

S&T Hosts Inaugural Women in Banking Conference

Collaboration, engagement, inspiration and motivation—just a few of the themes and sentiments that ran through the invigorating day at S&T's most recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) event.

During the first week of April, over 225 team members and leaders attended the conference which was organized by our dedicated DE&I teammates and Women in Banking planning committee. The day was full of networking, speaker and panelist sessions as well as break-out sessions for deeper discussion opportunities.

Attendees gained insight from a variety of panelists and keynote speakers on topics related to the professional development of women in the workplace and the unique challenges that women can face in their careers. A unique aspect of the conference was the addition and welcome of male attendees. S&T Bank and committee members believe that in order for women to succeed, it is vital for their male counterparts to understand their experiences and points of view so that support and encouragement are well fostered.

A few of the overall objectives for the conference to achieve were:

- Creating an opportunity for internal networking of women in banking, while growing relationships and inspiring women to reach their career goals and aspirations.
- Providing a platform where women feel empowered to take the lead, thereby encouraging professional development and leadership in our organization.

Many speakers pointed out that although the work is never done, S&T is already a trailblazer when it comes to uplifting women in their workforce. Notable is that S&T's employee team is comprised of 69% women and the Bank's board is led by a woman chair, Christine Toretti. One of the day's speakers, U.S. State Representative Jill Cooper, shared the following thoughts on how women can succeed in all aspects of their lives: Stay true to yourself and be authentic, know what you're good at and passionate about; give back, always serve others to make a positive impact on those around you; learn to be resilient and adapt, look for ways to grow and overcome.

Participants shared their personal career stories, how they faced challenges, took risks and overcame challenges due to the support they received along with the internal confidence they developed over time in their work lives. S&T plans to continue this effort with annual events that advance our mission of **putting people first** and **winning as one team!**

