

# FALL AND WINTER | 2025 & 2026



**Haley Timmons, Former Pathways to Success Student**

On Friday, September 26th, the Pathways to Success Student Limelight Celebration gathered at Irish Eyes Pub & Restaurant in Lewes to honour seven exceptional students for their perseverance and dedication. Executive Director Fay Blake reflected on the program's mission, explaining that it exists to identify talent, support young people in becoming their very best, and clear obstacles so that every student has the opportunity to flourish. She emphasized that this work matters deeply because our children deserve nothing less. The evening's emcee, Haley Timmons, a former Pathways participant herself, opened the program by shining a light on the students' journeys and resilience. Honorees included Ryan Grace and Chris Miller from Cape, Ayreonna Hudson, a current freshman at Delaware State University, Ja'Laysia Reynolds of Polytech High, DaniJah Stroud of Seaford High, and Shyleah Cannon and Mar'yona Smith of Sussex Tech each recognized for charting their own path amid challenges and emerging ready for what comes next.

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**Cicely Emerson, Chris Miller & Ivan Neal**

# Limelight Celebration



**Board Chair William Collick**

As the program continued, William Collick addressed the gathering, reminding students, “You have to get a seat at the table or find somebody who is at the table that can advocate for you,” emphasizing that the opportunities before the honorees are limited only by their willingness to step forward and claim them.



**Jeremy Robinson & Ja'Laysia Reynolds**



**Cicely Emerson & Shyleah Cannon**



**Michael Holland & Danijah Stroud**



**Cicely Emerson , Ayreonna Hudson and Ivan Neal.**



**Cicely Emerson & Mar'yona Smith**



**Cicely Emerson, Ryan Grace and Ivan Neal.**



**Marjorie Belmont, Fay Blake, Sarah Gilmour**



**Award given to Sarah Gilmour in recognition of her dedication and leadership at the Limelight event.**

During the Limelight Celebration, Sarah Gilmour, Outreach and Development Manager, was recognized for her outstanding dedication and leadership at Pathways to Success. Sarah's passion for building meaningful relationships and expanding opportunities for the students and families we serve is felt across every program and partnership. Her commitment goes beyond her role—she is a tireless advocate, collaborator, and champion for our mission. This well-deserved recognition reflects the heart, integrity, and impact she brings to Pathways every single day. We are incredibly grateful for Sarah's leadership and the lasting difference she continues to make in our community.

## **With Gratitude to Our Limelight Supporters**

**We extend our sincere thanks to the generous organizations and individuals whose support makes the Limelight Celebration possible. Your partnership ensures that this special event not only honors student achievement but also raises vital support for the Pathways to Success programs that help young people grow, gain confidence, and prepare for their futures.**

**Because of you, Limelight is more than a celebration—it is an investment in opportunity. The encouragement and resources generated through your support reach far beyond the evening itself, helping sustain the mentoring, academic guidance, and career readiness experiences that empower students to thrive.**

**We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Pathways to Success and for the meaningful role you play in opening doors and illuminating bright pathways for the students we serve.**

# A Special Thank You to Our Limelight Sponsors:



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# Delaware Government Officials Visit Pathways to Success

## SENATOR LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER – VISIT TO PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

It was with great pleasure that the Pathways to Success team welcomed Senator Blunt Rochester to the Pathways office. The overview to the Senator included our core program, where Program Coordinators are in the high schools (Cape Henlopen, Polytech, Seaford, and Sussex Tech), to support the students in the program to Microsoft Training Certification, CAST (Construction and Skilled Trades) through Delmarva Power, and Customer Service Certification training.



Yaridel Camacho, a Junior at Delaware State University and Pathways alum, was in attendance. She expressed her appreciation for what Pathways to Success meant to her as a Cape Henlopen High School student. She was able to find her self-confidence and belief in her abilities through the program.



## GOVERNOR MEYER – VISIT TO PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

The Pathways to Success team was so pleased to welcome Governor Matt Meyer to our office in Georgetown, Delaware. The Governor was given an overview of the Pathways program and the youth we serve. One of those youth, Yaridel Camacho, spoke about her experience with Pathways to Success and how it helped her focus on her future and offered opportunities she otherwise would not have. Yaridel is now a Junior at Delaware State University and has paid it forward by supporting Pathways and the current students in the program.

# Delaware State University Foundation Honors Community Leaders



**Fay Blake & Scott Kammerer**

The Felmon D. Motley Award honors Delaware State University alumnus Felmon Motley, the originator of the university's enduring motto: "May all who enter here, enter to learn and go forth and serve." This year, the Delaware State University Foundation proudly presented its inaugural Felmon D. Motley Community Service Awards to two distinguished Sussex County leaders: Fay Blake, Executive Director of Pathways to Success, and Scott Kammerer of SoDel Concepts.

Following the announcement, special recognition was given to Fay Blake for her nearly 20 years of visionary leadership at Pathways to Success. After transitioning from a career in banking, Blake founded the organization with a deep commitment to helping students prepare for college, careers, and life beyond the classroom. Under her guidance, Pathways to Success has grown from a small grassroots effort into a highly respected nonprofit, positively impacting countless students throughout the region.

Scott Kammerer was recognized for SoDel Cares' extraordinary community impact, including its support of Meals on Wheels—providing more than 97,000 meals annually—as well as awarding over \$1 million in scholarships to Sussex County students and fostering meaningful partnerships with Delaware State University.

