

Five Reasons Why / UD Engineering:

- 1. Position at the nexus of industry and government.** University of Delaware is the flagship university within the historic First State of Delaware with a uniquely influential location at the nexus of intersecting large-scale industry hubs in the biopharma, chemical process, and defense industries, as well as direct connectivity to national labs and federal and state government. The College leverages Delaware's position of influence to develop close relationships with industry leaders as well as state and federal officials, positioning UD for leadership in major endeavors – e.g., home for the [Center for Composite Materials](#) (founded in 1974, supported by federal agencies and 350+ companies spanning the aerospace, automotive, civil engineering, and durable goods industries); headquarters of the Manufacturing USA institute [NIIMBL](#) (National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals), established in 2017; and leadership of key workforce development activities in the Biden-Harris administration's new [MACH2](#) Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub.
- 2. Engineering leadership on campus.** The College plays a pivotal and influential leadership role within the institution. The College research portfolio represents ~54% (>\$126M in FY2023 research expenditures) of total institutional sponsored research, and the College student body represents 23% of UD's graduate population and 13% of its undergraduate population. Engineering has leveraged its institutional role to help catalyze the expansion of campus infrastructure, including three academic makerspaces (MakerGym, iSuite, and Design Studio) that are amongst the most utilized in the country, and new buildings on the growing 272-acre Science, Technology, and Advanced Research (STAR) innovation campus.
- 3. Unprecedented engineering growth trajectory.** Delaware engineering is amidst a period of extraordinary growth in research leadership, educational leadership, and economic influence. Since 2020, five new >\$10M federally-funded centers have been established by engineering faculty in areas ranging from [plastics waste transformation](#) to [musculoskeletal regeneration](#) to [coastal resilience](#), highlighting the national and international impacts of the College. These centers serve not only as innovation centers and hubs of industry connectivity, but also as critical drivers of STEM education, professional development, and outreach. With the state's dual IDeA and EPSCoR designations, and UD's position as a land, sea, and space grant university and NSF HERD [ranking in the top 8% nationally](#), the College is ideally positioned for further growth.
- 4. Infrastructure for interdisciplinary collaboration and international partnership.** University of Delaware established the [Biden Institute](#) in 2017 as an intellectual center for policy makers and scholars, and the [FinTech Innovation Hub](#) in 2023 as a public-private partnership across data sciences, high-performance computing, cybersecurity, and financial services involving UD's business and engineering colleges. Meanwhile, it celebrated the 100-year anniversary of its [study abroad programs](#) in 2023 by highlighting a portfolio comprising 100+ programs in 40 countries and a 30% participation rate amongst undergraduate students. With policy, business, and international programs in close proximity, the College is positioned to expand its strategic portfolio of partners for even greater impact (regionally and around the world).
- 5. Opportunity to build and influence.** The next engineering dean will be uniquely positioned to further define the College's institutional and external leadership portfolio and reputation. The dean will be charged with key roles in advancing campus development, including new and revitalized engineering infrastructure on the STAR and main campuses, advancing UD's interactions and visibility with Congressional representatives and the Delaware Governor's office, and further delineating Delaware's expanding philanthropic pipeline and portfolio of institutional collaborations and industry, academic, and government partnerships.