Good Neighbors, Great Partners
From the President

The term “anchor institution” has come to refer to a nonprofit that has deep ties to its geographic location and a bedrock commitment to the quality of life of those who share that location. Such organizations can take a longer view of civic engagement than corporate entities that are buffeted by the economic cycle and the dislocations of globalization. They can “anchor” a community in both good times and challenging ones.

Drexel University is a model anchor institution, proud of its connection to the communities we call our own—neighborhoods, city, region and state. Our goal is to be the most civically engaged university in the nation, a force for service, shared knowledge and economic growth.

“Good Neighbors, Great Partners” highlights one important component of Drexel’s civic initiatives: grassroots outreach driven by our students, faculty, professional staff and alumni in all of our colleges and schools and administrative offices. These efforts are supported and integrated into Drexel’s curriculum by a growing University infrastructure of service including our Office of University and Community Partnerships, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement and Office of Government and Community Relations, which produced this report.

Our service programs tend to mirror our strengths as an institution: innovative approaches to education, compassionate health care and informed problem solving in the urban environment. The success of our activities is a measure of the depth of our partnerships with neighbors and leaders in the University City, Powelton Village and Mantua neighborhoods; the City of Philadelphia and Greater Philadelphia region; and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It’s my privilege to share these stories with you, and to be part of a team that believes in making a difference in the community and has the talent and passion necessary to do so.

Sincerely,

John A. Fry
Drexel’s core, and our driving force, is our mission of education. We combine classroom and real-world experiences to make our students into thoughtful, successful and service-minded citizens. And we serve the communities around us with a similar goal of enriching lives through education.

An Opportunity Leading to a Career

“If it were not for this program I would have no career. And I definitely wouldn’t be smiling and so happy all of the time,” says Myna Whitney. “This was the best thing that ever happened to me in life.”

On a typical day as a certified medical assistant (CMA) in Drexel Medicine’s Gastroenterology office, Whitney has to be ready for anything. She might have to provide important information and vaccines for exotic travellers, or aid someone who’s having trouble swallowing, in addition to basic triage and blood draws. With her work spread across gastrointestinal, travel medicine and infectious diseases departments located in two different locations, Whitney has a lot to do. But that’s not a problem, thanks to the professional training, mentoring by seasoned medical professionals and career development and job coaching services she received as a graduate of Drexel’s Medical Assistant Pipeline Training Program.

The workforce development initiative, a collaboration with University City District’s West Philadelphia Skills Initiative, has created education and job opportunities for West Philadelphia residents since the first class graduated in June 2012. Whitney is one of the many graduates who have found full-time positions at Drexel Medicine. She originally worked as a temporary employee in the Obstetrics and Gynecology office for the summer after graduation before she found her job in the Gastroenterology office.

“The program offers employment opportunities but also trains participants for what to expect and handle once they’ve landed their dream job. ‘Pipeline’ has offered various workshops that range from networking to how to manage stress on the job and becoming an effective team member,” says Brittney King, a current participant who’s working in a temporary position in the Obstetrics and Gynecology office. “It also allows me a place with people who are willing to answer any questions I may have.”

By linking anchor institutions with community residents, the program has created real connections between Drexel University and the West Philadelphia community. And with most graduates finding full-time employment at Drexel offices, those medical assistants are able to aid other Philadelphia residents as well.

The Materials Science and Engineering Summer Institute in Drexel’s College of Engineering offers high school students and recent graduates a hands-on summer experience to learn about how materials impact today’s technological advances.

“The best thing that ever happened to me in life.”

Myna Whitney
Supporting Schools
Primary and secondary education is the key to the future of our city and region. Drexel’s students, faculty and professional staff strive to positively impact the education of Philadelphia’s children.

**Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project**
The U.S. Constitution might not be first on most high school students’ minds, but it’s a powerful force in their lives. Through the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Drexel Law students teach Philadelphia high school students about the legal system and its power to resolve conflicts. Outstanding high school students can compete in regional and national moot court competitions, putting their new knowledge and critical thinking skills into practice.

**GK-12 and Technological Literacy**
America’s global competitiveness depends on education that emphasizes technological literacy. Thanks to a five-year grant, the National Science Foundation’s GK-12 program at Drexel brings graduate engineering students and local high school teachers together to design engineering- and technology-based classroom materials. GK-12 uses the National Academy of Engineering’s Grand Challenges as the context for integrating engineering into high school classrooms.

