

Professionals Gather for the Philadelphia Diversity and Leadership Conference



This state conference focused on the promoting of leadership skills and the celebration of diversity in Pennsylvania's businesses.

PHILADELPHIA – The Second Annual Pennsylvania Diversity and Leadership Conference took place in Pittsburgh at Drexel University on Thursday, September 22. Over 200 of Pennsylvania's business elite gathered in order to share the best practices and strategies to formulate diversity initiatives, discuss how to recruit and cultivate good leaders in local organizations, and recognize area companies that epitomize diversity.

This year's theme was "DiversityFIRST™: Creating New Opportunities for Your Community."

"Our goal was to create an atmosphere where leaders from across Pennsylvania could discuss leadership strategies, network with companies that have similar concerns about creating a diverse business environment, and recognize organizations that have exemplified diversity," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of the National Diversity Council.

The conference featured twelve lively panel discussions – of which the attendees had the opportunity to

take part in four – including "Chief Diversity Officer Roundtable," "Strategy for Tapping into a Diverse Talent Pool," and "Managing Four Generations in the Workplace." Each panel discussion was moderated by an esteemed member of Philadelphia's business community.

The conference's keynote speaker was Donna Brazile, Veteran Democratic Political Strategist and the Founder and Managing Director of Brazile & Associates LLC. The accomplished businesswoman spoke on the benefits of diversity in the workplace as well as in leadership. Her speech embodied all the topics of the conference, and was an outstanding example of the heights that can be reached when organizations put DiversityFIRST™.

Awards were also handed out at the conference for the Most Powerful and Influential Women of Pennsylvania and for Multicultural leadership. Each of these awards honored individuals who had exhibited leadership excellence in their fields, and provided significant contributions to their organizations.

Next year's conference is currently scheduled for September 14, 2012.

Award Winners



Pennsylvania Most Powerful and Influential Women

Eloise Young, Philadelphia Gas Works

Nancy Rogers, Lincoln Financial Group

Hope S. Freiwald, Dechert

Elizabeth Patrick, TE Connectivity

Tina Moore Gilbert, Accenature

Tina Waters, Comcast

Mary Terese Hoeltzel, Cigna

Joann Davis Brayman, Armstrong World Industries

Karen Greene, AmerisourceBergen Corporation

Jill Robinson, Genzyme

Valarie J. Allen, Ballard Spahr

Elizabeth Bilotta, Sunoco

Ann Marie Gulian, Campbell Soup Company

Michele E. Martin, Morgan Lewis & Bockius

Renee Amooore, The Amooore Group