“I believe this will have far-reaching consequences not only for my alma mater, but for the State of Delaware. The hallmark of any great university is to be able to look to the future and lead us in a way to adapt and enhance our position…. This will be a cutting-edge center for the next generation of thinkers, nurturing ideas and innovation, the seeds of which will allow this economy to grow.”

—Joe Biden, U.S. vice president

“The state was a proud partner in the University’s effort to assume ownership of the former Chrysler plant. One of the keys to our state’s long-term economic recovery must be our ability to come together and respond quickly to economic development opportunities like this. This transfer makes it possible for the University to put people to work on a site that could eventually expand Delaware’s reputation as a center for innovation and excellence.”

—Jack Markell, Delaware governor

The first phase of development, comprising just one-third of the total acreage, could yield 4 million square feet of workspace over several buildings. Construction will begin in mid-2010, starting with the decommissioning and demolition of the Chrysler plant.

1743 Holdings, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Delaware.

A Vision for Opportunity and Economic Development

“Right here and very soon, there will be thousands of creative minds working together, and there is nothing that can match that power. This land is an investment in our people, and in our culture of creativity, collaboration and risk, innovation, entrepreneurship and excellence.”

—Patrick T. Harker, University of Delaware president
Central to transforming healthcare in Delaware is the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA), a regional partnership of universities and healthcare providers. Several DHSA components will be located on this site. A large health professions complex will house state-of-the-art instruction and research facilities of such tenants as UD’s College of Health Sciences, the Jefferson Campus for Healthcare Education and the Delaware Rehabilitation Institute. Medical, nursing and pharmacy students, as well as other health professionals, faculty, researchers and administrators will work and learn in this area, stimulating the retail, housing and service sectors.

“To take advantage of Delaware’s position at the center of the nation’s largest life science and biomedical research and manufacturing corridor, DHSA will work closely with the business community to develop new opportunities for growth in the health sciences. DHSA’s education and training programs will provide a workforce qualified to meet that growth, and a well-staffed, high-quality healthcare system will attract high-quality companies to the region.”

—Robert L. Barchi, Thomas Jefferson University president

“Transforming the Region’s Healthcare

UD and U.S. Army Sign Research and Development Agreement

On January 26, 2010, the University of Delaware and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, creating a powerful research partnership between UD—with Category 1 research capabilities—and Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) in Maryland.

The partnership between UD and APG will be an important influence on the transformation of the former Chrysler site into a major center of innovative science, technology and engineering, and a dynamic incubator of new entrepreneurial businesses, including biomedicine, biotechnology, environmental science and alternative energy technologies.

“The most powerful asset this nation has is not its technology but the people who find new ways of moving our nation forward. We look forward to the opportunity to help UD students put their education to purpose—to bring them the applications that will make their entire education come to life.”

—Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice, RDECOM commanding general and APG installation commander

UD and U.S. Army Sign Research and Development Agreement

On December 3, 2008, the Daimler-Chrysler Corporation shuttered its Newark, Delaware, assembly plant. Less than a year later, on October 24, 2009, the University of Delaware (UD) signed a purchase agreement for the 272-acre site.

The location of this property—its strategic placement within the Mid-Atlantic region, its access to transportation systems and road networks and its proximity to University programs, technical support and intellectual resources—presents unique advantages for economic development and growth.

The proximity of the property to UD’s main campus will allow faculty to meet their teaching and research responsibilities while working with businesses to commercialize their intellectual property. This promotes an invigorating entrepreneurial climate at UD, and ultimately benefits the state and the region as important discoveries, inventions and innovations make it to market.

Fulfilling the Land-Grant Mission

The University of Delaware is a land-grant institution—a beneficiary of the Morrill Act of 1862, which granted federally controlled land to states for the purpose of creating colleges that would teach engineering and agriculture to state residents. Thus, part of the land-grant mission of universities like UD is to make higher education practical to the population at large.

In keeping with its land-grant mission, UD is focused on developing new ideas, technologies and processes that benefit the population; helping employers and employees through workforce training and education; supporting family services and community development; and creating an educated, competitive citizenry. While UD’s renowned programs in agriculture and engineering (anchors of the 19th-Century economy) remain clearly relevant today, UD is also a leader in sectors enabling and sustaining 21st-Century economic growth. UD’s continued leadership in these sectors will bring unprecedented prominence and prosperity to Delaware.

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“We are excited by the prospect of the Chrysler site, and look forward to working with our Delaware partners to create a new campus that will expand healthcare education and research.”

—Robert L. Barchi, Thomas Jefferson University president

Transforming the Region’s Healthcare