**Making a Difference Book Drive**
Reading releases the power of the imagination—and that power is especially important to a hospitalized child. That’s why Drexel’s faculty and professional staff made the occasion of “Dreams—a Child to Dream Day” to donate nearly 1,000 new or gently used children’s and adolescents’ books to St. Christopher’s Hospital for its “Reach Out and Read” program.

**Science in Motion**
Students in poorly funded schools have just as much potential to succeed in science as those in well-funded schools, especially if they have the right equipment. Science in Motion delivers realistic scientific environments to local teachers, in an effort to level the playing field. Supported by Drexel and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the program serves eight schools, 10 teachers, 221 classes and 6,633 students in the most recent year.

**Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch Challenge**
They look like what they are—home-made watercraft plying a course across a swimming pool. But the remotely operated vehicles built by young people in the Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch program have represented a window into science, technology, engineering and math for 2,500 middle and high school students since 2006. With the Navy and the American Society of Naval Engineering, Drexel hosts the culminating SeaPerch Challenge, where students show off their robots and demonstrate their knowledge to a panel of judges.

**High School Mentoring and Pipeline Program**
Can an inner-city charter school be the launch pad for future medical leaders? Members of the Student National Medical Association at Drexel’s College of Medicine say yes, and they’re helping by providing free tutoring and partnered mentorship at New Media Technology Charter School in Philadelphia through the Mentoring and Pipeline Program. The program stresses excellence, professionalism and integrity, and the high schoolers experience professional development workshops and tour Drexel’s medical campus.

**ExCITe Center**
Science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM as opposed to STEM) are at the center of efforts to build 21st-century skills of collaboration and design thinking. This holistic approach provides the framework for Drexel’s ExCITe Center (short for Expressive and Creative Interaction Technologies).

**Summer Music Technology Camp**
ExCITe’s Summer Music Technology outreach program is a free one-week camp for high school students that uses the participants’ interest in music to introduce them to the science and technology behind digital music. Students analyze and synthesize sounds and explore individual projects from 3D printing of musical instruments to creating their own guitar effects pedals.

**STEAM at the GK-12 Summer Institute**
Graduate student fellows and high school teachers in the National Science Foundation’s GK-12 program (see “GK-12 and Technological Literacy,” this page) develop STEAM curriculum modules at a summer institute hosted by the ExCITe Center. These modules are integrated into high school math and science classrooms throughout the academic year.

**WorkReady**
Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch Challenge

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**Education**

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Drexel Community Impact Report 2014
Drexel Athletics

Drexel’s athletic programs bring together athletes, student workers and professional staff who are committed to scholarship and service as they are to sportsmanship and performance.

SquashSmarts Kids Day at the U.S. Open

It’s not every day that kids can be inspired by world-class athletes. But that day came in October when Drexel Athletics hosted the 2013 U.S. Open Squash Championships. “Kids Day” brought 200 high school and middle school students to the Quakertown Athletic Center to join the training professionals for games, prizes and world-class squash matches. The event was powered by SquashSmarts, an academic and athletic mentoring program housed at Drexel and the Lenfest Center in North Philadelphia.

Youth Sports Clinics

Drexel’s student-athletes love their love of the game to the influence of mentors, and they pay that debt forward to hundreds of Philadelphia youth each year. In South Philadelphia, kids get the chance to learn America’s fastest-growing game at a clinic held by women’s lacrosse players. Girls and boys at the Mantua in Action Community Center in North Philadelphia.

High School Scholars Program

An elite budget crisis in the Philadelphia School District put the squeeze on some of the city’s best students, as a number of high schools were forced to discontinue squash clinics. Local high school students from the nearby high school of the future began to get back on track as they enrolled in classes at Drexel.

Lifelong Learning

From both a professional and a civic standpoint, it’s crucial for people of all ages to continue to learn, formally and informally. Drexel facilitates a wide variety of community learning.

KEYSPOT

For the city to keep pace with the information age, residents must achieve digital literacy. Drexel helped the Freedom Rays Partnership’s KEYSPOT initiative to Internet access, training and technology to neighborhoods. With the city’s Office of Innovation and Technology, Drexel was proud to be a gold sponsor in the Philadelphia Science Festival (see “The Science of Jazz” on this page). The festival is a 10-day, community-wide celebration of science education experiences for Philadelphians of all ages.

Drexel Community Impact Report 2014
Preventative and clinical care are among our city’s greatest needs. Drexel’s outstanding medical and health sciences programs continue to step up on behalf of healthy and safe communities.

