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PRESS RELEASE

Graham Company Hosts Neurodiversity Summit, Encouraging Business Leaders to Get Involved to Address Employment Crisis

April 30, 2019 (Philadelphia, PA) – Today, Graham Company, one of the largest insurance and employee benefits brokers in the country, hosted its Leaders Embrace Neurodiverse Talent Summit at the Union League. With nearly two-thirds of working age adults with intellectual disabilities unemployed, the Summit was convened to raise awareness among the business community for the incredible impact neurodiverse talent can have on an organization’s performance, culture and overall brand reputation.

In front of an audience of more than 175 business and civic leaders, the Summit showcased some of the region’s most respected brands and institutions that have launched innovative programs and research initiatives aimed at closing the unemployment gap. Moderated by John Fry, president of Drexel University, an engaging panel discussion featured Dan Hilferty, CEO of Independence Health Group, along with senior leadership from the Eagles Autism Challenge, SAP, Vertex and Wawa.

“At Graham Company, we have seen firsthand the transformative effect of neurodiverse hiring programs,” said Mike Mitchell, vice chairman at Graham Company. “After hiring Thomasina Justice, a neurodiverse individual who proves every day that a disability doesn’t limit a person’s potential, we realized there are so many other companies that would benefit from embracing neurodiversity. We felt it was our civic duty to get involved.”

To conclude the event, Graham Company bestowed its Community Champion Award to David Goodyear, human resource business partner at Giant Food Stores, who was accepting the award on behalf of Isaac Daniel Witte. A cashier at a Giant store in Harrisburg, PA, Witte received national attention for the heartwarming bond he formed with a nine-year-old neurodiverse girl and her family. The Community Champion Award recognizes how an individual can have a big impact on making communities more inclusive and welcoming.

Neurodiversity means embracing and respecting intellectual and behavioral differences in individuals. It’s not about focusing on what others may view as a disability, it’s about unlocking their unique abilities to drive a stronger workforce. Studies reinforce the benefits of a neurodiverse workplace. Harvard Business Review reported that companies with neurodiverse hiring programs enjoy productivity gains, quality improvement, boosts in innovative capabilities and broad increases in employee engagement.

About Graham Company

Graham Company is one of the largest insurance and employee benefits brokers in the country, committed to enhancing employee safety and business viability through an action-oriented approach to risk management. In business for more than 50 years, Graham Company designs customized and effective property and casualty, surety and employee benefits programs for its clients to protect employees and prevent losses. With offices in Philadelphia, New York City and Washington, D.C., Graham Company became 100 percent employee-owned through an employee stock ownership plan in 2017. Through its innovative insurance and safety training programs, Graham Company is redefining what it means to be an insurance broker. To learn more, visit www.grahamco.com.