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WordSmith

Happy New Year!

I hope you and yours had a healthy, stress-free holiday! Most of my presents this year were of the warm and fuzzy variety (socks, gloves, hats, blankets...), and I very much enjoyed snuggling up with a good book this past week or so. But now it's time to roll up our sleeves (metaphorically, it's too cold to do that for real) and get back to work!

This year, we're planning new issues of the Delaware Journal of Public Health, more Mini Medical School sessions, in person Delaware Youth Medical Academy events, our Annual Meeting on April 30, and a number of other conferences and events to continue to promote public health here in Delaware. We're looking forward to working with our incoming administration, as well as the strong public health network already in Delaware, to continue to advocate for public health in the first state. I look forward to all the ways we can promote and expand public health in the coming year.



I wish you joy, happiness, and good health in 2025, friends! Please make sure to check out our website and socials to keep up to date with our advocacy work and events.

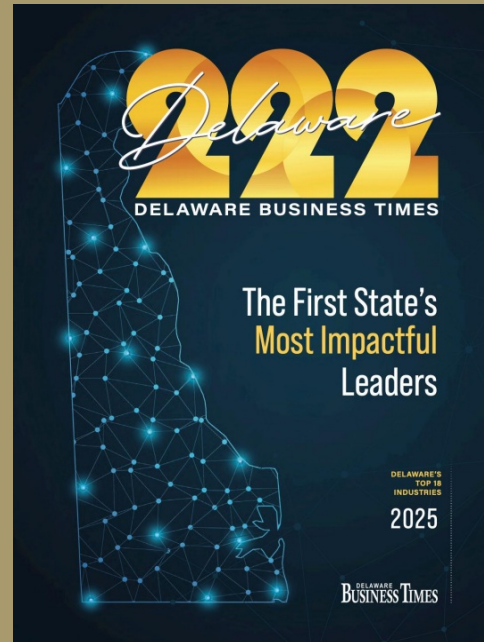
Stay warm!

Kate Smith, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association
Publisher, Delaware Public Health Journal

Featuring Tim Gibbs!

We are thrilled to share that Delaware Business Times has recognized our very own Tim Gibbs, MPH, as one of The First State's Most Impactful Leaders in their latest issue. This honor highlights Tim's leadership and dedication to addressing healthcare workforce challenges through the Delaware Health Force project.

The Delaware Health Force initiative takes a multi-faceted approach to strengthening the healthcare pipeline, focusing on data-driven solutions, expanding graduate medical education opportunities, and cultivating future healthcare professionals. Tim's vision and commitment have been instrumental in driving this critical work forward.





Timothy Gibbs

Director and Principal Investigator

Delaware Academy of Medicine Inc.

Timothy Gibbs oversees Delaware Health Force, a public-private partnership between the State of Delaware and the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. Gibbs oversees staff and contractors for four main programs: a core data and research arm tasked with finding ways to address the immediate educational needs to coordinate and analyze a massive amount of data from the Division of Professional Regulation and others; addressing the educational needs of Delaware's healthcare workforce through the expansion of graduate medical education for multiple provider types. This advanced education has addressed new and continuing education needs directly impacting health care delivery through initiatives like an interest-free loan program for Delaware residents who are willing to commit to practice in Delaware after graduation.

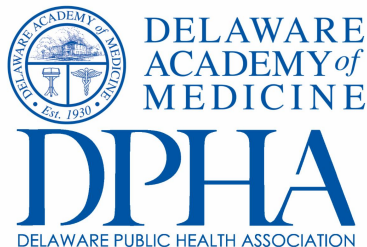
ALMA MATER: Arcadia University – MPHx

BOARDS: Historic New Castle Planning Commission, Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association, Delaware Health Care Commission, Health Workforce Subcommittee

Q&A: Inspirational quote? "Don't count the days, make the days count." Muhammad Ali

[Read the issue](#)

Thank You to our Match Campaign Donors!



Thank you to all our incredible donors who make our work possible! Your generosity has once again helped us secure a Jessie Ball duPont Fund match campaign, allowing us to raise \$6,840 this year. Your continued support empowers us to expand our programs, reach more individuals, and create lasting impact in our community. We are so grateful to have you as part of our mission—together, we're making a difference!

