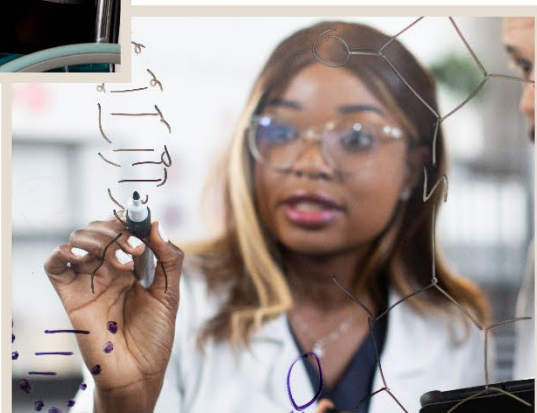
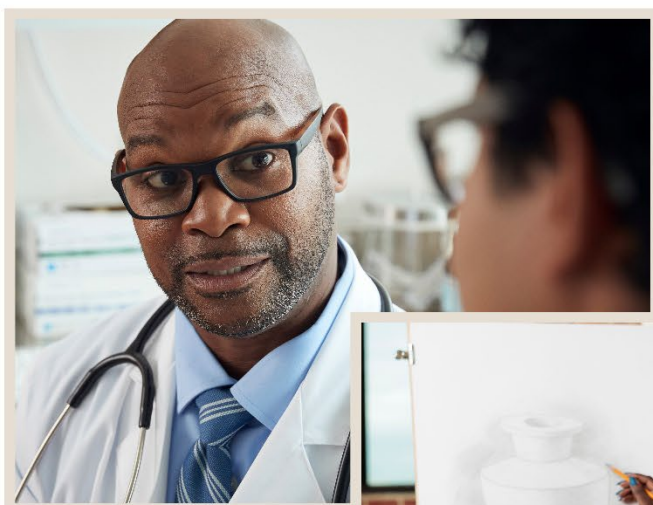


11th Annual
Regional Undergraduate Research Conference
November 1, 2025
Delaware State University

The Pursuit
of
Health
and
Well-being



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November 1, 2025
Delaware State University ♦ Dover, Delaware
The Pursuit of Health and Well-being

Opening Remarks	Dr. Patrice Gilliam <i>Provost, Delaware State University</i>	9:00 AM
	Dr. Fareeda Griffith <i>Associate Provost, Delaware State University</i>	
Paper Session I	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 257A <i>Well-being in the Mind</i>	9:30 AM
Paper Session I	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 265 <i>Well-being in the Academy</i>	9:30 AM
Poster Session I	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 109	9:30 AM
Paper Session II	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 257A <i>Well-being in Culture</i>	11:00 AM
Paper Session II	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 265 <i>Well-being in Living</i>	11:00 AM
Poster Session II	Education and Humanities Bldg. RM 109	11:00 AM
Lunch and Keynote Speaker	Dr. Jennifer Alexander	12:15 PM
Awards, Recognition, and Remarks		1:30 PM

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Session I A: Well-being in the Academy (EH 265) 9:30 AM

Moderator: Dr. Raymond Tutu

Judges: Dr. Sandra Sokowski and Dr. Robert Marsteller

Blake Tutman: Delaware State University

Learning by Doing: The Value of Experiential Learning

Imani Wulff-Cochrane: Delaware State University

Black Girls Lead Too: Identity, Burden, and the Pursuit of Well-Being in Leadership

Adesola Akinwale: Delaware State University

The Role of a Next Steps Discussion Guide in Conducting Forward-Facing Research

Session I B: Well-being in the Mind (EH 257 A) 9:30 AM

Moderator: Ms. Sabrina Bailey

Judges: Dr. Adenike Davidson and Dr. Fareeda Griffith

Victor Flores: Rutgers University

The Influence of Congruency and Encoding Context on Object-Feature Memory

Megan MacWade: University of Delaware

Identifying and Documenting the Long-Term Impact of Brain Injury on the Health and Well-Being of Black and Latina Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Sophia Lyons: Morgan State University

I Will Do It Later: Exploring the Relationship Between Academic Procrastination, Anxiety Symptoms, and College Major.

Nia Dooley: Delaware State University

A Holistic Approach: Connecting HBCUs and Harvard for Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy

Session I Poster Session (EH 109)

9:30AM

Judges: Dr. Melissa Harrington and Dr. Erin Perchiniak

Mya Brown: Morgan State University

Parenting on Edge: Exploring the Role of Parental Stress in Children's Executive Functioning

Brandy Jacob: Delaware State University

Altered Cortical Thickness Asymmetry in Individuals with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

Hannah Sanders: Delaware State University

HealthTalk: A Human-Like AI Medical Assistant

Ahmed Alkaye: University of Delaware

From Muscle Mass to Movement: Exploring the Connection Between Appendicular Lean Soft Tissue Index and Walking Stability Control

Queenesther Nyah: Delaware State University

In Silico Identification and Optimization of MMP-9 Inhibitors Using Ligand Similarity and Structural Modification Approaches

