

NEWS RELEASE

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Re: Importance of an Inclusive Workforce to be Addressed at the Lubbock Chamber Diversity Summit

LUBBOCK, Texas – The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Annual Diversity Summit will be held on Tues., March 3 from 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center. The Chamber recognizes the evolving changes in the nationwide workforce and understands the importance of an inclusive workplace. The Summit will focus on creating Better Business Through Diversity.

“I’m proud to serve as the Chair of a business organization that sees the importance of addressing the ever-changing needs of a diverse workforce,” said Gabe Vitela, Lubbock Chamber Chair and owner of One Guy from Italy – 50th St. “In the restaurant sector we serve the public and in that means making everything we do an inclusive and customer-friendly environment, but what that means might change on a weekly, daily or even hourly basis.”

The Diversity Summit will kick off with a luncheon and keynote speaker Heather Lemke, Senior Vice President of Human Capital for UnitedHealthcare. In 1994, Lemke received her Psychology degree from St. Cloud State University and the past 18 years she has played an instrumental part in talent and recruitment sector for UnitedHealthcare.

Following lunch, the Chamber will provide a series of breakout sessions for business leaders and employees to engage and learn of ways to improve upon its workplace culture.

The topics include:

- “Did I say something wrong?” – How Effective Communication Fosters Inclusion
- Owning and Elevating Your Seat at the Table: Women in Leadership
- Veterans in the Workplace, Issues and Opportunities to Help
- Peeking Behind the Cloak of Invisibility
- “What is the importance of diversity in law enforcement and how does it help us connect and engage our communities?”
- Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce

“My employees are my number one priority and this Summit addresses workforce topics that I may not have necessarily thought of before,” said Vitela. “I highly encourage all members of the business community to attend this event, I promise it will be well worth your time.”



Attendees can register online at LubbockChamber.com or by calling the Chamber office at (806) 761-7000. Tickets for the entire summit are \$225 and Chamber members receive a discounted rate of \$125. Tickets will also be available for the lunch only for \$55 and Chamber members receive a discounted rate of \$40. To only attend the breakout sessions and reception, tickets can be purchased for \$200 and Chamber members will receive a discounted rate of \$100.

The Diversity Summit is one of the many ways the Chamber is actively working towards a pro-growth, pro-business climate for job creators as it facilitates discussion and provides resources and opportunities for businesses and people to connect, learn and grow.

To learn more about the event or for sponsorship opportunities call the Lubbock Chamber at (806) 761-7000.

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents almost 1,700 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. Since 1913 the Chamber, as a catalyst for business growth; a convener of leaders and influencers; and a champion for a stronger community, has served as a unified voice of business by actively advocating for a pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-business climate.

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