

Business Professionals are honored at the 9th Annual DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheons



Attendees of the Gulf Coast DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon

The Texas Diversity Council held its 9th Annual DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheons on October 18th, 23rd, and 31st in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston respectively. These luncheons were designed to highlight the importance of incorporating diversity and inclusion in the community and the workplace, focusing on the theme, “Looking Ahead: The Future of Diversity and Inclusion.”

“At the DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheons, we wanted to honor individuals and organizations for their continued efforts of embracing diversity and inclusion best practice in the workplace,” said Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the Texas Diversity Council. “We also hoped to create an environment where the business leaders could learn the necessary techniques to advance their careers using such practices from our keynote speakers Dr. George Wright and Gilda Garcia.”

Each DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon provided opportunities for the attendees to participate in two best practices sessions which consisted of topics focusing on diversity and inclusion in the work place. Topics ranged from, “The Effects of WWII on Four Generations of Women”; “Cultural Sensitivity in the Workplace”; Activating Employees Around Sustainability”; “The Benefits of Disabilities in the Workplace”; “Diversity Unleashed – Inclusion is a Mindset”; to “Diverse Team Dynamics: Winning the Game.”

After the best practices sessions, individuals, corporations, and organizations were honored for their leadership and contributions towards achieving a more diverse work environment with the DiversityFIRST™ Award. This award also recognized them for their outstanding accomplishments and commitment in the communities in which they live and work, while promoting a cultural

understanding and an appreciation for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Following the award recognitions, Dr. George Wright, President of Prairie View A&M of Prairie View, TX and Gilda Garcia, Ed. D., Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity at the University of North Texas, delivered the keynote speech for the awards luncheons. They both focused on the importance of exercising diversity and inclusion best practices within the work place. Their insight and experience perfectly accentuated the luncheon’s theme.

The Texas Diversity Council would like to thank all of its sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and attendees for helping make the 2012 Best Practices & DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon a huge success.