

186th DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DINNER

With 1,100 business, community, and government leaders gathered in one room, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's 186th Annual Dinner was an evening to remember. Quite simply, the success of our signature event came to fruition with the support of our sponsors, speakers, attendees, and distinguished guests for joining us at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.

PHOTOS BY DICK DUBROFF / FINAL FOCUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Stacey J. Mobley, Esq. Honored with Josiah Marvel Cup

THE DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE awarded its prestigious Josiah Marvel Cup to Stacey J. Mobley, Esq. Established in 1951, the Marvel Cup honors a Delawarean who has made an outstanding contribution to the state, community, or society. The State Chamber's highest honor is named in memory of the Honorable Josiah Marvel, who reorganized and served as the first president of the State Chamber in 1913. As a tradition, the recipient of the Marvel Cup is kept secret until the night of the dinner.

Described as a trailblazer ahead of his time, Stacey Mobley was senior vice president, chief administrative officer, and general counsel of DuPont—a global innovation leader with technology-based materials and solutions that help transform industries and everyday life—until his retirement in 2008. He originally joined the DuPont Legal Department in 1972. He was named director of federal affairs in the company's Washington, D.C. office in 1983 and promoted to vice president of federal affairs in 1986, returning to the company's headquarters in Delaware in 1992 as vice president of communications in external affairs. Named chief executive administrative officer in May of 1999, Mobley became general counsel for DuPont in November of 1999.

Mobley has always been a champion of workplace diversity, encouraging employers—specifically in the legal sector—to “draw upon the perspectives of people who come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.” In a 2004 interview with Corporate Counsel Business Journal, he stated: “[DuPont has] seen firsthand that when you use a diverse law firm, you get better solutions to your legal problems. This is because people from different backgrounds and cultures provide special insights that otherwise would not be available. Their life experiences alter the lenses through which they see problems.”

“He led in diversity, equity, and inclusion before we all really knew what it was,” said Thère du Pont, president of Longwood Foundation. “Stacey was the leader in helping DuPont make it a competitive advantage.”

Mobley served as an example to those around him, practicing a leadership style many cited as one they aspired to implement when it became their turn to lead. “He was a force of nature. You could feel his impact wherever you went in the company and the community,” said Ellen Kullman, former chair and chief executive officer of DuPont. “In my earlier years, I would watch in awe of how he maneuvered very difficult situations. He did it with grace and a strong center for the company.”



“He led in diversity, equity, and inclusion before we all really knew what it was. Stacey was the leader in helping DuPont make it a competitive advantage.”

—Thère du Pont, President of Longwood Foundation

“Stacey is someone that would support you from the background while also willing to mentor you from the front,” said Doneene Damon, chief diversity director at Richards, Layton & Finger.

He served in leadership roles for many philanthropic, educational, and policy organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and chairman emeritus of the Board of Trustees at Howard University. Mobley earned a B.S. degree from the Howard University School of Pharmacy, a J.D. degree from the Howard University School of Law, and an honorary doctorate degree from Howard University in 2022. Among many others, he also received the Howard University Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

Keynote Speaker

Beebe Healthcare's Specialty is Sussex

DR. DAVID TAM, president and CEO of Beebe Healthcare, opened his presentation by sharing the tremendous growth Sussex County is undergoing as a destination for people to live, work and visit. It is one of the fastest growing counties in the mid-Atlantic region and there is greater diversity than ever before as people from all parts of the nation choose Sussex County as a place to call home.

And in response to this growth, Beebe Healthcare is also growing and evolving rapidly.

In 1916, James and Richard Beebe opened the county's first hospital, which included three beds. Today, Beebe Healthcare is now a modern regional community health system with two hospitals, multiple free standing emergency departments and cancer centers, over 30 medical office facilities, a new community mobile health clinic, and four healthcare campuses staffed by a medical staff of almost 500 providers supported by over 3,000 employees.

A lot has happened in over a century. But Beebe Healthcare today is



still guided by the legacy handed down from the Beebe brothers—a commitment to bring the highest quality of healthcare to the community of Sussex County. That legacy lives today in their motto—*Sussex County is Our Specialty*.

As Sussex continues to face a growing and evolving community, Dr. Tam stressed the importance of exploring new ways to create greater opportunities for physician and advanced practitioner workforce development to address the physician and nursing shortage.

He closed by requesting that Delaware's business and government leaders commit themselves to identifying new ways to increasing the number of physicians and nurses to Delaware. "Having a robust healthcare workforce is the best way to ensure economic growth, lowering

healthcare costs, and—most importantly—keeping our communities vibrant and healthy," said Tam. "Let's embrace our legacy of working together. Commit to exploring new paths to make things better. And focus our efforts on serving our growing and evolving community."

DSCC Welcomes New Board Members in 2023

The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce welcomed new members of its Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

The following business leaders were elected to the State Chamber's Board of Governors:

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.,
Goldey-Beacom College
Matthew Lantagne, TD Bank
Jeff Mitchell, Siegfried Advisory, LLC
Jed Patterson, LabWare

Michael Smith, Navient
Jana Tidwell, AAA Club Alliance
Rebecca Veeneman, Ph.D., Agilent Technologies

Members joining the Board of Directors are:

Andrew Cottone, Ph.D., Adesis
Dr. LaVerne T. Harmon, Wilmington University

"On behalf of the Delaware State Chamber and its Board, we welcome these representatives from DSCC member companies. We look forward to working with them to promote Delaware's business community and allow all Delawareans to prosper."

— Nick Lambrow, Board Chair

Governor

An Emphasis on Partnerships

GOVERNOR JOHN CARNEY opened his remarks with a message of gratitude towards the business community: “What you do matters. You provide good jobs for workers so they can put food on the table for their families.”

He focused his comments around the new labor landscape and the need to provide the necessary skills to Delawareans so they can fill available jobs. “My entire career in public service has been focused entirely on creating jobs. We’ve always had more people than jobs available,” said Carney. “Today, we have thousands more open positions than we have people looking for work.”

To address this issue, Carney stressed that working together is both the effective way to govern and the best way to “get things done.” Partnerships he highlighted included:

- The creation of the Delaware Prosperity Partnership, a public-private initiative to attract, grow, and retain businesses to Delaware
- Delaware colleges and universities’ role in partnering with businesses to provide students opportunities to study alongside professionals—specifically mentioning the innovations occurring at the University of Delaware’s STAR Campus
- Working with members of the General Assembly to create and maintain a sustainable state budget

Carney concluded with a nod to the evening’s keynote speaker, Dr. David Tam and his partnership. “Dr. Tam arrived to Delaware at a most inauspicious time—at the beginning of the pandemic. However, from my perspective, his timing was perfect because he was instrumental in



“This event is always a great annual tradition. I, for one, look forward to it every year. It’s an opportunity to get together before the legislative session in Dover. I want to thank the State Chamber team for everything you do to advocate for business in our state.” — Governor John Carney

our fight. Drawing on his military experience, Dr. Tam recommended deploying the National Guard to support hospitals’ staff and long-term care facilities. These people in uniform made a real difference during a difficult time.”



Board Member of the Year

EACH YEAR, a board member is recognized by State Chamber staff as Board Member of the Year. Katie Wilkinson of Fulton Bank is this year’s honoree for her leadership as the organization’s first female chair in its 186-year history. The staff recognized her for her servant leadership when she led the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic. Katie has been a member of the Board of Governors since 2012. She joined the Board of Directors in 2014 and served as chair in 2020 and 2021.

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Reception



Chairman



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