

CELEBRATING THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation 2024 Annual Report

***THIRTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, DASEF CONTINUES TO INSPIRE
AND EDUCATE YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES.***



DASEF's 1st Delaware Aerospace Academy: Glasgow High School in 1990.



**DASEF's 35th Delaware Aerospace Day Academies: University of Delaware in 2024.
(Overnight not shown)**

ABOUT DASEF



Founded in 1989, the DASEF (Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation), an independent non-profit educational organization having 501(c)(3) status, functions to raise the visibility and value of K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education to meet intellectual and workplace needs of the future. DASEF implements successful programs using proven instructional strategies to motivate, engage, educate, and inspire people from diverse backgrounds and communities in Delaware.

The DASEF vision is driven by the belief that “Wisdom Begins with Wonder.” Capitalizing on natural curiosity through activities that include a problem solving component enriches the learning process for participants.

DASEF has established itself as an innovative and progressive organization with the vision and resources required to link contemporary Earth and space themes with traditional school subjects to increase interest in science and technology.



Wisdom Begins with Wonder

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends of DASEF,

As we complete our 35th year, we are proud and pleased to be offering our signature Academy for the youth of Delaware and neighboring states. We all agree the journey continues to be an exciting, rewarding, bonding, experience filled with creativity, innovativeness and hard work. Our building, renamed the Delaware Discovery Center, is situated on our 40-acre site and is centrally located and easily accessible to ALL in Delaware and the MidAtlantic region.

We have focused on Delaware's STEM Standards in exciting, creative ways. DASEF endeavors to concentrate on information and activities that give students, teachers, and the public opportunities for increased understanding of the Earth and its Place in the Universe. Using our 35 years of experience, our accredited Staff, Board and Council are creating programs and events that will sustain DASEF in the coming years! The Center will enable us to expand DASEF's imprint and impact implementing a community model for formal and informal education as a focal point for school programming, professional development, and public outreach.

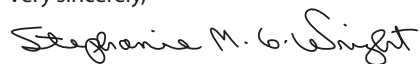
Funding from the State of Delaware Legislature and private donations have enabled us to provide a vibrant, safe, and positive learning environment conducive to success. In addition to engendering STEM experiences, we value the importance of social infrastructure. DASEF is aspiring to assist various communities develop "a sense of belonging" by providing schools, the public, government and funders opportunities that provide a positive, all-inclusive community-centered approach. DASEF endeavors to partner with our state to build a more sustainable and equitable future for all of our citizens.

From the start, DASEF has embraced disciplined, conservative financial stewardship. All construction has been funded without debt and completed on budget. Solicitation of grants and other efforts seeking capital funding for construction continue and remain necessary to enable continued progress toward the completion of the DDC. We now have a permit from Kent County for the use of first floor.

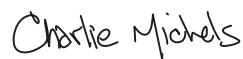
DASEF is appreciative of the collaboration and program support of many partners that include, Delaware NASA Space Grant, Delaware's Institutions of Higher Education, DuPont, Agilent, IBM, 3M, SSS Clutch, Northrup Grumman, Delaware Electric Cooperative, State of Delaware Libraries, Wilmington Flower Market, AAUW and may other non-profit and corporate sponsors. Through the efforts of our Board members, Advisory Council, our staff and many volunteers and corporate sponsors, 2024 has moved us closer to finishing the second floor. We look forward to expanding our programs and ask for your continued support as we return to serving the region in 2025. **At DASEF, we ALL believe Wisdom Begins with Wonder! The Earth and its Place in the Universe!!!**

We are very proud to be celebrating our 35th year of serving children and their families!!

Very sincerely,



Stephanie M.G. Wright, Ed. D. • President & CEO



Charlie T. Michels • Chairman, Board of Directors



DASEF's Chairperson and President & CEO



Delaware Space Grant & DASEF Leadership

2023 - 2024 COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Educating and Inspiring

Following are comprehensive financial statements excerpted from DASEF’s Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 (January 1 - December 31) audit performed by the accounting firm of Barbacane Thornton & Company Certified Public Accountants, Wilmington, Delaware. Complete audited statements are available from DASEF upon request.

Balance Sheets DECEMBER 31, 2023 and 2024

Assets	2023	2024
Cash and Restricted Cash	\$2,272,770	\$2,804,672
Investments	49,135	63,523
Property and Equipment (Net)	<u>15,946,332</u>	<u>18,088,877</u>
Total Assets	\$18,268,237	\$20,957,072
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$272,556	\$707,583
Net Assets	<u>17,995,681</u>	<u>20,249,489</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$18,268,237	\$20,957,072



Since 1994, DASEF has awarded \$296,737 in Aerospace Academy Scholarships to 1,505 cadets!

