



## Message from the President

BY MICHAEL J. QUARANTA

WHAT A YEAR. What started with a bang and another successful Annual Dinner with Dogfish Head's Sam and Mariah Calagione, skidded into a series of health, public policy and private sector pretzel twists the modern-day world has not experienced in a century or longer. Our members proved their mettle and tenacity,

creativity and flexibility in ways that surprised even themselves.

As I reflect on the year that just ended, we will take ideas from the many "lessons learned" and carry them with us into the future. For example, who the heck had heard of Zoom, Webex, Socio, or Microsoft Teams, let alone used them more than one or two times ever? Well, our crack team here saw these platforms and tools as the necessary equipment to connect our members to real-time information and quality events. We focused on the economy with Philadelphia Fed President Pat Harker, relief for families and businesses in the form of aid described to us by U.S. Senator Chris Coons, and real-time health realities with our hospital CEOs and the vice dean of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. We connected you with the Governor, our agriculture industry leaders when

food was in tight supply, and childcare industry specialists who were monitoring important trends that will impact employees and employers alike.

While we are all anxious to gather in person again very soon, we'll use these newfound tools in the coming post-COVID-19 life to hold committee meetings, webinars and more. The tools offer our members convenience and connectivity that will make it possible for an even greater number of people to participate in committee meetings or events, without the loss of time associated with long-distance travel. All of this will be made even easier after the State builds out more broadband connectivity to allow more and more places in Delaware to become connected. Broadband expansion has been a decades long priority for chambers of commerce across the state and we are excited to see this connectivity become a reality.

The future is bright, but we have work to do because not everyone is employed or doing well. In October 2019, our Developing Delaware conference focused on workforce development, and I'm glad we did. We know there are very good careers and jobs out there, but not enough skilled workers to fill the ranks. As we begin a new year, let's all do our part to put our eyes on people who find themselves idle, help place them into these training programs in healthcare, building trades, technology and more. Because the sooner we all get back to work, the faster the economy will recover and the better that will be for everyone, especially those who have been hit hardest by what was a very challenging year.

# CONGRATULATIONS!



## MARIE HOLLIDAY

### 2020

## DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Board Member of the Year

Each year, a board member is recognized by Chamber staff as Board Member of the Year. This year, Marie Holliday of Cover & Rossiter was the honoree for her leadership, guidance and volunteer time towards the Superstars in Business awards program.