Good Neighbors, Great Partners

Drexel Geriatric Home Visit Model

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Could Public Housing Go Smoke Free?

“There are quite a few asthmatic kids in public housing,” says Dr. Hernando Perez, associate professor in Drexel’s School of Public Health. “And when you think about how much of a public health issue this is, if we could get rid of that trigger of secondhand smoke, that would help solve a lot of problems for these kids.”

Philadelphia is one of the largest housing authorities in the country to begin to implement comprehensive smoke-free policies, which are essential to protect the health of residents, including vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Two research projects led by faculty and students in the School of Public Health evaluated barriers to such policies and found significant support for them and motivation to quit smoking among residents in multi-unit housing, where secondhand smoke travels between units.

Perez, who researched the attitude surrounding the implementation of smoke-free policies, found that half of the residents who responded to a city-sponsored survey support a smoke-free policy, and two-thirds believe it would improve their health.

Perez made recommendations to the city on how to implement smoke-free policies, as did Dr. Ann Klassen, a professor and associate dean for research in the School of Public Health who called for cessation services that build on the existing awareness of the health impacts of second hand smoke. Klassen evaluated smoke-free policies in the public housing communities in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

The evaluation approach drew on multiple research methods, including air nicotine monitoring in homes and public spaces, and interviews with residents, staff and other stakeholders, to monitor the implementation of this important policy initiative.

“When we collect nicotine samples from the air in communities, including inside homes where no one smokes, we give residents important information about how secondhand smoke travels through their communities, and contaminates air they and their families breathe every day,” Klassen says.

For both Perez and Klassen, the goal is to help all residents live healthier lives while maintaining healthful homes and communities. Now that the positive health effects of nonsmoking environments are more prominently understood within the communities, the next step is for public housing in Philadelphia to go completely smoke-free.
Dealing With Crises
Drexel faculty and students have taken the lead in dealing with a number of the acute or long-term health-related crises affecting Philadelphians.

Healing Hurt People
Violence often becomes cyclical for youth—health issues that mutate and worsen. Healing Hurt People engages victims ages 8–20 beginning in the emergency room, connecting them to social services and monitoring that intake turn into outreach and whole person and the safety for the last time to engage a victim. The collaboration includes Drexel’s College of Medicine, School of Public Health and Center for Ronaldo and Social Action, Nationwide University Hospital and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children.

Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center
More than 500 victims of sexual assault each year receive some measure of compassion and action through the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center, operated by the College of Medicine’s Department of Emergency Medicine at the Philadelphia Police Department’s Special Victims Unit. The center offers services including medical evaluation, DNA collection, evidence recovery and inquiry documentation.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Task Force
When a child experiences trauma, the impact can last a lifetime. Sandra Blanick of Drexel’s School of Public Health is helping to find ways to mitigate that effect as co-founder of the Philadelphia Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Task Force for the Institute for Safe Families. The ACE project in its 15th year, examines early childhood traumatic stressors and their relationship to lifelong, public health and social problems throughout the lifespan.

Hepatitis Hope
Hepatitis B is the world’s most common serious liver infection. School of Public Health faculty, students and alumni have worked with the Philadelphia chapter of the Hepatitis B Foundation on education, screening and vaccination programs including “What’s this?” at the Pennsylvania Museum of Art and Love Park.

Emergency Preparedness for New Students
The department’s most vulnerable citizens rely on medications, nurses agencies and services to meet their needs. In light of how the college’s response are to deliver services during large-scale emergencies as when they may need to risk. Either Drexel’s Public Health Valentin or with the United Way to review the capacity and challenges for agencies and make recommendations for future planning.

Fraternity and Sorority Blood Drives
A community of young, healthy and well-informed men and women, united in the desire to help others, can make an incredible difference. Fraternity men and sorority women collected 279 pints of blood during the annual Greek Week Greek Challenge Blood Drive, and partnered with the Free Injury Awareness Week. Fraternity and sorority blood drives are held throughout the region, including the Colonial Atlantic Association Blood Drive coordinated by Drexel Athletics.

Healthy Lifestyle
Prevention is the most effective form of care for many health conditions, and Drexel contributes to the culture of health and wellness in the region.

Public Health Workforce Training
The health of communities depends on the staff and knowledge of the health professionals working in them. Drexel’s School of Public Health offers interdisciplinary education and professional development to Greater Philadelphia’s public health workforce through the Philadelphia Public Health Graduate Program, one of 37 federally funded training centers nationwide in academic institutions. Drexel provides training to 7,500-plus public health professionals annually in subjects like biostatistics and epidemiology, virology, competence, preparedness and global writing.

