

## Why is there a need for the Delmarva Education Foundation?

In both income and education, the tri-county area on the lower Delmarva Peninsula (Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties) is **worse than average** compared to the statewide levels.

### Children in Poverty

Maryland ..... 10.3%  
 3-county average ... 18.5% of children live in families with income below the poverty level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

### People 25 Years and Over With a B.A. Degree

Maryland..... 35.2%  
 3-county average..... 21.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

*DEF is working to close these gaps that adversely impact quality of life and workforce development, so more students in this region pursue higher education, whether it be college or specialized career training, thus boosting their earning ability.*

DEF was chartered in Maryland in December 1999 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and began providing services in 2000. We are supported by donations from individuals and organizations, grants, and in-kind contributions.



*“DEF has been an excellent resource for our students and parents. There has never been a time I have called on them that they have not been helpful.”*

**Janice Cottman**

Counselor, Crisfield High School  
 Somerset County, MD

### DELMARVA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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DEF's Salisbury office is located in the Non-Profit Office Center operated by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

Our Pocomoke office is housed within the Mid-Atlantic Institute for Space and Technology (M.I.S.T.).

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# College? You?

# YES!



DEF helps people find money to continue their education.

[www.delmarvaed.org](http://www.delmarvaed.org)  
 410-219-3336





# DELMARVA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## OUR MISSION

*"... to improve college access and success for residents on the lower Delmarva Peninsula"*

## College and Career Preparation

DEF's College Access Program (DEF-CAP) is helping boost the college-going potential and career preparation of local youth. DEF-CAP services are offered at our offices, at community events, and in high schools through funding from donors, grants, and partnerships. DEF-CAP advisors help with college selection, admission, financial aid, scholarships, and career preparation to guide students through a maze of requirements and choices, providing encouragement and an understanding of how post secondary education or training may benefit each individual student's life.

## Financial Aid

Our Financial Aid Clearinghouse, accessible from our website, links to sources of local, state, and federal money for education. It includes a searchable database of more than 500 local priority scholarships, meaning they are sponsored locally and were established to benefit local citizens. These scholarships provide financial aid for students of all ages including graduating high school seniors, high school graduates returning to school, college undergraduates, and graduate students wishing to further their education and/or skills.

See [www.delmarvaed.org](http://www.delmarvaed.org)

**DEF links those who seek scholarships with those who have scholarship monies to give.**



**DEF is in schools...**



**...in the community...**



**...conducting workshops...**



**...publicizing scholarships...**



**...convening meetings of local educators...**

**...helping students find money for school!**



## Education Information

Our Shirley B. Harting Regional Education Information Center complements our College Access Program and Financial Aid Clearinghouse. The REIC database lists local programs that further skills and education. Students learn where in the seven counties of the lower Delmarva Peninsula they can get higher education and training for a surprising multitude of careers or jobs.

DEF does not necessarily encourage students to remain in the region as they "shop" for schools, but for many local residents it is cost effective to stay close to family or an existing job, and we seek to help our local institutions of post-secondary learning promote their programs.

## A Source of New Ideas, a Place to Meet

DEF provides a forum for developing and sharing ideas that improve opportunities for college access and success for local residents. DEF has hosted meetings for high school principals, for high school counselors, and for research-minded educators, all designed to generate ideas for "best practices" and productive professional networking.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Without leaving the seven counties of the lower Delmarva Peninsula, you can obtain degrees from 11 institutions:**

- Chesapeake College • Delaware State University
- Delaware Technical and Community College
- Eastern Shore Community College
- Old Dominion University • Salisbury University
- Sojourner-Douglass College • University of Delaware
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Wilmington University • Wor-Wic Community College