With gratitude, we recognize our donors:

David Bercaw, MD
Claudine T. Jurkovitz, MD, MPH
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Tim Gibbs, MPH
Joseph F. Kestner, Jr., MD
Lynn Jones, LFACHE
Neal Lerner, EdD
Tabe A Mase, FNP, MSN
S. John Swanson, MD
Megan Werner, MD

Save the Date

The Academy/DPHA 2025 Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE
2025
ANNUAL MEETING

April 30, 2025 | 6 PM

Hyatt Place
Wilmington Riverfront



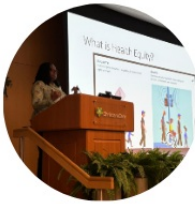
DELAWARE
ACADEMY of
MEDICINE



Join President, **Lynn C. Jones, LFACHE**, and the board and staff of the Academy/DPHA at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront as we honor Dr. Anand Panwalker, and Delaware State University, hear from Sidney Kimmel Medical College Dean (Thomas Jefferson University) **Dr. Said Ibrahim**, and welcome new Academy/DPHA President, **Stephen C. Eppes, MD!**

2024 Immunization Summit Recap

In December, the 2024 Immunization Summit brought together healthcare professionals and public health advocates to explore critical topics in immunization. The event featured a lineup of expert presenters:



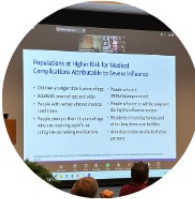
Health Equity in Immunization

Awele Madukah-Ezeh, MD, MPH, PhD, CCHP
Medical Director, Division of Public Health, Delaware
Department of Health and Social Services



2024 Immunization Summit

December 12, 2024
12:30pm-5:30pm



Influenza Vaccine Updates

Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH
Medical Health Educator, Centers for Disease
Control & Prevention



Vaccines for Pregnant People

Matthew Hoffman, MD, MPH, FACOG
*Marie E. Pinizzotto, M.D., Endowed Chair of Obstetrics
and Gynecology, ChristianaCare*



Vaccines for Cancer Prevention

Gabrielle Darville-Sanders, PhD, MPH, CHES
Strategic Director, National HPV Vaccination
Roundtable, American Cancer Society



Vaccine Confidence

Jonathan Miller, MD
Chief, Delaware Valley Primary Care, Nemours
Children's Health)



Pneumococcal & Meningitis Vaccines

Stephen Eppes, MD
Director, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, ChristianaCare



Arboviral Diseases: Updates in Dengue & Chikungunya Vaccines

Marci Drees, MD, MS, DTMH, FACP, FSHEA
Chief Infection Prevention Officer, Hospital
Epidemiologist, ChristianaCare

Thank you to all attendees and speakers for making this event a success! Your engagement supports the advancement of immunization efforts and public health. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate in the future!

Health Student Loan Program

An Update from our Student Financial Aid
Coordinator



Financial Aid

Healthcare Workforce Initiative

Application open until funds are depleted

Eligibility:

- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident (I-151 or I-551 card)
- One year of residency in the State of Delaware
- Enrolled in an approved degree-granting program or certificate in **Nursing, Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant/Hygienist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Cognitive Science, Health Behavior Science, Medical Sonography, Medical Diagnostics, Patient Care Technician, Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, Alcohol & Drug Counseling, Health Information Technology, Physician Assistant, Behavioral Health or Allied Health**

Requirements:

- Completed online application
- Online self-certification form
- Credit and background check authorization
- Copy of most recent signed Delaware tax return (personal and/or parents, if dependent)
- Proof of Delaware residency (driver's license, vehicle registration, voter's registration card)
- Proof of Citizenship
- Letter of Acceptance
- Promissory Note and Loan Agreement

Funding:

- Funded by the Delaware American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for shortages in the healthcare field due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Loan amount averages between \$2,500 to \$15,000 annually based on cost of attendance

Repayment:

- The student loan will be interest-free if the borrower remains a Delaware resident, attends a Delaware institution and works in an approved Delaware healthcare position after graduation for a specified period
- Repayment begins 6 months after graduation
- Repayment plan options will depend on the degree type
 - Certification programs: 1 to 3-year plans
 - Associates, Bachelors, or Masters Degree programs: 5 to 7-year plans
 - Doctoral programs: 7 to 11-year plans

Note: Terms of repayment of loans are covered through the promissory note and loan agreement.

To apply, visit: <https://delamed.org/student-financial-aid/>

Contact: Giselle Bermudez, MS, Student Financial Aid Coordinator

email: gbermudez@delamed.org

phone: 302-733-1122

Visit <https://delamed.org/student-financial-aid/> for more information.

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Want to become a member?

Join today!



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Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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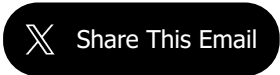
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