

# Professionals Gather for the Ohio Women's Conference



**This statewide conference aimed to acknowledge the important roles of women in business and to offer invaluable information to local businesswomen to aid in the development of their professional skills.**

CINCINNATI – The Third Annual Ohio Women's Conference was held in The Westin Cincinnati on Friday, March 18 in Cincinnati. Over 100 of Ohio's elite businesswomen were present to celebrate the role that women play in positively influencing others and advancing their organizations.

The theme of the Ohio Women's Conference was "Live Well, Learn More, and Inspire Others!" National Women's Council Founder and CEO, Dennis Kennedy said, "We wanted this conference to give Ohio's businesswomen the opportunity to develop their professional relationships outside of their own organizations."

The event opened with a Continental Breakfast, followed by the presentation of the Glass Ceiling Awards, where sixteen local businesswomen were honored for their leadership excellence, demonstration of positive influence on those underneath her

leadership, and record of steady increase in responsibility throughout their careers, among other qualities.

Afterwards, a series of twelve informative panel discussions were held – of which the participants could select four to attend – including "Marketing Your Business in the Age of the Internet," "Women and Wealth Creation," and "Strategies for Dealing with Conflict and Building Relationships in the Workplace." Each panel discussion was lead by esteemed members of Ohio's business community.

During the luncheon, Donna Brazile – Veteran Democratic political strategist, author, professor and this year's keynote speaker – addressed the audience. Ms. Brazile spoke about the importance of the female presence in today's business environment, which she has seen in multiple years in politics and her experience in the public eye. Her speech stressed the importance of hard work – in spite of severe criticism from others – and the value of a female viewpoint in our diverse workplace environment.

The conference closed with a secondary opportunity for the guests to network amongst themselves and the sponsors' representatives.

# Award Winners



## Ohio Glass Ceiling Award Winners

Alycia Broz, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

Susan Tomasky, American Electric Power

Barbara A. Johnson, Miami Valley Hospital

Barbara Otey, OhioHealth Corp.

Monica Gearding, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

JoEllen McCarthy, Shriners Burns Hospital

Karen Bankston, Drake Center/Health Alliance

Karen E. Rafinski, Clark State Community College

Beth Freemal, Thomposon Hine

Ann Lazarus-Barnes, Convergys

Robin Harvey, Baker & Hostetler LLP

Scenario Adebessin, Fifth Third Bank

Liz Digiangdomenico, Luxottica Vision Care Services