Lakia Coakley: Morgan State University

Examining the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Among African American Adults with Noncommunicable Diseases

Favour Nwanali: Delaware State University

In Silico Evaluation of Cannabinoids-EGFR Binding Affinity: A Novel Strategy for Targeting Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Lindsay Fomundam: Delaware State University

Testing a Behavioral Paradigm for Head-Fixed Spatial Navigation

Maya Eason: Delaware State University

Chatbots and Virtual Companions in Promoting Mental Health

Beyania Dover: Morgan State University

Early Life Adversity and Female Behavior in Threespine Sticklebacks

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Session II A: Well-being in Culture (EH 265) 11:00 AM

Moderator: Dr. Yi Zhang

Judges: Dr. Lauren Parker & Ms. Alyse James

Raheem Wicker: University of Delaware

La Chat and The Murder She Spoke

Amber Tiongson: University of Delaware

Reclaiming Black Identity Through Hip Hop Dance in Eurocentric Cultures: The Cultural Glue Between the United States and Argentina

Amalia Castillo: University of Delaware

Systematic Review of Family Impact on Racial Minority LGBTQ+ Youth Positive Development: Identifying Strengths and Gaps in the Literature

Session II B: Well-being in Living (EH 257 A) 11:00 AM

Moderator: Dr. Ladji Sacko

Judges: Dr. Bhushan Aryal and Ms. Lori Crawford

Amayah Sullins: University of Delaware

Scared Spaces in Secular Places: Muslim Students' Prayer Accommodations in Public School

Jessica Smith: Morgan State University

The Pursuit of Health and Well-being: A Holistic Approach to Living a Good Life

Saniah Thibou: Morgan State University

The Role of Spirituality and Intentional Living in Student Well-being

Session II Poster Session (EH 109)

11:00 AM

Judges: Mehedi Hasan and Saidur Rahman

Erika Suber-Bey: Delaware State University

Optimizing Deep Learning for Multimodal MRI Brain Tumor Segmentation

Cyndey Doughty: Morgan State University

Barriers to Mental Health Care: Student Attitudes and Socioeconomic Factors

Xavier Flaiz: University of Delaware

Monitoring the Effect of Microplastic Properties on Cell Uptake and Viability Using Raman Scanning

Matthew Little: Delaware State University

Data Privacy and Federated Learning in the Medical Field

Sarah Pallus: University of Delaware

Understanding the Impact of ATP on α B-crystallin's Chaperone Function

Sena Ummak: Rutgers University

The Impacts of Loneliness on Prosocial Effort

Morgan Sims: University of Delaware

ADHD Awareness in Women and Girls

Aalia Bello: Delaware State University

Vision Transformer-Based Multi-Modal MRI Segmentation for Accurate Brain Tumor Detection

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Dr. Jennifer Alexander



Jennifer Alexander was raised in East Orange, New Jersey where her love for learning was nurtured by her mother, Lillian Gray. Her interest in science was ignited during a summer internship as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar at Delaware State University (DSU), where she sought to understand biological factors driving metabolic disease disparities. This research experience led to additional opportunities that altogether bolstered her confidence to pursue a career in STEM research.

After completing a Master's in Biological Sciences from DSU, Dr. Alexander went on to earn her Ph.D. from Drexel University College of Medicine, where her research defined the isoform-specific role of palladin in pancreatic cancer stromal remodeling. Fascinated by the parallels between aging and cancer, Dr. Alexander transitioned into a developmental biology lab of Dr. Alana O'Reilly to delineate mechanisms of intestinal aging at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Dr. Alexander is now expanding her initial aging study to elucidate the mechanistic link between aging biology and colorectal cancer pathogenesis as a PennPORT Harris Scholar and NIH K99 MOSAIC Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Alexander's overarching goal is to utilize research to eradicate health disparities while providing underrepresented and disadvantaged students with the opportunity to transform their communities through STEM. Towards this end, her aim is two-fold: 1) to rigorously lead a diverse team of highly skilled scientists in elucidating mechanisms intersecting aging biology and cancer disparities and 2) to recruit and mentor underrepresented scholars in STEM through research and teaching platforms.

Gratitude to Our Partnering Schools:

Rutgers University
&
University of Delaware

Appreciation to Morgan State University for joining us today

Very special thanks to:

Dr. Shonda Poe and The Office of Undergraduate Research, Experiential Learning and Honors (URELAH) for their significant financial contribution and institutional commitment to Undergraduate research

Dr. Francine Edwards and the Cultural Programming Committee for their substantial financial contribution and dedication to positive, lasting student experiences.

The Office of Academic Affairs:

Dr. Patrice Gilliam -Provost

Dr. Fareeda Griffith -Associate Provost

The College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences

Dr. Adenike Davidson - Dean of the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

Mrs. Danielle Hicks

Mrs. Marticia Allen

Dr. Melissa Harrington - Associate Vice President for Research

Ms. Sabrina Bailey

Mr. Darren Rainey

Mr. Michael Scott

Mr. Keith Nurse

Mr. Anthony Lacey

Dr. Myrna Nurse