

Operations Director at the DBCC, describes, “different than going to a therapist” because the survivors have experienced firsthand the challenges a breast cancer diagnosis can bring. Many of these women were made to “feel beautiful while being styled by store volunteers” according to Murray, furthering the contributions the store had on the community. These support systems often resulted in friendships and eased the hardship some of these women face.

It comes as no surprise that when the DBCC and Great Stuff Boards made what they thought would be their last social media post, the community came to the store’s aid. “Volunteers and the community have stepped up in a remarkable way, donating and shopping to help drive the business forward...through this crisis,” explains Francesca Vogel, the Executive Director of the DBCC.

The generosity of the community has allowed DBCC’s Great Stuff to remain open, a luxury many businesses have not been able to afford during this pandemic. Keeping the store open has allowed the crucial support systems some women have found within the store to remain unbroken.



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Chair Message

BY KATIE K. WILKINSON

»» As Delaware employers work to enable the safe and healthy return of staff to office locations around the state, we should also be mindful of the critical work ahead of us on the subject of racial injustice and resulting opportunity gaps.

Over more than 100 days of this pandemic, your State Chamber has worked diligently to provide timely and relevant topics for discussion for members and non-members across the business community. We have covered topics such as the economy, employment, transportation, child care and health care. But likely the most important topic was discussed on the heels of the murder of George Floyd and the resulting protests across our state and our country.

Dr. Tony Allen, president of Delaware State University and Stephanie Creary, associate professor of management from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania provided us with a provocative “wake-up call” on the systemic racism that exists in our society and communities. They reminded us that this issue requires action by everyone to make progress, and our actions need to be consistent and long term – not just for today and tomorrow.

Action is key; we cannot merely talk about racism. So, an obvious question is how we – as employers – can be effective in our engagement?

A start is acknowledging deficiencies in our organizations. This requires an honest, open, and transparent assessment that may be uncomfortable and an action plan to address the deficiencies. We should enlist the help of any and all allies who are willing to be vulnerable and are open to learning and sharing their stories in a safe and teachable way. It is also our job as employers to make a commitment to hiring and developing a more diverse workforce. If you think it is difficult to find people of color during the hiring process, then maybe – as Dr. Allen remarked – “you’re not looking hard enough.”

Our actions should support our words of encouragement and enlightenment. The opportunity is here, supported by broad momentum! Be a change agent inside of your family, organization, and community!



To eradicate systemic racism, it is important for managers to empower employees and provide them with resources for having productive conversations about race.

— Stephanie Creary, Assistant Professor of Management,
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania