



Dear Attendees to our Awards Luncheon and Conference & Expo,

Welcome to GNEMSDC's combined Business Opportunity Conference & Expo and Awards Luncheon. With a theme of **"The Future is Now: Optimizing Supply Chain for Economic Development"**, the Conference & Expo will bring together existing and prospective corporate members and certified MBEs. With a theme of **"Innovate for the Future: Keeping Up With Trends"**, our Awards Luncheon will explore anticipated trends and developments in the healthcare marketplace while we celebrate the recent accomplishments of our corporate members and our certified MBEs.

On September 10th we will launch the Conference & Expo with a return of our **"Bear's Den"** competition, featuring 4 MBEs who will compete for a \$1,000 cash prize. We will then open the Expo, which will provide meaningful opportunities for business connections, not only between our corporate members and our MBEs, but also among our MBEs. Once the Expo concludes that day, we will have our **Shining Star Reception** where we can network and celebrate individuals who have made a difference for GNEMSDC and all our stakeholders

On September 11th, the Conference & Expo will continue with a variety of interesting and innovative programming. We will convene an Access to Capital panel where industry professionals will focus the discussion on MBEs, as well as a corporate-focused panel on the Convergence of Supplier Diversity and Sustainability. We also will assemble panels for corporates and MBEs on Unconscious Bias and Artificial Intelligence & Cyber Security, respectively. Following these panels will be our 2019 Awards Luncheon, which will be a forum to celebrate our corporate champions and our diverse suppliers. A highlight of the Awards Luncheon will be a conversation that focuses on the future of healthcare, and how technology will impact the delivery of healthcare.

The Awards Luncheon and the Conference & Expo are intended to be a robust forum for exploring new ideas and opportunities and investigating trends. We also hope to reflect on what is working, and have frank discussions about strategies and tactics for improvement in our joint undertaking. Above all, I invite each attendee to commit to making at least one connection that has a reasonable prospect of leading to business transactions by way of our corporate partners purchasing goods and services from our MBEs, and our larger MBEs purchasing from our smaller MBEs.

We are grateful for the support and engagement of our Board of Directors under the leadership of our Board Chair, Jim Linehan of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. We are also thankful for and applaud the support of our annual sponsors and our event sponsors. GNEMSDC's success is a direct result of their support and the commitment and dedication of our staff. Finally, the success of our Awards Luncheon and our Conference & Expo is due to the contributions of our Committee Chairs, our committee members and other volunteers. Thanks to all of you for supporting GNEMSDC and our efforts to promote economic inclusion and reduce the racial wealth gap.

Peter F. Hurst, Jr.
President and CEO