

2018 Outstanding Citizen of the Year

Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce

Peter Kjellerup was born and raised in Denmark, where he was a member of the Danish Young Riders Team and where he received a Master's degree in Agriculture. In 1980, he earned his Bereiter FN Equestrian degree in Hamburg, Germany, then moved to the United States where he met and married Mandy Cabot. Together they designed, built, owned and operated Five Star Farm – an 80-acre, 60-stall dressage training facility – until its sale in 1999. The state-of-the-art facility, with Peter as head instructor, was nationally recognized and served periodically as a training site for the US Equestrian Team.



Peter Kjellerup

In 1990, Peter and Mandy co-founded Dansko, Inc. Originally an importer of Danish clogs, Dansko – literally translated as “Danish shoes” – designs, develops and distributes a wide range of innovative casual and career footwear throughout North America, Italy and Japan, and currently employs 150 people in West Grove PA. Peter presided as Dansko’s Vice President from its inception in 1990 – overseeing the design, construction and overall property management of its award-winning, Gold LEED certified campuses – through his retirement at the end of 2018. In 2012, Mandy and Peter redeemed their shares in Dansko to establish an ESOP Trust for the benefit of their employees. Dansko is now 100% employee owned.

Under Peter and Mandy’s leadership, Dansko achieved the “Inc. 500 List” of fastest growing private companies, the “Top 100 List” from the Philadelphia Business Journal, and the Philadelphia Inquirer’s “Top Workplaces List.” Recognized for its leadership in advancing socially and environmentally responsible business practices, Dansko was also the winner of the “Exceptional Achievement Citation” from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; the “Paradigm Award” from the Chester County Development Council; the “Corporate Social Investment Award” from the Chester County Community Foundation; the “Triple Bottom Line Award” from the Social Business Network of Greater Philadelphia; the “Green Business Award” from the Chester County Chamber of Business; the “Corporate Goodwill Award” from Footwear Plus; and the “Built To Last” and “Best For The World, Workers” awards from B Lab.

Peter himself is a proud recipient of the “Leadership Award” from the Delaware Valley Green Building Council, the “Service to Youth Award” from the YMCA of Brandywine Valley, and the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from Lincoln University. He currently serves on the Boards of the Stroud Water Research Center, The Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County, the Cabot Kjellerup Foundation and the Cabot Kjellerup Realty Trust, and is a past Board member of the Red Clay Valley Association, Chester County Food Bank and the Dansko Foundation.

He and Mandy live in Kennett Square PA with their two dogs, Tucker and Richie, and enjoy being physically active, hiking, travelling, exploring new places, and spending time with their kids and grandkids.