

Donna Brazile Highlights the 2011 Pennsylvania Diversity and Leadership Conference



Donna Brazile at the Pennsylvania Diversity and Leadership Conference

The Second Annual Pennsylvania Diversity and Leadership Conference took place in Pittsburgh at the Community College of Allegheny County - Boyce Campus on Friday, September 16. 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 opened with the Pennsylvania Most Powerful and Influential Women's Breakfast, where the state's most noteworthy women were honored with an award for stellar contributions to their fields. The awards were given to businesswomen who sustained a steady record of impressive accomplishments throughout their careers and demonstrated a commitment to the well-being of the community, among other qualities. Award winners were

honored with bouquets of red roses.

During the luncheon, Pennsylvania Multicultural Leaders Awards were awarded to community leaders who best exhibited excellence in leadership and a commitment to the highest ethical standards and professional excellence.

The event featured twelve lively panel discussions – of which the attendees had the opportunity to take part in three topics – including "Chief Diversity Officer Roundtable," "Strategy for Tapping into a Diverse Talent Pool," and "Managing Four Generations in the Workplace."

This year'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™.