Since March of 2016, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Michael A. Hales has been the ninth Director of Aviation Programs, at Delaware State University. His leadership and responsibilities include both the Bachelor of Science in Aviation with concentrations in Professional Pilot and Aviation Management. He leads an experienced and dedicated staff of faculty and instructors who serve over 130 students, utilizing a fleet of 25 university-owned airplanes. Lieutenant Colonel Hales is 25-year veteran of the US Army, who has served as an Aviation officer at multiple levels of key leadership positions and responsibility. Growing up in Dayton, Ohio and South Bend, Indiana, he began his military career in 1987 as an enlisted Soldier in the US Army Reserves. In 1994, he was commissioned as an 2nd Lieutenant and attended flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama in the US Army. His military assignments have taken him to multiple locations within the United States, and overseas to South Korea, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the country of Colombia, South America. Lieutenant Colonel Hales has flown in combat and deployed five times, beginning with Operation Desert Storm back in 1991. He is considered a subject matter expert in aviation operations, pilot training and aircraft maintenance training. He is an FAA Commercial Pilot, dual-rated in both airplanes and helicopters. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree from Excelsior College, and a Master of Arts degree in Procurement and Acquisition Management from Webster University. Lieutenant Colonel Hales is excited to be working in his “dream job” as a Director of Aviation Programs. He has been married to his bride since 1993 and has two adult children. His hobbies and interests include reading military and aviation history, skydiving, spending time with his family, and of course FLYING! He brings an insatiable passion for all things aviation and a bold strategic vision for the future of the program.