years will provide college access and career planning programming to eight school districts in the Mississippi Delta. The program will serve 2,700 Mississippi Delta students. GEAR UP Partnership grants are designed to increase college attendance and success and raise the expectations of low-income students. This program is housed under the College of Business and Aviation at the Center for Community and Economic Development.

## **THE DELTA CENTER FOR CULTURE AND LEARNING**

- Hired new staff members: Wayne Dowdy, MS Delta National Heritage Area Program Manager; Asha Done, Program Associate for Projects; and Todd Campbell, MS Delta NHA Grants Compliance and Community Capacity Building Manager. For full bios, see <https://deltacenterdsu.com/the-staff>
- In October 2021, The Delta Center and MS Delta NHA partnered with the National Park Service to host a virtual preservation grants info session that yielded \$1 million in NPS preservation grants to Rust College in Holly Springs, MS, and a ~\$500,000 NPS preservation grant to The Riverside Hotel in Clarksdale, MS.
- Commendation from MS Dept of Archives & History for conducting MS Delta Civil Rights Sites Resource Study and Community Engagement Project; for more details, see <https://www.deltastate.edu/news-and-events/2021/11/mdnha-at-the-delta-center-receives-commendation-from-ms-department-of-archives-history/>

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

- “Voices from the Sit-In” DSU premiere (Oct. 3, 2021), film festivals (11 and counting), 2 awards, and 3 nominations, airing on Mississippi Public Broadcasting in August.
- DEI received three grants – National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi, and Mississippi Humanities Council.
- Student-led DEI projects included World Afro Day and Lusia Harris t-shirts
- Not a DEI accomplishment, but I think it’s noteworthy that Dr. Todd Davis was selected as the IHL’s Diversity Educator of the Year.

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, EFFECTIVENESS, AND PLANNING**

- Chrisa Mansell finished her two-year term as Treasurer of MAIR (MS Association of Institutional Research) in March and is now serving as President of MAIR.