

Pittsburgh Business
Times 2-25-05

Advocating for women and minorities

Doris Carson Williams, 55, president of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania, has been a mainstay on numerous boards in the region, including the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Manchester Bidwell Corp. and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Pennsylvania.



... The chamber has experienced continual growth in companies doing business with our membership and advocates for them to continue to do more. As the pool of experienced small business owners doing business with major companies increases, the corporate environment will be more receptive.

American business owners and professionals.

How does the chamber advocate the diversity of women and minorities within businesses in Pittsburgh?

The chamber advocates diversity in every aspect of business life within the region. We recommend members for various board and civic appointments and promote the use of the chamber's membership directory to identify new candidates.

Has the corporate environment become more or less friendly to minorities?

What interested you in working for the chamber?

Having served as the chairman of an economic development corporation, eight years on the board of the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority (including policy chair for two years), and after over 20 years in private industry, opening the office of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania represented an opportunity to utilize all my skills to benefit African-

How do you see yourself as being able to provide a positive example for the advancement of African-American women?

My position is one that does have visibility in the business community. The value of being prepared, willing to rise above indifference and staying committed to your mission is what I hope is beneficial to African-American women.

— By Susan Lynn Paff