Meeting Health Needs
Underserved communities, A Special Focus on Children
When families or communities face hardship, children often suffer the most. Drexel’s community projects include many initiatives specifically designed to reduce the burdens on those young people.

SPARK at Jane Addams Place
Founded with the costs of homelessness, poverty may find it difficult to encourage their children to pursue proper nutrition and exercise. Drexel Athletics helps implement SPARK, a youth program on topics like Lutheran Settlement House’s Jane Addams Place, a West Philadelphia shelter for women with children. SPARK uses Drexel’s video Atlanta; some every night. Pediatrics and School of Public Health faculty member Renar Turck warns: “These are the only summer they can attend, and we were supported by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for helping fill the sports medical care during Hurricane Sandy.

Addressing Childhood Lead Poisoning
The cost of lead poisoning can be devastating, multidisciplinary problems, developmental delay, reduced cognitive, overall. Carla Campbell of Drexel’s College of Medicine helped lead a study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to examine the effectiveness of the Philadelphia Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which was launched in 2010.

Drexel Geriatric Home Visit Model
Older adults can be especially hard for underserved, but for many it means being the only one in their neighborhood who can offer help. Drexel has undertaken a number of projects that have been highly successful, including the Colonial Atlantic Association Blood Drive coordinated by Drexel Athletics.

Healthy Lifestyles for Children
Programs that train the health forces to promote healthy lifestyles for overweight and obese children. Drexel has undertaken a number of projects that have been highly successful, including the Colonial Atlantic Association Blood Drive coordinated by Drexel Athletics.

A.J. Drexel Autism Center
The growing incidence of autism spectrum disorders demands new research into treatment and prevention. The A.J. Drexel Autism Center specializes in public health-oriented, community-based approaches to prevent disability and improve the quality of life for individuals with autism.

Health Outreach Program
The program’s mission is to provide free, rapid testing. The center set aside a portion of its funds for use by CHOP’s Healthy Weight members revenue for a month and donated the rec center set aside a portion of its funds for use by CHOP’s Healthy Weight members revenue for a month and donated.

Healthy Weight for Children
A Program, which advances the prevention and treatment of childhood obesity by integrating healthy food and physical activity into the daily lives of children and families. Drexel has partnered with the American Red Cross to host five other blood drives including the Colonial Atlantic Association Blood Drive coordinated by Drexel Athletics.

Fighting Childhood Hunger
In the nature’s panoply Congression district, located near St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, poverty and hunger can everyday fights. Pediatrician and School of Public Health faculty member Carla Campbell of Drexel’s College of Medicine leads a study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to examine the effectiveness of the Philadelphia Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which was launched in 2010.

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A Home for New Urban Ideas
The Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships

The first urban extension center run by a private university, Drexel’s Dana and David Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships is a place to apply and deepen University expertise in collaboration with neighbors. The center’s mission is akin to the extension centers through which land-grant universities brought services and partnership to rural areas.

“The Dornsife Center has become an integral part of Mantua by offering services in close proximity to the community,” says Vanessa Pembleton, a member of the board of the Mantua Civic Association.

The Center focuses on Drexel’s commitment to community service and offers opportunities in experiential learning, service learning, research and neighborhood investments.

“Drexel’s project inspired us because of its potential to serve as a model for urban outreach by universities nationwide,” says Dana Dornsife. “I’m proud of my alma mater, and I look forward to seeing Drexel’s impact on the Powelton Village and Mantua neighborhoods.”

The University’s purchase of 3509-13 Spring Garden Street, comprising two historical properties and a school totaling more than 29,000 square feet of space, was made possible by a $10 million gift from Dana and her husband David. The three buildings on the site will provide a range of flexible spaces appropriate for individual counseling, small group meetings and workshops, large gatherings and hands-on innovation.

Ultimately, programming at the Dornsife Center is expected to include computer training and access, legal services, healthy living, homework help, arts collaborations, architectural design-build studios and environmental engineering demonstrations (see “A Sampling of Dornsife Center Programs,” page 14).

Says Pembleton, “I believe the Dornsife Center will be a focal point in bringing the community together.”
A Sampling of Dornsife Center Programs

Drexel's Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships (see feature on page 13) has been rolling out services in anticipation of the completion of its physical home in 2014. Drexel's colleges and schools are producing new programs addressing critical needs, from domestic violence victims to rural seniors to the homeless.

