

More Than a Carpet Company: Interface, Inc. Growing Value Through Diversity

With more than 30 years of innovation and service, Interface, Inc. is more than just a carpet company. Interface is a global leader in the manufacture of environmentally responsible floor coverings and other textiles. Through business units Bentley Prince Street, Inc. and InterfaceFLOR® Commercial, Interface applies a simple *less is more* philosophy to its products and processes, and it is committed to eliminat-



Supplier event attendees: (l to r) George Bandy, VP Diversity Strategy for Interface; Sonya Dukes, Senior VP, Diversity Director, Corporate Real Estate for Wachovia; Cesar Mitchell, Atlanta City Councilman

ing any negative impact its companies may have on the environment by the year 2020.

The Interface family of companies reaches beyond the floor and expands to meet diverse customer needs. As a corporate member of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), Interface is afforded a great opportunity to redefine its corporate role as an industry leader in social sustainability. The company's NMSDC membership has enabled it to access the necessary resources at the local and national levels to further grow and expand its supplier-diversity initiative.

Interface is continually expanding its relationships with companies owned by persons of color, women, veterans or those with disabilities. "For customers who share in our vision for

increased supplier diversity, we develop innovative supplier and manufacturer relationships that include our certified vendor partners and provide cost-effective solutions for their needs," explains Vice President of Diversity Strategy for Interface Americas George Bandy. Interface has been recognized for its social commitments in the areas of business ethics, sustainability, community leadership and diversity by award-granting organizations across the country.

Sales growth in its Diversity Connect™ program increased by 42 percent in 2006; Interface was also able to increase internal diversity spend by more than \$4 million from 2005 to 2006. Interface has targeted a goal to continue to increase its diversity spend growth by 20 percent year-over-year with certified diverse suppliers, all while further strengthening relationships with its strategic partners.

Through the Diversity Connect program, Interface, Inc. and its business units Bentley Prince Street, Inc. and InterfaceFLOR, LLC have developed innovative supplier-diversity solutions for its customers, while increasing business opportunities for minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses that provide innovative, high-quality, cost-effective solutions that add value to the supply-chain process. The company's sustainability efforts, encompassing environmental, economic and social initiatives, offer forums at supplier events.

"Diversity plays a key role in our effort to become 'best in class' as we work toward becoming a completely sustainable company by 2020," explains Bandy. "Bringing diversity to our supplier network brings diversity to our thinking about how to capture new and evolving markets and aligns with our social sustainability and business goals. We need to understand our changing customer needs and develop networks to continue to deliver innovation and sustainable design to our customers."

For more information about Interface Inc.'s supplier-diversity policies and program, contact the company via email (supplierdiversity@interfaceglobal.com) or visit www.interfaceglobal.com/diversityconnect

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—George Bandy

—D'Anne Hotchkiss