

THE MCDOWELL CENTER

Senator Harris B. McDowell III Student Success Center

Senator Harris B. McDowell III, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, served the 1st District in the Delaware State Senate from 1976 until 2020 when he retired as the longest serving elected official in state history. Senator McDowell quickly established himself as a fierce advocate for Delaware working families, state employees, abused and neglected children, environmental protection policies and public education.

In particular, Sen. McDowell became the primary advocate for Delaware Technical Community College and worked for over 10 years to enact legislation to provide free college tuition to Delaware high school graduates who "worked hard, received good grades and stayed out of trouble." This scholarship, SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degrees), was founded upon McDowell's unwavering belief that all Delawareans should have access to a college education and a better life for themselves and their families. His dedication and commitment paid off in 2005 when the General Assembly passed the SEED legislation and then-Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed the bill into law making Delaware the national leader in providing free college tuition.

Sen. McDowell was the primary sponsor of landmark legislation which provided critical capital funding to address longstanding infrastructure needs at all four Delaware Tech campuses. At the George Campus in Wilmington, the Harris B. McDowell Student Success Center, a one-stop student services center that provides access to key services such as financial aid, admissions, veterans support, career counseling, and business services, was officially opened and dedicated in Senator McDowell's honor on March 21, 2022.

The Delaware Tech community will be forever grateful to Sen. McDowell for his leadership and tireless advocacy and dedication to improving the lives of countless Delaware families through educational opportunity and access to a college education.