The award celebration featured remarks from Tony Allen, President of Delaware State University, and Enid Wallace-Haley, President of the DSU Foundation. Additional highlights included reflections from Pathways alumna and DSU student Yaridel Camacho, along with a special video message from DSU Head Football Coach DeSean Jackson.



**Fay Blake**



**Yaridel Camacho**

# Pathways Finder

## Celebrating Service: The Remarkable Impact of Mary Grace Barbye



**Mary-Grace Barbye**  
*Pathways Finder*



**l to r Mary Grace Barbye, Anejah Grace-Johnson, Cape Henlopen Pathways to Success Student, Fay Blake, Pathways to Success Founder and Executive Director, and Josie Cicerale, Pathways to Success Volunteer.**

Pathways to Success thrives because of people who choose to give their time, their energy, and their hearts to our mission. Among those extraordinary individuals, one volunteer stands out for her unwavering dedication and genuine compassion:

Mary Grace Barbye.

Mary Grace has become an essential part of the Pathways to Success family. From the moment she joined our volunteer team, she brought a level of enthusiasm and reliability that immediately elevated the work we do. Mary Grace approaches every task with a spirit of kindness and a commitment to excellence. Mary Grace has a gift for making people feel seen and supported. She listens deeply, acts with intention, and consistently seeks ways to strengthen and make our programs more meaningful

One of the most inspiring aspects of Mary Grace's service is her willingness to take initiative. She doesn't wait to be asked — she anticipates needs, offers solutions, and brings fresh ideas that help us grow. She has been instrumental in increasing our social media presence through frequent postings about our programs and initiatives. Her leadership has truly improved our outreach efforts and increased awareness about Pathways to Success.

Volunteers like Mary Grace are the heartbeat of our organization. They remind us that community is built through everyday acts of generosity and that one person's dedication can create a ripple effect of positive change. We are deeply grateful for her time, her talent, and her belief in our mission.

Thank you, Mary Grace, for being a shining example of what it means to serve with purpose!

# Snacks For Success



## Snacks for Success: A Community Effort with Lasting Impact

The Snacks for Success campaign was a tremendous success, thanks to the generosity and support of our community. Through this initiative, Pathways to Success was able to help ensure that students across Sussex and Kent County, Delaware have access to snacks that support focus, confidence, and learning throughout the school day.

For many students, a simple snack can make a meaningful difference. Snacks for Success was designed to address this immediate need while complementing Pathways to Success's broader mission of providing mentoring, life skills development, and career readiness programming to help students succeed in school and beyond.

This campaign would not have been possible without the incredible support of our community partners and donors. We extend our sincere thanks to State Farm agent Tommy Taylor, his team and customers for their support, and to our generous drop-off location partners — Habitat for Humanity, The Lodge at Historic Lewes, and State Farm — for serving as convenient and welcoming collection sites for snack donations.

Most importantly, we thank every individual, family, and organization who contributed snacks, made monetary donations, shared our messages, and encouraged others to get involved. Your collective generosity turned a simple idea into a powerful demonstration of community care and collaboration.

# Equipping Students with Skills, Credentials, and Confidence



The Pathways to Success WEX (Work Experience) program gives students a structured, supportive way to explore careers while building real-world skills that matter long after graduation by working with local businesses. It blends classroom learning with hands-on job placements, helping participants understand workplace expectations, develop professional habits, and gain confidence in their abilities. Students are paired with mentors, learn how to communicate effectively, practice time management, and discover their strengths through meaningful work experiences. At its core, the WEX program is designed to open doors—showing young people what’s possible for their future and giving them the tools to pursue it with purpose and direction. Businesses interested in this opportunity may contact Casey Reynolds at [creynolds@pathways-2-success.org](mailto:creynolds@pathways-2-success.org).

## Customer Service Credential Training Program

Pathways to Success provides a Customer Service Credential Training program that helps students build the communication, professionalism, and workplace skills needed for customer-facing careers. The training focuses on developing strong customer-based communication, confident presentation abilities, and effective problem-solving so students can create positive customer experiences. Alongside classroom learning, students participate in real-world internships with business partners, giving them hands-on experience and a chance to apply what they’ve learned in professional settings. The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level customer service roles and offers both virtual and in-person learning options to fit different needs.



The Microsoft Office Specialist Training offered through Pathways to Success gives students a powerful head start in mastering the digital tools that drive today’s workplaces. Through guided instruction and hands-on practice, participants learn to confidently use Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other essential applications—building skills that employers consistently look for. The program doesn’t just teach students how to navigate software; it also helps them create polished documents, analyze data, and present information clearly and professionally. By the end of the training, students are prepared to earn industry-recognized certifications that strengthen their résumés and open doors to future academic and career opportunities.



Delmarva Power’s CAST training gives students a solid introduction to the skills and knowledge needed for technical careers in the utility industry. The program helps participants prepare for the Construction and Skilled Trades (CAST) test, a widely used assessment for entry-level positions in fields like line work, electrical maintenance, and gas operations. Through guided practice, students strengthen their abilities in areas such as mechanical concepts, reading comprehension, mathematical reasoning, and spatial awareness. The training not only builds confidence but also helps students understand what to expect in real-world utility environments, making it an important stepping stone toward high-demand, well-paying careers in the energy sector.