

Donna Brazile Highlights the 2nd Annual Tri-State Diversity & Leadership Conference



Keynote Speaker, Donna Brazile

The 2nd Annual Tri-State Diversity & Leadership Conference was held on Friday, September 28th at the Flatotel Hotel in New York, NY. Approximately 250 business professionals from the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut areas respectively, were in attendance to learn best practices and to strengthen their professional networks. The theme of this year's conference was "Wind of Change."

During the conference, attendees could choose to participate from an array of panel discussions, which were divided into 3 concurrent sessions throughout the day. The panel discussions were designed to help attendees cultivate the skills necessary to further their careers, utilize any available resources to expand their networks, and grow as leaders. The panel of discussions included topics ranging from, "Best Practices for the Outreach & Support of Individuals with Disabilities", "Diversity Best Practices Roundtable",

"Getting off the Sticky Floor – What Does it Really Take to Advance?," "Recruiting, Developing & Retaining Diverse Talent", to "Managing Generational Diversity."

"A review of the 2011 Tri-State Glass Ceiling Study reveals that both women and people of color continue to lack in obtaining opportunities to participate on executive boards and in C-Suite positions," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of National Diversity Council. "Therefore, I believe it behooves the business leaders in the Tri-State area to see the need for change and make a conscience effort to use the necessary techniques to advance their careers using diversity and inclusion practices."

The conference began with an awards breakfast honoring a diverse group of executive women from various



organizations in the Tri-State area with the "Most Powerful & Influential Women Award." The award recipients were acknowledged for their accomplishments and contributions to their field of work throughout the scope of their careers.

Following the award recognitions were concurrent panel discussions and the Multicultural Leadership Awards Luncheon. "The Multicultural Leadership Award" was presented

to individuals who demonstrated leadership characteristics within



their workplace and community, while also sustaining a record of accomplishments and contributions to their field of work throughout their careers.

After the Multicultural Leadership Awards Luncheon, the keynote speech was delivered by Donna Brazile, Veteran Democratic Political Strategist, Founder and Managing Director, Brazile & Associates LLC. In her speech, Brazile focused on how each person in attendance should let their voices be heard by voting at the 2012 upcoming election. She also expressed the importance having good role models for the youth. Her insight and experience perfectly accented the conference's theme.

One of the attendees from the event expressed, "Not only did I have an absolutely wonderful time, but those I invited couldn't stop raving about the event." Another attendee stated, "I would be interested in learning more about the New Jersey Council."

The Tri-State Diversity Council would like to thank all of its sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping make the Tri-State Diversity & Leadership Conference a rousing success.