Dear Colleagues,

The University of Delaware is preparing to apply for the Community Engagement classification conferred by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. A task force has been established to gather, study and organize information that will be the basis for the application, due in April 2014. In the coming months, the task force will reach out to many constituencies on and off campus to further refine and understand UD's model of an “Engaged University.”

Among the University’s greatest strengths is its long tradition of public service. As the largest university in a nationally and internationally important state, we have the opportunity to work closely with a variety of public and nonprofit organizations in Delaware, throughout the region and across the globe, applying our research and human talent to pressing social and civic issues. Preparing an application for the Community Engagement classification will be a productive way to review our commitment to community engagement and consider how well our policies, programs and courses align with our aspirations.

In the most recent selection process in 2010, the Carnegie Foundation conferred the Community Engagement classification on 115 U.S. colleges and universities. Unlike the foundation’s classifications that rely on national data, this is an elective distinction: Institutions choose to participate by submitting considerable documentation describing the nature and extent of their engagement with the community.

The application process will require a substantial effort from the University, and we hope you will assist us with this important exercise of self-assessment and quality improvement. Please look for further information from the task force.

We deeply appreciate your contribution to our success.

Sincerely,

Domenico Grasso
Provost

Patrick Harker
President