

# Healthcare Professionals Gather for Texas Diversity Council's Gulf Coast Summit



*Texas Diversity Council's Gulf Coast Attendees*

Several healthcare professionals and students attended the Texas Diversity Council's Gulf Coast Healthcare Summit on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX to promote dialogue, awareness, and support to organizational culture and diversity development strategies within the healthcare communities. This year's theme for the Texas Healthcare Diversity Summit was "Diversity and Cultural Competence in Healthcare".

The Summit began with a meet and greet session where the attendees were able to network and have breakfast. After the meet and greet, Dr. Harry Gibbs, Chief Diversity Officer of the University of Texas's M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, served as a presenter and speaker of this event. His speech focused on the topic, "How to Speak Multicultural," which gave the

attendees insight on organizational advancement and cross-cultural communications.

Following Dr. Gibbs' speech, Willie French, Director of Talent Acquisition for the Texas Methodist Hospital System, focused on "Hiring Red, White, and You." In his speech, Mr. French shared a presentation on the current initiatives that the Methodist Hospital System has implemented to promote hiring veterans into the medical center of Houston. After receiving insight from the presenters on the summit topics, the attendees gained a greater understanding of building an organizational culture and a workforce that is inclusive and diverse from an array of panelists (Paula McHam – Moderator, Director, Client & Community Affairs, CIGNA; Randy Kirk, Director of Talent Acquisition, The Methodist Hospital

System; Kristie Johnson, Clinic Administrator, Kelsey Seybold; Paul Simmons, Registered Nurse, Legacy Community Health Services; Bruce Luu, Business Development Manager, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital).

The summit ended with closing remarks from Jason DeGroot, the VP of the Texas Diversity Council. The Texas Healthcare Council would like to thank all of the sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping make the Gulf Coast Healthcare Summit a success.