

Soledad O'Brien Highlights the 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Diversity & Leadership Conference



From left to right: Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of National Diversity Council, and Keynote speaker Soledad O'Brien

On Thursday, September 13, 2012, the Pennsylvania Diversity Council held its 3rd Annual Diversity & Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh at Duquesne University. This year's conference was divided into four concurrent sessions consisting of several topics in which the attendees chose to participate. Several business professionals from private and public sectors, as well as university officials, were in attendance to gain insight and a wealth of knowledge from the conference participants who focused on the theme "From Awareness to Action."

"Diversity and inclusion continues to be a business imperative in today's global economy," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of National Diversity Council. "With her professional experience and her advocacy for various groups within our communities, we believed having Soledad O'Brien as the keynote speaker for this conference would

help us bring awareness to the need for a diverse leadership within the professional community."

The conference began with "The Most Powerful & Influential Women's Breakfast" where 18 women were honored for their accomplishments and contributions to their field of work throughout the scope of their careers. Following the breakfast, the first concurrent panel session began focusing on topics such as, "Generational Differences", "Bridging Cultural and Gender Barriers", and "Tools for Maximizing your leadership Potential." These topics – amongst others – were chosen to promote a culture of inclusion.

The Multicultural Awards Luncheon followed the first concurrent session. Three professionals from various organizations were honored for their leadership characteristics within the workplace and community and for

their commitment to high ethical standards and professional excellence. Award recipients were Jackie Dixon, Dir. of Government Relations, Giant Eagle; Dr. Lisa McBride, Special Assistant to the President for EEO/ University Ombudsperson, Chief Diversity Officer; Troy Peterson, VP of Customer Care, Erie International.

After the awards luncheon, the keynote speech was delivered by Soledad O'Brien, Acclaimed Special Investigations Correspondent and Host of CNN's "In America Documentaries." O'Brien's speech focused on the importance of having diversity and inclusion in the community and workplace. Her insight and experience perfectly accentuated the conference's theme.

The Pennsylvania Diversity Council would like to thank all of the speakers, sponsors, and attendees for helping make the Pittsburgh Diversity & Leadership Conference a rousing success!



Attendees of the Pittsburgh Diversity & Leadership Conference