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Walgreens Anderson distribution center is honored for diversity efforts

By Samantha Harris
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The Walgreens Distribution Center in Anderson was honored by community leaders from around the Upstate Tuesday for its efforts to promote diversity.

Members of the chambers of commerce in Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg gathered in Greenville Tuesday night for the fourth annual Upstate Diversity Leadership Awards Dinner.

More than 500 people attended the event, where companies and individuals were awarded for their work toward diversity.

The Walgreens Distribution Center won for training and hiring people with physical or cognitive disabilities, a group that makes up 38 percent of its workforce, according to news release from the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

“It’s one of the first management models of hiring folks who come from a diverse background,” said Lee Luff, president of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce. “Some of the stories are so heartwarming. They have been leaders in the industry, as other companies are coming to look at their model of how we weave individuals from all walks of life into the free market.”

Since the opening of the Walgreens distribution center, the center has been the subject of two special features on “The NBC Nightly News” and “ABC World News Tonight.”

Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute at Furman University, which presents the awards, said the center improves “the social and economic” image of the state.

“They have made a remarkable investment in diversity by working with people who are talented, but are often left out of the job market because of their circumstances,” Gordon said.



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