

# Female Students are Inspired at the Inaugural Greater Dallas Young Women in Leadership Symposium



*Symposium Panelists from left to right: Dr. Alicia F. Eddington, Linda K. Brown, Dora Lee, Stella Park, Carmen Garcia, Nancy Fields, Ayona Anderson, and Vickie Jones*

On Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Texas Diversity Council held its Inaugural Young Women in Leadership Symposium at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Approximately 50 middle and high school females gathered to receive insight and knowledge from successful women leaders. This year's symposium theme was "Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Leaders."

This event was created to provide young women with knowledge and information that would help support them in their academic journey as they move forward into becoming future leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It also presented opportunities for the young women to speak with mentors as well as network with other young women from schools in the Greater Dallas area.

"We wanted to create an environment where young women could be mentored by

successful business women who have achieved their personal and professional goals," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council.

The symposium began with breakfast and a student and mentor roundtable. Following the roundtable, Earsa Jackson, Partner of Strasburger & Price, LLP, delivered the keynote speech. While at Strasburger & Price, Jackson has been responsible for structuring franchises and assisting franchisors with on-going transactional needs. She has also written and spoken extensively on franchise issues and is a former Director of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Division for the American Bar Association Forum on Franchising.

After the keynote speech, the students attended several workshops which were held

during the course of the event. The workshop topics included "America's Next Top Leaders: YOU!"; "I Got This! KNOW Who You Are"; and "Table Etiquette 101: Which Fork is Which?" These workshops were facilitated by an array of female executives from the Dallas area -- who gathered to share their professional and personal goals and to answer questions that were important to the students' success.

The Texas Diversity Council would like to thank the sponsors, mentors, volunteers, panelists, and the young females for helping make the Inaugural Dallas Young Women in Leadership a huge success.