

NGLCC Honors Central Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce with National Chamber Excellence Community Impact Award

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. (07/31/2014) - The Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CPGLCC) is excited to announce that the chamber was honored for excellence in community impact on Thursday, July 31 at the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC)'s 2014 National Business & Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is the third consecutive year that the CPGLCC has been honored with a National Chamber Excellence Award. Last year, the CPGLCC received the Chamber of the Year Award at NGLCC's 2013 National Business & Leadership Conference.

"We are very proud of our efforts with Highmark Insurance Company and are excited to be recognized by the NGLCC for making Pennsylvania a more fair and equitable place," said Deb McClain, CPGLCC's President and CEO. "We were able to be part of improving the lives of same-sex couples across the state and be a resource to our corporate partner, Highmark. This success was achieved by reaching out to a passionate internal champion who worked with us to effect change."

NGLCC recognized CPGLCC for its role in Highmark Insurance Company's decision to offer family health insurance policies for same-sex couples in PA which took effect this spring. After learning of one legally married same-sex couple's denial of a family health insurance policy by Highmark, CPGLCC reached out to Highmark, one of their Corporate Members, to ask them to change their policy. CPGLCC was able to encourage Highmark to expedite making a change in policy; and, because of their efforts, the process of extending family policies to same-sex couples in Pennsylvania was set in motion with the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance and the federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "NGLCC affiliate chambers like CPGLCC are using their relationships with corporate members to expand their advocacy efforts and create more inclusive communities," said Sam McClure, NGLCC Vice President of Affiliate Relations and External Affairs.

About CPGLCC

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is committed to expanding the economic interests of LGBT owned and allied businesses through advocacy, education, and partnerships with the local business community. CPGLCC currently has 235 members and has enjoyed 20% membership growth 2 consecutive years. CPGLCC has operated with all volunteers since formation seven years ago and are currently in pursuit of their first paid Executive Director.

About NGLCC

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) is the only national not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to expanding the economic opportunities and advancements of LGBT business community. With more than 130 corporate partners, 52 affiliate chambers, and over 500 certified LGBT Business Enterprises, NGLCC is the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world.

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