STATEMENT OF REVENUE/EXPENSES - For the Years Ending DECEMBER 31, 2023 and 2024

Revenues	2023	2024
Contributions and Grants	\$2,073,872	\$2,506,803
Tuition and Programs	136,276	112,847
Other Revenue	<u>58,950</u>	<u>95,838</u>
Total Revenues	\$2,269,098	\$2,715,488
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$371,014	\$416,171
General and Administrative Expenses	63,669	43,908
Fundraising	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,601</u>
Total Expenses	\$351,779	\$461,680
Increase in Net Assets	\$1,833,115	\$2,253,808

MISSION:	CORE VALUES:
To inspire and educate the people of the Delaware Valley in learning about Earth’s environment, Earth and space science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the use of academies, presentations, symposiums, professional development, events, and activities and the resources of DASEF’s Environmental Outpost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity and compassion • Responsible decision making • Environmental stewardship • Innovation, exploration, and discovery
	VISION:
	To create an exceptional learning environment that inspires children and their families with a sense of appreciation for Earth and its place in the universe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

DASEF Honorary Board and Board of Directors
 DASEF Advisory Council
 The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
 The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
 The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
 The Honorable John Carney
 Kent County Commissioners and Levy Court
 3M
 Aeroject Rocketdyne
 Adams/Bloom Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Advantech
 Agilent Technologies
 American Association of University Women, Newark
 American Association of University Women, Western Sussex
 American Association of University Women, Wilmington
 Bancroft Construction Company
 Bank of America
 BBD, LLP
 Blue Earl Brewing Company
 Boeing Company, Boeing Advanced Rotorcraft Systems
 Bruce L. Hudson, Attorney at Law
 Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis (CEMA)
 Central Economic Development Council
 Charles Parks Studios
 Chichester Foundation/Lydia Foundation
 Christiana Care Life Net
 Delaware Air National Guard
 Delaware Division of Libraries
 Delaware Electric Cooperative of Greenwood
 Delaware Grant-in-Aid
 Delaware NASA Space Grant Consortium
 Delaware Air National Guard
 Delaware Solid Waste Authority
 Delaware State Police
 Delmarva Power
 Delaware State University
 Division of Delaware Parks and Recreation
 DuPont Company
 Goddard Space Flight Center
 IBM
 ILC Dover, Inc.
 Jean and Bruce Kraeuter
 Joseph T. Farina, AIA
 Kent County Chamber of Commerce
 Kent County Tourism
 Master Interiors
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 NASA Summer of Innovation Mini-Grant Program
 New Castle Insurance, LTD
 Northrop Grumman
 Painted Stave Distilling
 Elmer and Betsy Read
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region, Inc.
 RPJ Waste Services
 Seaford Lions Club
 Sigma Data Systems, Inc.
 Spitz, Inc.
 SSS Clutch
 State of Delaware Bond Committee
 State of Delaware General Assembly
 Sutton Bus Company
 Town of Smyrna
 University of Delaware
 - Composite Center
 - Engineering Department
 - Physics Department
 - Graphics
 USDA Rural Development
 Stephanie and Brian Wright
 Wilmington Flower Market Foundation
 Yeager Wright Brothers' Scholarship Fund

DASEF'S YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR STAFF MAKES A DIFFERENCE DASEF: Explore, Discover, and Learn.....

Programs reach public, parochial, private and home schools, youth groups, Girls and Boys Club, teachers, libraries, 4 H, pre-school, scouts and regional families. Approximately 36% of the school children come from "Low Income families" (U.S. DOE-defined). DASEF's educational participants encompass the full range of socioeconomic backgrounds.

DASEF strives to be all inclusive, serving all children at risk and those with disabilities are served. It is our goal to measurably contribute to enriching children, teachers and the public with educational interactive STEM experiences. We value and respect all children and their families and teachers and strive to instill a love of learning in each of them.

We have served over 682,622 students, teachers, and families in the Delaware Region. With the pandemic behind us, DASEF is moving forward!



Group construction during a library visit.



Mr. Leonetti guides Light & Sound Activities



Destination Orbit cadets spend the day at the Air National Guard.



Cub scouts explore the Earth using our 22' Earth Balloon.



Dinosaurs at Destination Discovery.



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DASEF strives to improve the quality of life through its advocacy of education, the environment, and strengthening the workforce.



Venus the Velociraptor greets Space Grant visitors.



Group Photo of Destination Moon and Mars cadets & staff.