

MetLife recognized for commitment to supplier diversity

November 18, 2016



Arnold Sowa, SVP & chief procurement officer, accepts MetLife's National Corporation of the Year Award from the New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council.

The New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council has named MetLife its 2016 National Corporation of the Year. This is the first time MetLife has received the award and it marks the first time the Council has named an insurance company National Corporation of the Year.

Arnold Sowa, SVP & chief procurement officer, accepted the recognition on MetLife's behalf at the Council's recent awards gala, an event that recognizes and honors the achievements of stellar minority-owned firms and corporate members who have demonstrated innovation, value-added service and excellence in minority business development. MetLife was a gala sponsor and Sowa served as the event's corporate chair.

"Creating opportunities for minority business partners in MetLife's supply chain is an important initiative of our Supplier Diversity Program," said Sowa. "We initiate that engagement through the 'rule-of-one,' a mandate that requires that every member of the Global Procurement team must include at least one diverse supplier in every RFP when practical.

"This goal drives the right behaviors within the sourcing process and diversifies our supply base resulting in innovation and cost savings. Simply stated, supplier diversity is embedded in the DNA of our procurement processes, it's how we do business."

Supplier Development Council is a vital link between major corporations and minority business enterprises. The nonprofit identifies minority suppliers; certifies bona fide minority business enterprises; and facilitates procurement opportunities between major purchasing entities and Council-certified minority suppliers.