

into highly skilled roles across the company's corporate offices, tech hubs, fulfillment centers, retail stores and transportation network or pursue career paths outside of Amazon.

"At Amazon, we want to help our employees get the skills they need for today's – and tomorrow's – most in-demand jobs," said Smith. "All associates go through hours of safety training and ongoing coaching and have access to continuing education opportunities through Amazon's upskilling programs, such as Career Choice, in which the company will pre-pay up to 95 percent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon. Since the program's launch, more than 25,000 employees have pursued degrees in game design and visual communications, nursing, IT programming and radiology, to name a few."

An Amazon presence in Delaware means more than just the jobs provided within its four walls. In addition to full-benefit, great jobs inside the building, the company has brought thousands of jobs in construction and services. Since 2010, Amazon has invested more than \$2.5 billion in Delaware through its customer fulfillment infrastructure and compensation to its employees. Amazon's investments in Delaware have contributed an additional \$1 billion into the state's economy, and, using methodology developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Amazon estimates its investments in the state have created an additional 700-plus indirect jobs on top of the company's 2,500 direct hires.

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce Remains Hard at Work during the Pandemic

»» The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce has been busy during the pandemic, diligently working to support and assist members through these uncertain days. Even during this time of financial uncertainty, we remain the essential resource for the development of businesses in Kent County.

While the CDCC office has been closed since March 23rd, the chamber staff, working remotely, has been in constant communication with our member businesses, connecting them to the critical information needed to stay afloat and prepare for reopening. In addition, we have served as the voice of the Central Delaware business community. The CDCC, in conjunction with the other 13 chambers in Delaware, has been working with state and local officials, as well as the Governor, to help businesses receive the help they need and to reopen as quickly as possible.

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, along with the Kent Economic Partnership and the Greater Kent Committee, spearheaded the reopening effort by initiating a task force to address the various procedures and precautions necessary to do business in a safe and healthy way. The "Getting Back to Business" task force was comprised of business leaders across many industries



and agencies. The task force worked to find practical, hands-on ways to assist businesses. To that end, they devel-

oped and produced a "Getting Back to Business" brochure that outlined many of the procedures and precautions businesses should consider. The task force also implemented the creation of "Getting Back to Business" starter kits. The starter kits contained masks, gloves, wipes, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, and a no-contact thermometer, as well as valuable coupons and offers to assist small businesses in obtaining the supplies needed to reopen. These 100 starter kits were funded by the generous donations of several partners and were distributed to businesses with 20 or less employees. Special thanks to Kent County Levy Court, The City of Dover, Calpine, Chesapeake Utilities, First State Janitorial, Office Pride, W.B. Mason, and Staples.

It is our belief that the businesses of Delaware are ready and able to reopen and operate safely for both their employees and the public. We have worked together through this pandemic, and on the other side of it, we will be stronger and better than ever – that's the Delaware way!