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FEATURE ARTICLE

Carolinias-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council Honors 'Supplier Diversity & Supplier Development Excellence' at Annual Meeting 2020

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Individuals, minority business professionals and corporate representatives in supplier diversity & supplier development roles were honored with awards for excellence during the 2020 Annual Meeting for Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council. The two-day event consisted of an awards reception and a daylong series of workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities. Additionally, the new CVMSDC Board of Directors Chairman Jeff Conley – along with a new board slate – was officially announced and installed. More than 140 people registered to attend the event, which was held at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, Jan. 28-29.

The theme of this year's meeting was: "G.E.A.R. Up" (Growth. Expansion. Adaptability. Readiness.). In addition to an economic forecast and business development presentation, the event also hosted a session for college students interested in entrepreneurship titled "Next Generation of Our Work," led by Dr. Kenston Griffin of Dream Builders Communication and LaSonya Berry of McPherson, Berry & Associates. Keynote speakers were Jacqueline Mims Tibbs of JMT Empowerment and Dr. Suj Chandrasekhar of Strategic Insights, and the host sponsor was Sonoco.

During the awards reception on Tuesday, Minority Business Enterprises Input Committee (MBEIC) Impact awards were presented to: Marjilette Brown, CVMSDC Staff Award; Kevin Douglas of Captured by Kevin, MBE Tier I; Geoff Foster of Core Technology, MBE Tier II; David Steward of Worldwide Technologies, MBE Tier IV; Debra White of Sonoco, MBEIC Advocacy; Newport News Shipbuilding, MBEIC Development Award; Sonoco, MBEIC Corporate Impact Award; Food Lion, MBEIC New Program Award; Ron Carey of Tilt Creative + Production, Presidential MBE Award; and Cathy Williams of Ferguson, Presidential Corporate Award. Six board members who completed their terms also received awards: Derek Cantey, Tim Catlett, Sonya Cunningham, Kelly Entas, Rick Harris and Cathy Williams.

Dominique Milton, CVMSDC President & CEO, said: "We want to sincerely thank our Annual Meeting host sponsor Sonoco and host site Johnson C. Smith University for helping us GEAR Up for a successful kickoff event in the new year. Our Corporate Partners and Minority Business Enterprises are well positioned to grow and to create new business alliances that support economic development and wealth creation. We're excited about new opportunities on the horizon and encourage all of our community

partners to connect with CVMSDC and join our efforts in supplier development. Also, a big thank you goes out to our new board of directors and the Annual Meeting planning committee.”

The new 2020 Board of Directors includes: Jeff Conley—Chairman, Henrico County, Virginia; (Executive Committee Members): Roger Stone—1st Vice Chair, Minority Sales Corporation; Debra White—2nd Vice Chair, Sonoco; Reuben Essandoh—Treasurer, Capital One; Louise Connell—Secretary, BMW Manufacturing; LaSonya Berry—MBEIC Chair, McPherson, Berry & Associates; Deborah Williams—Immediate Past Board Chair, Premier Inc.; (RING Corporate Chairs): Louise Connell, BMW Manufacturing; Kym Gardner, Turner Construction; Derrick Jackson, R.J. Reynolds; Jeffrey Smith, City of Virginia Beach – Department of Economic Development; T.J. Watkins, Enterprise Leasing Company; Jonathan Wilkins, Lenovo; (MBEIC Chairs): Larry Fairley—Triad/Piedmont, Marketing Resource Solutions; Dr. Kenston Griffin—Metrolina, Dream Builders Communication; Ronald Harvey—Midlands-Lowcountry-PeeDee, GCS Consulting, LLC; Troy Roberts—Piedmont, Alliance of Professionals & Consultants; Vincent Tucker—Virginia, Quality Moving Services; and Carlo White—Foothills, White Holdings Trucking; (At-Large Members): Matteo Di Michele, Bank of America; James “Jay” Johnson, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions; Chiquitha Lloyd, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; Charise Patterson, Moore & Van Allen; Dallas Simmons, Dominion Energy; Priscilla Wallace, Compass Food Group.

Conley said, “It has been an honor to work with the Council for years, and I’m excited to take on this new role as chairman of the board of directors. The work that we do in supplier diversity and supplier development is invaluable, and I’m looking forward to a productive tenure that continues to uplift Minority Business Enterprises and supports corporate supplier development initiatives.”

The Carolinas-Virginia MSDC is a non-profit corporation chartered to enhance business opportunities for minority-owned companies by providing support through developing mutually beneficial networking opportunities with corporate partners and promoting minority business development. To learn more about CVMSDC, visit online at www.cvmsdc.org.

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