

## Greetings,

As we move into the month of March, it seems as though the Chamber is in full gear for 2019. I want to thank the numerous organizations and individuals who have supported our Annual Meeting held on February 22, at the Ryland Inn, in Readington Township. This event for me is a great evening in which we take time to celebrate all the accomplishments of 2018 and our goals for 2019. In 2018 the Chamber continued its commitment to "create an environment for healthy economic growth," in Hunterdon County and to provide superior value for our membership. Your support enables the Chamber to focus on this economic growth for our county, which benefits you, our members.

This past year, the Chamber continued to take a very active role in advocating on a variety of issues that impact all of us in Hunterdon County. One example is our support of the redevelopment plan for the Flemington Borough. This will ultimately result in jobs to our local area but most importantly, it will bring confidence back into the commercial real estate market that is so needed today.

New jobs mean more business for our local professional services, restaurants, shops, etc. All these pieces of the puzzle make for a strong county-economy. There are many other examples in which we act as an active advocate for businesses and organizations here, in Hunterdon County and throughout the State.

Here are some other areas that the Chamber will continue to focus on in 2019. The Chamber will work towards economic growth in our county:

- Representing business interests on a federal, state, county and local level
- Our active support and engagement with Opportunity New Jersey
- Informing members of critical issues worthy of their attention and/or action
- Supplying member services and communication tools that connect business with opportunity
- Connecting individual companies toward specific identified outcomes
- Sponsoring cost effective learning/educational programing for all organizational levels, such as our annual Women's Leadership Summit or Unity Bank Center for Business & Entrepreneurship
- Developing community leaders through Leadership Hunterdon
- Maintaining a forum for discussion and action on industry-related issues

As our county faces increased competition, like the rest of our region and state, the "Business Voice" of Hunterdon County needs to be heard now more than ever. The competition for business will continue and the Chamber is committed to retaining a strong business community and strong economic growth for our Business Community.

Sincerely,

President & CEO

