

Message from the President



Michael J. Quaranta

The start to 2019 was a big success for the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce as over 1,000 people gathered at our 182nd Annual Dinner. The evening celebrated the accomplishments of Josh and Cynthia Martin, who were awarded the Marvel Cup, and the success Chemours has had under the leadership of CEO Mark Vergnano. The event also recognized

the lifelong achievements in the field of public service of former Delaware State Representative Joe DiPinto. At our business meeting, we welcomed Tony Allen of Delaware State University, Stephanie Wiswall of Astra Zeneca, and Jason Gonzalez of DuPont to our Board of Directors.

We also welcomed the beginning of the 150th General Assembly and Governor Carney's "State of the State" address. Later in January, the first glimpse of policy priorities was unveiled when the Governor offered his Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Everybody knows that a budget, whether it's your personal, household, or business budget, is an expression of your priorities. The State budget is no different. I was heartened to see continued evidence of targeted spending on early childhood development and workforce training and development in the Governor's 2019 Budget. These are key spending priorities and they are critical to our future success. Our members need employees with good analytical skills, leadership abilities, the flexibility to work in groups or independently, and the soft skills customers and colleagues expect. To that end, the budget invests \$32.7 million dollars in early learning, almost \$900,000 more funding for the SEED and Inspire programs, and over \$800,000 more for the BSN, diesel mechanic program, Pathways partnerships and more at Delaware Technical Community College. The plan also includes \$15 million in funding for the Higher Education Economic Development Investment Fund to supplement investments that are being made to improve job growth and economic development in the State.

The year is off to a fast start and we are fully engaged on your behalf. If you have not already connected with us on social media to effectively communicate our shared messages with policy makers, I encourage you to do so now by texting DSCC to 50547, and following us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.



DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1201 NORTH ORANGE STREET, P.O. BOX 671 • WILMINGTON, DE 19899-0671
(302) 655-7221 • (800) 292-9507 • WWW.DSCC.COM

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