Community Brodway

In Philadelphia and beyond, Drexel students and employees are leaders in initiatives that help build robust communities and meet shared challenges in a wide variety of ways.

CAA Food Drive

Change is a critical issue for the city's students in many schools, and Drexel’s students and faculty have partnered with the Community Action Alliance to help at-risk children through the Children’s Food Fund.

Community-Based Learning

Drexel uses its considerable resources to partner with community groups in a variety of ways, from providing legal services to working with community centers to help families in need. This year, hundreds of Drexel students have volunteered their time and resources to help families in need.

Drexel Law

In the legal profession’s tradition of pro bono work, the students and faculty of Drexel’s School of Law offer assistance to a variety of people in need, from domestic violence victims to rural seniors to the homeless.

Domestic Violence Victims Assistance

Domestic violence is a prevalent issue today, but Drexel Law students are there to help. Through partnerships with Philadelphia Legal Assistance and the Domestic Violence Unit of Family Court, they provide legal advocacy to victims seeking Protection from Abuse Orders.

Medical Legal Partnership

When health issues and legal issues are hand-in-hand for low-income patients, the letter can sometimes be neglected. Drexel Law’s Medical Legal Partnership integrates legal staff into the health setting to meet the legal needs of patients. Working with Philadelphia Legal Assistance and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, students review medical records, help build cases and expand patient rights in the courtroom and at the trial level.

SeniorLaw Help Line

Senior Law is the oldest legal aid organization in the city. In partnership with the SeniorCenter, Drexel Law students provide free and confidential legal counseling, information and referrals to older Pennsylvanians in diverse communities, including rural areas where there are few if any legal resources. The Helpline handles a range of concerns, including housing, consumer protection, family law, estate and advance planning, public benefits, elder abuse and neighbor disputes.

SOAR: Rapid Access to Benefits

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits can be difficult to get for those who need them: the most common reason people are denied benefits is because they are not working. Drexel’s SOAR program provides free legal services to individuals seeking to engage non recursos in Philadelphia County. Students host monthly clinics at the Dornsife Center and offer legal counsel through all stages of the process.

Estate Planning Clinic

An estate plan is a critical tool for families in any economic status to prepare for potentialities and ensure their wishes are carried out after death. Drexel students staff an estate planning clinic in the Dornsife Center and assist clients on a week-by-week basis.

Workforce Families Tax Clinic

Many cities face a variety of challenges that impact their workforce, and Drexel’s Workforce Families Tax Clinic helps families in Philadelphia navigate the tax system. Students provide free services to families and community organizations.

Fraternity and Sorority Life

Greek life at Drexel form a powerful force for change in the community. These efforts are spearheaded by Drexel offices and individuals, students, faculty, and professional and staff.

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Drexel Community Impact Report 2014

Anchor institutions like Drexel have both the ability and the responsibility to drive economic growth for the region. The University is doing so not only as a major purchaser and employer, but as part of an intellectual ecosystem in University City that drives innovation and new jobs.

A Foundation for Jobs and Economic Stability

Drexel augments its civic engagement mission with an institution-wide commitment to serve as an economic engine, built on our excellence in translational research. Our students and faculty translate scientific discovery into technologies with immediate impact on the market, the clinic and on quality of life. Translational research results in new intellectual property, new products and ultimately new companies and new jobs.

Greater Philadelphia is home to a network of nationally prominent universities and hospitals and outstanding technology businesses and non-profit organizations. A simple spark is all that’s needed to transform the region into a global innovation center every bit the equal of Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, Cambridge, Mass.; or Silicon Valley. Drexel is ideally positioned to provide that spark.

The Innovation Neighborhood

Drexel’s research expertise and network of partnerships are complemented by a once-in-a-lifetime collection of real estate advantages. The University has assembled 12 acres of undeveloped property linking our campus to America’s second-busiest train station, Amtrak 30th Street Station. Drexel will build a series of mixed-use projects with private developers geared towards research and development, technology transfer and collaboration with business.

The Innovation Neighborhood will bring together Drexel researchers, other universities in the region, national and global research partners and established technology companies and entrepreneurs. It’s the sort of project that transforms a city. And it could change the gateway to even more transformative opportunities.

Drexel is the lead partner with Amtrak and Brandywine Realty Trust on a study of long-term development of the 30th Street Station District, including the air rights over 7½-plus acres of rail yards behind the station. It’s a once-in-a-generation chance to build a new center of gravity for the city, and Drexel is proud to be part of the process.