



## 2025 DPA Communicator of Achievement Allison Taylor Levine

Allison Taylor Levine, whose visionary leadership and transformative impact on journalism in Delaware, is publisher and CEO of Spotlight Delaware, the state's first collaborative, community-powered, nonprofit newsroom. Delawareans now benefit from Allison's collaboration-over-competition, solutions-oriented journalism approach that convened a diverse coalition of journalists, editors, and community leaders and fostered an environment where resources, expertise and insights were shared to enable tackling complex issues no single outlet could address alone.

Longtime Delaware reporter and freelance writer Larry Nagengast met Allison in 1998 when she joined The News Journal. "As a young reporter on the City Desk," he said, "her inquiring nature and desire to learn more about Delaware helped me become a more diligent editor. Years later, Allison brought me on board as a member of her Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) planning team, giving me the opportunity to observe close-up the launch of Spotlight Delaware, the most transformative venture in the state's media environment in this century."

Establishing the Delaware Journalism Collaborative in 2022 represented an unprecedented partnership of 19 local news organizations and community-based groups. Under Allison's leadership, and with support from a two-year grant from Solutions Journalism Network, the Collaborative addressed a growing need for comprehensive, inclusive, accessible local news across the state.

Allison's stewardship of the Collaborative produced groundbreaking journalism that not only reflected the state's rich tapestry of communities, but also prioritized training and mentorship opportunities, helping to strengthen the skills of local journalists and encouraging the next generation of communicators.

Spotlight Delaware launched March 1, 2024, at [spotlightdelaware.org](https://spotlightdelaware.org). The Spotlight team envisions a Delaware where all neighbors can access the local news and information needed to thrive on a daily basis, participate in local democracy, and engage with their communities. Focusing on critical community issues, including government accountability, social justice, education, land use, health policy and Delaware's unique communities and neighborhoods, the fast-growing organization already is a leading statewide newsroom.

The Spotlight team, in partnership with six other Delaware newsrooms, recently announced its Community Information Hubs initiative, building partnerships with community centers, libraries and faith communities to increase the reach of local news and information in more communities, particularly those that don't typically engage with traditional media.

Breaking the mold by launching a multilingual website to make [spotlightdelaware.org](https://spotlightdelaware.org) available in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole to reach more Delawareans was part of the *Spotlight Delaware en Español* initiative. It features weekly video recaps of Spotlight's news coverage in both Spanish and English and provides a thriving Spanish-language social media presence.

In addition to her tenure as vice president for marketing and communications at the nonprofit Delaware Community Foundation for many years, Allison has given impressive service to community organizations such as Montessori Works and the Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107C. She also served on the board of the Public Relations Society of America, as a trustee of the Maryland/Delaware/DC Press Foundation, and as membership vice president on DPA's board of directors. She has won statewide and national press association awards for social media presence, annual reports, marketing campaigns, and podcasts from DPA and the National Federation of Press Women.

Included in the News Journal's 2024 list of Delaware's Most Influential People with community impact, Allison also was one of Delaware Today's 34 Top Women in Business for 2025. And in January, she was named a Knight Fellow in the prestigious Media Transformation Challenge executive leadership program at the Poynter Institute, a global nonprofit leader in journalism and democracy. MTC's leadership says: "The 2025 fellows are a rich blend of some of the largest media brands in the world, cutting-edge nonprofits and media network support organizations." Allison stands as an inspiring example of personal commitment to leadership, integrity, and innovation in the media landscape. Her vision and dedication continue to shape the future of journalism and community in Delaware, making a lasting impact on both the profession and the communities it serves.