

Governor's Weekly Message Transcript: Supporting Supplier Diversity to Encourage Increased Business Growth

Entrepreneurs and small businesses are a key part of Delaware's overall economic success. Our supplier diversity community is no exception. It's why we're committed to providing them with the supportive environment they need to thrive – and our ongoing efforts reflect that. Executive Order 44, signed last spring, ensures businesses owned by individuals with disabilities and certain small businesses are able to successfully compete for state contracts as certified diverse suppliers. It builds on previous efforts to support minority, women and veteran-owned businesses throughout the state, which, combined, has resulted in nearly a 200% increase in Delaware's supplier diversity community over the past six years. A community that includes businesses like Star-Med and Vel Micro Works, both located here in Hockessin. Lead by Diane Ferry, Star-Med is the only woman-owned business operating in the health information management industry in the country. Together with Vel Micro Works, a minority-owned custom software development company, they developed an electronic health records system, Star-Trac, recognized for its first-in-the-nation certification for strict privacy and security measures. Or Fayda Engineering & Energy Solutions, or Delcollo Security Technologies, both veteran-owned businesses providing support to State agencies. These are just a few of the over 2000 supplier diversity providers certified in Delaware – and the list continues to grow. By creating more opportunities for

our diverse community of entrepreneurs and small business owners to succeed, we'll encourage new innovators to step forward, putting more people back to work and further growing our economy. And that will keep Delaware moving forward.