

Professionals Gather for the Georgia Leadership Conference



This Statewide Conference Focused on the Sharing and Promoting of Leadership Excellence Skills in the Georgia Area.

ATLANTA— October 3, 2011 – The 2nd Annual Georgia Diversity & Leadership Conference, was held Thursday, September 29th at Crown Plaza Atlanta Perimeter Galleria in Atlanta affording professionals the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, network and build lasting relationships.

“The Georgia Leadership Conference was a wonderful opportunity for Georgia professionals to gain knowledge and skills from some of its very own leaders,” Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of the National/Georgia Diversity Council said.

This year’s theme was “Leadership First: Spearheading Advancement.” Key themes of the conference included competent leadership skills, which are imperative for individuals who strive to have upward mobility in their chosen career fields. A company’s development also relies heavily in its ability to effectively equip its leaders and understand the importance of acquiring a diverse team and the conference

featured speakers offering their expertise in these areas.

The conference consisted of over 12 panel discussion sessions designed to allow attendees to obtain valuable information to help them grow as leaders. The conference also featured keynote speaker, Donna Brazile, Veteran Democratic Political Strategist and Founder and Managing Director of Brazile & Associates LLC., who spoke during the Leadership Award Excellence Luncheon.

Conference attendee and “Winning the Game of Office Politics” – Panel audience member said the panels provided helpful hints to help audience members navigate through the workplace.

“[The session] was very informative,” she said. “The information can be utilized in various disciplines and professions.”

Awards were presented at the conferences for the Most Powerful and Influential Women of Georgia, Multicultural Leadership, Leadership Excellence and the Georgia Woman of the Year.

Award Winners

Most Powerful and Influential Women



Lucinda Smith , AGCO
Debra Shigley, Journalist, Career Coach & Author
Stacy Franklin, Holdings Corp.
Connie Dudley, TSYS
Marilyn Jentzen, Thomson Reuters
Sue Dodsworth, Kimberly-Clark
Laura D. Jolly, University of Georgia
Dr. Risa Palm, Georgia State University
Paula Wallace, Savannah College of Art and Design
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, Sutherland Asbill and Brennan
Diane Prucino, Kilpatrick Townsend
Saba Ashraf, McKenna Long and Aldridge
A. Michelle (Shelli) Willis, Troutman Sanders

Multicultural Leadership



Samuel S. Choy, McKenna Long and Aldridge
Dr. Earl Lewis, Emory University
Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna, University of West Georgia
Kelly Fladger, Coca-Cola Enterprises
Michael Buckham-White, Premiere Global Services
Jorge Hernandez, Broadway Premium Funding

Woman of the Year



Trish Mueller, Senior VP and CMO, The Home Depot