

Professionals Gather for the Louisiana Women's Conference



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

Professionals from across southern Louisiana gathered at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel on September 23, 2011 to recognize, celebrate and honor the Most Powerful and Influential Women in Louisiana at the Third Annual Louisiana Women's Conference. The overall theme of the event was "People, Purpose, and Passion: The Pathway to Success".

The exciting day, packed with events and workshops, began with an opening general session breakfast, recognizing individuals for their commitment and hard work to achieve with the "Most Powerful & Influential Women Award."

"We wanted an environment that demonstrated the result of women utilizing their full potential, as well as an avenue to get them to that potential," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of the National Diversity Council.

This year's event, the third of its kind in Louisiana, was highlighted by keynote speaker Dee Dee Myers,

former White House Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton, current contributing editor to Vanity Fair, and author of "Why Women Should Rule the World." Mrs. Myers appeared to be delighted to address the guests of the National Diversity Council and opened the business luncheon with warm and personal stories about her professional journey and career experiences.

Many of the attendees from this year's event benefited from the wide-variety of conference panel discussions and break-out sessions. There were a total of fifteen sessions, featuring nearly 40 exceptional presenters. The topics covered a broad spectrum of relatable issues, ranging from "Using Social Media to Build Business", "Building your Personal Brand" to "Marriage and Relationships."

Makesha Judson attended the conference as a guest Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Sharon W. Broome, and marveled at the depth and value of the conference material. She indicated, "The conference workshops were awesome. The panelists were amazing and extremely knowledgeable in their respective fields. I am surprised I had such a great time, and I'm definitely looking forward to attending next year."

Award Winners



Louisiana Most Powerful and Influential Women

Gita Bolt, Tulane University

Gina Laird, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Charla Ducote, Rapides Regional Medical Ctr.

Melanie Clark, Coca-Cola

Dr. Marvalene Hughes, Dillard University

Sonia Perez, AT&T

Sen. Sharon W. Broome, Louisiana State Senate

Judy Hendrix, Hammerman & Gainer

Erin Wesley, Baton Rouge Chamber

Renae Conley, Entergy

Susan Moreland, N. Louisiana AHEC

Christina Sistrunk, Shell Upstream Americas