

Professionals Gather at the 7th Annual Texas Diversity and Leadership Conference to Celebrate their Differences and Diverse Success Stories



Dennis Kennedy with professionals at the 7th annual Diversity and Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas.

The 7th Annual Texas Diversity and Leadership Conference was held on April 4th, 5th, and 6th at the Westin Galleria in Dallas. A diverse body of the Lone Star State's corporate leaders attended the event, exploring the theme "From Awareness to Action." Participants collaboratively shared tools and experiences promoting an effective culture of inclusion.

The conference featured a number of nationally prominent speakers, including: Nina Godiwalla, CEO of Mindworks, keynote speaker for the Multicultural Awards Luncheon on April 4; veteran Democratic political strategist and CNN contributor Donna Brazile, keynote speaker for the Most Powerful & Influential Women of Texas;

former advisor and campaign manager to Hillary Clinton Patti Solis Doyle, keynote speaker for the DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon; and prominent civil right attorney and Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier, keynote speaker for the Legal Diversity Awards Luncheon. Attendees had the opportunity to attend an array of panels devoted to leadership and diversity-related topics. A minor sampling of available panels included "Multicultural Women at Work," "Award Winning Practices: Secrets to Success!," and "Creating Your Success Through Networking, Mentorship, and Sponsorship."

"The Council hoped to create an environment where business leaders could learn the necessary

techniques to advance their careers using diversity and inclusion practices," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of the Texas Diversity Council, "while at the same time, we wanted to honor people and organizations that already embrace such practices and try to create a diverse and inclusive workforce."

A number of individuals were recognized for their leadership and contributions to the goal of a more inclusive work environment with awards such as the "Most Powerful & Influential Women Award", the "Multicultural Leadership Award", the "DiversityFIRST™ Award", the "Champion of Diversity Legal Award", the "DiversityCHAMPION™ Award", and the "CEO Champion of Diversity Award".

Feedback for the conference reflected a very positive experience. As one attendee noted, "It was thoroughly uplifting for me as well as my team – we came out ready to climb mountains and run through obstacles! I was personally inspired and deeply moved by the stories of the other award recipients and many professionals that I met at the event."