

Students Gather for the Tri-State College Diversity Summit



SYRACUSE – October 10, 2011 – More than 120 students and professionals attended the Tri-State Diversity Council’s Inaugural College Diversity Summit on October 8, 2011 at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse to promote leadership among college students and enhance communication and collaboration efforts within our multi-racial, multiethnic and multicultural society by engaging in dynamic panel sessions.

The theme for the summit was “Being THE Leader for the Future.” The event was organized by Eunice Williams – Onondaga Community College, Allen Harrison – Hamilton College, Gaynelle Wethers – Nazareth College, and Chevanne DeVaney – Keuka College. These committee members were essential to planning and facilitating the eccentric event.

Students came from multiple universities in Upstate New York region, including SUNY at Cortland, Syracuse University, SUNY at Oswego, The College of St. Rose, Hamilton College, and Onondaga Community College. Several organizational representatives attended the Summit as well, including those from AT&T, Rochester Midland Corporation, Ericsson, Berry Good Dental Care PC, Upstate Medical Hospital, National Grid, Global i365, Syracuse VA Medical Center, Rod Colon Consulting, LLC, Internist Associates of Central New York, and OCC.

The Founder and CEO of the National Diversity Council, Dennis Kennedy, served as the keynote speaker during

the luncheon. “It was an amazing Inaugural event. The Tri-State Diversity Council is excited to provide college students with an opportunity learn more about diversity and leadership topics, especially as they venture into the workplace,” Dennis Kennedy said.

Following the luncheon, students and professionals chose between various panel sessions titled Identity Matters; Bridging Cultural Barriers; Essential Leadership Skills; Powerful Leaders of Color; Walking in Two Worlds – Code Switching; and Creating Your Success through Coaches, Mentors & Networks. The sessions were comprised of three to four panelists who shared their thoughts and experiences about the topic at hand. Panelists ranged from Julie Leedom-Gaidis, Program Manager of Ericsson, to Liz Waidelch, Senior Vice President & Director of Human Resources from Rochester Midland Corporation.

In response to the overall success of the Inaugural event, the Tri-State Diversity Council now plans to hold its Second Annual College Diversity Summit in New York City in April 2012. If you are interested in learning more about speaking, sponsorship or volunteer opportunities for the upcoming College Diversity Summit, please contact the Senior Coordinator of the Tri-State Diversity Council at Jacob.Tadesse@nationaldiversitycouncil.org.