



MATT BLANK'S ADDRESS TO
THE MEDIA LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON AND LEGACY
AWARD PRESENTATION
at THE DIVERSITY & WOMEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & GALA
WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 17, 2005

GOOD AFTERNOON. TO LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM, FILLED WITH THE
FACES OF SO MANY PROUD AND ACCOMPLISHED WOMEN
PROFESSIONALS, GIVES ME A STRONG SENSE OF THE POSITIVE
STRIDES AMERICAN BUSINESS HAS MADE OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.
BUT IT ALSO REINFORCES OUR COLLECTIVE BELIEF THAT WE STILL
HAVE GREATER OBJECTIVES AND GOALS IN MIND WHEN IT COMES TO
ACHIEVING TRUE GENDER EQUALITY AND OVERALL DIVERSITY IN THE
WORKPLACE.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE, WHILE BOB GREENBLATT AND I ARE GENUINELY
GRATIFIED AND EXCITED TO BE RECEIVING THIS HONOR, THERE IS
MORE WE CAN ALL DO TO MAKE "DIVERSITY BEST PRACTICES" AN
INGRAINED, EVERYDAY FIXTURE OF OUR WORKPLACE EFFORTS AND
COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.

(more...)

AT SHOWTIME, WE HAVE MADE DIVERSITY A TOP-PRIORITY MANDATE FOR CLOSE TO THE LAST 15 YEARS — WHEN WE INSTITUTED OUR FIRST “DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN” IN 1991 TO ENHANCE OUR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EFFORTS. FROM THAT BEGINNING, THE STRIDES WE HAVE BEEN QUITE REMARKABLE, WITH SHOWTIME NETWORKS’ EMPLOYMENT ROLLS AND DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP NOW STANDING AT 58 PERCENT WOMEN AND 42 PERCENT MEN.

IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, IT IS CRITICAL TO OUR BUSINESS RESULTS THAT OUR WORKFORCE REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR AFFILIATE CUSTOMER BASE, OUR PROGRAM SUPPLIERS, AND OUR VIEWING PUBLIC. DIVERSITY STRENGTHENS OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE COMPANY AND MAXIMIZES OUR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE COMPANY.

BECAUSE OF SHOWTIME’S STRONG PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA, MYSELF AND BOB ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF HOW SHOWTIME HAS BROUGHT DIVERSITY TO AMERICAN TV HOUSEHOLDS — WHERE WE HAVE BEEN LAUDED BY TV CRITICS FOR ACCURATELY DEPICTING THE BROAD, RICH CULTURAL MOSAIC THAT MAKES UP OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRY.

TO LOOK AT SHOWTIME’S PROGRAMMING CHOICES OVER THE LAST 10-PLUS YEARS, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED “THE L WORD” AND

(more...)

“QUEER AS FOLK” FOR LESBIAN AND GAY VIEWERS; “BARBERSHOP” AND “SOUL FOOD” FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN VIEWERS; “RESURRECTION BOULEVARD” FOR THE LATINO AUDIENCE; AND “WEEDS” FOR A RARE, STRONG BALANCE OF FEMALE AND MALE VIEWERS — TO NAME JUST A FEW OF THE DIVERSE PROGRAMS WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND LAUNCHED IN RECENT YEARS!

WITHIN SHOWTIME'S CORPORATE OFFICES, WE HAVE ALSO TIRELESSLY CHAMPIONED A WIDE RANGE OF TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, MENTORING, RECRUITING, AND “WORK-LIFE” BENEFITS PROGRAMS. ONGOING TRAINING AND MENTORING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN HAS COME FROM SHOWTIME'S PARTICIPATION IN “THE BETSY MAGNESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.” THIS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE ORGANIZATION, “WOMEN IN CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS,” WHERE SHOWTIME HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO ITS “CHAPTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES” IN FURTHERING THE MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMMING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF FEMALE EXECUTIVES.

AMONG THE MANY UNIVERSITIES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SHOWTIME RECRUITS THROUGH, WE ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH “THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MULTI-ETHNICITY IN COMMUNICATIONS” — NAMIC — TO FOSTER DIVERSITY WITH A VARIETY OF INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THEIR “EXECUTIVE

(more...)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM” IN PARTNERSHIP WITH U-C-L-A’s ANDERSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BESTOWING SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR UPON MYSELF AND BOB, AND FOR ALL OF US AT SHOWTIME, WE ARE CONTINUING TO STRIVE TO MAKE “DIVERSITY BEST PRACTICES” A UNIVERSAL ICON IN THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE. GOOD AFTERNOON, AND GOD BLESS.

###

(more...)