

Professionals Gather for the Tampa Bay Women In Leadership Symposium



TAMPA –Exactly 100 professionals and community members attended the Florida Diversity Council’s Third Annual Tampa Bay Women in Leadership Symposium on October 5, 2011 to celebrate the success of women in the workplace and community by listening to five local panelists share their thoughts about and experiences with female leadership.

This year’s Symposium – “A Day of Excellence through Leadership” – was led by co-chairs Tracey Jaensch, Managing Partner of Ford & Harrison’s Tampa office, and Loretta Calvin, Sr. Manager of OD & Leadership Development at Tech Data Corporation.

Following the continental breakfast, which was sponsored by Fitlife Foods, a panel of five powerful, local women discussed various topics that touched upon different aspects of women’s experiences in society.

The impressive panel included Carolyn Bass, Executive Director of the Florida Holocaust Museum; Jane Castor, Police Chief of the Tampa Police Department; Kanika Jelks-Tomalín, VP of Strategic Planning & Public Affairs at Bayfront Health System; Karen Mulroe, SVP, General Counsel and Secretary at HealthPlan Holdings, Inc.; and Machel Maner,

VP Sr. Community Development Officer at Wells Fargo.

These influential leaders discussed Perceptions of Assertive Women; Gender Unconsciousness; Prepping for a Position of Power; Winning at Office Politics; Maintaining Your Value During Shaky Economic Times; and Becoming a Person of Influence in the Workplace and Community. The moderator, Loretta Calvin, facilitated question and answer sessions during the event, and attendees seemed to really enjoy the intimate atmosphere of the Symposium.

Once the panel session ended, event sponsors and Board member organizations were recognized. Tech Data Corporation received a plaque for its Co-Title Sponsorship; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida for its Gold Sponsorship; and Iurillo & Associates for its Silver Sponsorship. Stetson University College of Law and Fitlife Foods received certificates for their in kind sponsorships as well.

Given the event’s success, the Florida Diversity Council now plans to hold Women in Leadership Symposiums every year in Tampa Bay, Orlando, South Florida, Southwest Florida, and Jacksonville.