



# DELAWARE FIRST

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

"Access to impactful experiences should not be limited to only those who can afford it"

—Kami Silk, Communication Department Chair and Rosenberg Professor of Communication



## TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING FUND

### EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS

Critical learning often occurs outside of a traditional classroom setting through experiential learning opportunities that facilitate students' interests and professional growth.

Experiential learning, an essential part of the student experience in the Department of Communication, includes internships, independent studies, student projects, student research or other highly engaged and individualized student opportunities.

The Department of Communication seeks to expand hands-on learning opportunities because they enhance students' education and experiences. While coursework with faculty members provides academic and theoretical foundations with some applied opportunities, coursework cannot replace real practice and engagement outside of the classroom. Hands-on learning—through internships, professional conferences and real-world interactions with experts and the community helps students understand the field in which they hope to work, expands their networks and improves their chances of securing fulfilling employment.

Making a commitment to engage in experiential learning, however, is often challenging because many students must choose between pursuing paid jobs outside their field of study and taking an unpaid internship or professional development opportunity. Oftentimes the travel or living costs associated with internships, conferences and other opportunities is a barrier for students who may not have the financial means to pursue these critical experiences.

Philanthropic support, through **Delaware First: The Campaign for the University of Delaware**, will ensure Department of Communication students can access the transformational opportunities without concern for financial burdens.

**The funding through the Transformational Learning Fund in the Department of Communication will provide students with unparalleled opportunities for greater success at UD and beyond. With your generosity, Blue Hens will be able to pursue experiential learning opportunities in the communications field that connects course content with practical learning.**



"I was hesitant at first to accept an unpaid summer internship opportunity in New York City due to the expenses associated with commuting from central New Jersey. After shadowing at Cumulus Media for a day back in the fall, I saw the opportunity for professional growth in an environment

that I could see myself working in. As someone who has always been interested in working in some facet of the entertainment industry, I wanted to get a summer internship that would prepare me to enter the competitive workforce.

Because of the funding through an internship grant, I was able to spend my summer pursuing my passion without having to worry about the expensive cost of transportation. Without this funding, I would have had to turn down this opportunity. I am so grateful for the financial assistance in being able to pursue my passion—it truly made a positive impact on my career development."

- Jenna Landesman, AS20  
Cumulus Media - Social Media Intern

**Below outlines a few examples of how your support can make a difference for Blue Hens.**

GIFT AMOUNT	IMPACT EXAMPLE
\$1,000	Student conference attendance
\$2,500	Transportation and resources for student career development trip
\$3,000	Fill the financial gap for out-of-state internship support
\$5,000	Cost of living for students with unpaid internships