

## Top Female Executives Gather at the 3rd Annual Atlanta Women in Leadership Symposium to Share Success Stories and Celebrate Diversity



*Panelists from left to right: Charlotte Combre, Marlana Davis, Jennifer Hightower, Marilyn Jentzen, Ashley Jensen, and Shirley Powell*

The Georgia Diversity Council (GADC) held their Third Annual Atlanta Women in Leadership Symposium at Comcast Cable on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The Symposium brought together a diverse panel of female executives who have made the climb up the “corporate ladder” and were willing to share their personal success stories as well as general experiences relevant to women in leadership and those aspiring to become leaders. This half-day event featured a pane discussion addressing personal and professional challenges women face in the workplace.

Organized in 2008, the GADC is committed to fostering a learning environment for organizations and individuals to grow and leverage their knowledge of diversity. It assists professionals, students and organizations to learn diversity best practices from the top corporate leaders and thereby pursues the mission of enhancing appreciation for and understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion.

Following their mission, this year’s Atlanta Women in Leadership Symposium assembled an exceptional

panel that allowed attendees to gather a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise from some of the best female executives speaking about their personal and professional challenges faced while successfully rising to the top. Topics that were addressed included “Becoming a Person of Influence,” “Understanding the Environment We Lead,” “Dealing with Perception Vs. Reality: Can Women Be Leaders?,” “Cross Cultural Leadership – Women Bridging the Racial Divide,” “Pursuing Leadership Excellence,” “Establishing Credibility in the Workplace,” and “Perceptions of Assertive Women.”

“The symposium was meant to encourage people to take the initiative to meet new colleagues, talk openly about today’s topics and exchange ideas”, said Dennis Kennedy, CEO and Founder of the Georgia Diversity Council. “It was my hope that this year’s Symposium would be a rewarding experience for our attendees allowing them gain insight into their own goals and careers in an effort to catapult themselves to the top.”

In accordance with Mr. Kennedy’s hopes and expectations, attendees

agreed that the event represented “a great opportunity to listen and hear advice from other women leaders”. They described the symposium as “wonderful event that offered “great perspectives” from a “very knowledgeable panel.” Post-event surveys indicated that participants would recommend the symposium to others and “hope that it continues and grows!”

For this reason, Mr. Kennedy wants to thank the sponsor Comcast Cable, as well as the panelists Charlotte Combre (Partner, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP), Marilyn Jentzen (VP of Customer Strategy, Thomas Reuters), Kimberly Edmunds (SVP of Customer Care, Comcast), Marlana Norris (VP of Finance, IHG), Jennifer Hightower (SVP – Law & Policy, Cox Communications, Inc.), Shirley Powell (EVP of Corporate Communication, The Weather Channel Companies), Ashley Berg Jensen (VP of Diversity and Inclusion, Coca Cola Refreshments) for making this year’s Atlanta Women in Leadership Symposium such a success.