

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester Speaks at Delaware College Scholars Program Graduation



Liz Torrey
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On June 17, parents, faculty and supporters gathered alongside Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester to celebrate as 31 rising college freshmen graduated from the rigorous Delaware College Scholars

(DCS) program. A partnership between St. Andrew's School and the Delaware Department of Education, DCS is a tuition-free, residential, college preparatory program for high-achieving 10th through 12th graders from Delaware families of low income. The mission of DCS is to recruit and prepare (both academically and socially) these students to apply to, enroll in, and graduate from competitive colleges and universities.

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The program specifically targets low-income 10th-, 11th- and 12th-graders who are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch. Graduates are often the first in their family to attend college. Program participants spend three weeks, three summers in a row, at St. Andrew's, where they live and study together in a cohort-based program. While immersed in a collegiate-style residential atmosphere at St. Andrew's, the students receive college mentorship, learn about and visit different colleges, and form lasting relationships with their peer groups while tackling an intensive reading, writing and discussion-based curriculum. In the program, students apply to college with the help of one-on-one advising, learn about financial aid and scholarships, select the college of their choice and create a plan to complete a successful freshman year of college. This year, graduates of the program are attending Cornell University, Wesleyan University, Lehigh University, University of Delaware, and Delaware State University, among others.

While only eight percent of Delaware students from low income families attend four-year institutions of higher education, ninety-two percent of Delaware College Scholars (who all come from low-income families) have gone on to a four-year institution of higher education.

"Our students have worked extremely hard for the past three summers and I am proud to celebrate them and this accomplishment. Thanks to our partnership with St. Andrew's and the Delaware Department of Education, we have created a statewide opportunity for the best and brightest students in Delaware to excel in college academically and socially," said Dr. Tony Alleyne, Director, Delaware College Scholars.