

Delaware Valley leads ag college statistics

DOYLESTOWN — Recent data released by two organizations that monitor enrollment figures in public institutions which offer agricultural programs reaffirms Delaware Valley College's position as a national leader in agricultural education.

The National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) has reported on 1984 enrollments in all but two of its 77 member institutions while the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources (AASCARR) has reported on all but 6 of its 61 member institutions. Comparing agriculture enrollments at Delaware Valley, a private college, with these public institutions offers some surprises, including:

- On the Plant Science side, DVC offers programs in Agronomy (soils and field crops), Horticulture (production of fruits, nuts and vegetables) and Ornamental Horticulture (landscaping and floriculture). In 1984, these programs enrolled 335 students at Delaware Valley College. A review of the Plant Science enrollments reported by NASULGC and AASCARR for the public agricultural colleges reveals that DVC's Plant Science enrollment in 1984 was exceeded by only two other institutions throughout the country.

- In the Animal Science area, DVC offers two different programs, Animal Husbandry (which includes livestock production of beef, sheep, swine and horses, along with laboratory animal management) and Dairy Husbandry. The 1984 enrollment at Delaware Valley College in Animal Science was 264, ranking 24th in the nation.

- A closer inspection of the College's Animal Science enrollment compared with other agricultural colleges in the Northeast finds that only Cornell University has a higher number of students enrolled.

Dr. John Mertz, Academic Dean at Delaware Valley College, has a ready explanation for the College's lofty standing among agricultural colleges across the country.

"There is clear evidence that young people are choosing their college and their program of study with greater care than ever before," said Mertz. "What most students are looking for is a diploma that will provide them with the ticket to a challenging and rewarding career."

"By providing more professional course, more experimental components in the program and an opportunity to learn-by-doing and more support in terms of coun-

seling and guidance, we give students exactly what they need to achieve that goal."

When the DVC Class of 1984 was surveyed six months after graduation, more than 99 percent of them were employed and, even more telling, more than 70% of them were employed in a position directly related to the field of their academic major. According to Mertz, that figure is twice the national average in terms of

linking academic programs to career placement and is positive proof that the College is succeeding in its mission.

"We're delivering on the reason why students come to us," said Mertz. "We're preparing them to get into that career and we're doing it with extraordinary effectiveness in preparing students for careers in agriculture, science and business."

Located on a 735-acre campus

just outside of Doylestown, Delaware Valley College presents itself as a college that is able to provide its students with the traditional advantages of a small college: individual attention, small class size, and an opportunity to get to know other students.

But the College's programs are unique in that it is one of only a handful of private college's around the country which offers programs in agriculture. Most of the higher

education in the United States is provided by state-operated land-grant universities (such as Penn State or Rutgers) or, particularly in the Midwest, by state universities that are outside the land grant system. Those universities, often with enrollments exceeding 30,000 and with economic resources to match, are Delaware Valley College's competition for undergraduate students in agriculture.

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