

Governor Carney Celebrates Senator Margaret Rose Henry Alongside Office of Women's Advocacy and Advancement

Policymakers, Public Join Together for Women's History Month Celebration and Lecture

DOVER, Del. – Governor John Carney, Delaware's Office for Women's Advocacy and Advancement, the Delaware Department of Human Resources, the Delaware Commission for Women, and Delaware Women's Workforce Council, today hosted the first lecture of its kind titled "Redefining Women in the Workplace" in honor of Senator Margaret Rose Henry and Women's History Month.

"Senator Margaret Rose Henry is a trailblazer, and we are going to miss her leadership in Dover," said **Governor Carney**. "Her commitment to the advancement of women is exactly why we are honoring her at this event today. It's been a privilege to work with her protecting Delaware's most vulnerable citizens."

The Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy, under Delaware's Department of Human Resources, is responsible for leading the ongoing implementation of women's rights legislation and evaluating current women's rights legislation. The Office is run by Melanie Ross Levin, who serves as the Office's Director.

"Delaware made history when Senator Margaret Rose Henry became the first African American woman to join the Delaware State Senate. And Delaware continues to make history today, by

investing in the first state-wide Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy," said **Melanie Ross Levin**. "As a new office, we look forward to continuing to work with Senator Margaret Rose Henry and all of the champions for women and girls in the legislature, executive branch and community to move policies forward for women and girls in the first state."

This lecture focused on issues including sexual harassment in the workplace, equal pay and paid parental leave, bringing together policymakers, business leaders and others concerned with women's issues for a productive conversation. The lecturer was Lisa Maatz, Former Vice President of Government Relations at the American Association of University Women and leader of several national coalitions working to advance opportunities for women and girls.

"The theme of this event is so relevant to the work of the Department of Human Resources," said **Sandra Ross Johnson, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Human Resources**. "We are committed to creating and sustaining an equitable environment for all State employees that is free from discrimination, sexual harassment, and assault."

Shortly following the lecture, the Governor joined Representative Longhurst, Senator Hansen, Senator Henry, U.S. Senator Coons, Congresswoman Blunt Rochester and many members of the General Assembly for a rally supporting Delaware's Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). [House Bill 399](#) aims at filing an ERA for the Delaware Constitution to expand and protect women's rights. This amendment will reduce sex-based disparity and codify Delaware's value of equality.

More information about the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy can be found [here](#).