

## **Varsovia Fernandez**

### **President & CEO Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Varsovia Fernandez is the President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GPHCC). In this position, Ms. Fernandez is responsible for business development, management and operations of the organization. During her tenure, Ms. Fernandez has helped the Hispanic Chamber achieve record levels of membership, revenues and member-driven activities; and the successful delivery of the USHCC 27<sup>th</sup> annual convention, which brought over 4,000 people to the Philadelphia region with an overall economic impact of \$4.5 million. Ms. Fernandez has worked to develop a programmatic strategy to help build on the small business, professionals and corporate Hispanic markets.

Prior to GPHCC Ms. Fernandez worked with Congreso de Latinos Unidos as Vice President of External Affairs. While at Congreso, Ms. Fernandez worked to maximize government and corporate relations as an advocate of the Latino community. Ms. Fernandez established strong relationships with legislators and their staff across governments, and worked with state and national organizations to introduce Workforce Investment Act, TANF, domestic violence and immigration legislation to Capitol Hill; and domestic violence and utility protection legislation within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Ms. Fernandez was instrumental in helping pass the recent minimum wage increase legislation in Pennsylvania. A co-founder of Congreso's Annual Golf Outing and Calle Americana CareerLink (the first bilingual job seeking center in the state of Pennsylvania), Ms. Fernandez supported Congreso's annual budget.

Ms. Fernandez is an executive with over 10 years of senior management expertise across industries including, information technology, venture capital, commercial lending, and eCommerce. Ms. Fernandez is actively committed to philanthropic work in the Hispanic community in Philadelphia. Ms. Fernandez serves on various boards and coalitions including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Community College of Philadelphia Board of Trustees, the Penn's Landing Corporation, Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperative Authority, and Philadelphia's Zoning Code Commission.

Ms. Fernandez was born in the Dominican Republic, attended Temple University and graduated from Rosemont College. She lives in Ardmore and has one daughter.