

# Success Stories of Top Female Executives Highlights the Third Annual Tri-State Diversity Council Women in Leadership Symposium

The Tri-State Diversity Council held their Third Annual Women in Leadership Symposiums at the Pond House in Connecticut and the Hyatt Morristown in New Jersey. They took place on March 7 and 9, 2012 respectively. The half-day event brought together a diverse panel of female executives, who shared their success stories in regards to climbing the “corporate ladder” with an audience of over 50 attendees. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Women in Leadership - Rising above the Ordinary.”

The event opened with a period where the attendees could network with each other, allowing some of Tri-State’s business elite to make invaluable cross-industry contacts. The symposium began immediately following the networking session. Topics addressed by the panelists included “Establishing Credibility in the Workplace,” “Becoming a Person of Influence,” “Perceptions of Assertive Women,” “Pursuing Leadership Excellence,” and “Overcoming Workforce Barriers.” The discussions allowed attendees to gather a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise from top female executives, who shared the personal and professional challenges they faced in their careers.

“The symposium was meant to encourage individuals to take the

initiative to meet new colleagues and exchange ideas”, said Dennis Kennedy, CEO and Founder of the Tri-State Diversity Council. “It was my hope that this year’s Symposium would be a rewarding experience for our attendees, allowing them to gain insight into their own goals and careers in an effort to catapult themselves to the top.”

In accordance with Tri-State Diversity Council’s hopes and expectations, attendees agreed that it was a fantastic event with “a diverse panel of excellent speakers” who were “extremely informative and inspiring”. For this reason, the council would like to thank the sponsors and panelists in both Connecticut and New Jersey, for helping to make this year’s Women in Leadership Symposiums such a success.

## *New Jersey Panelists*



**Michelle Meyer-Shipp**  
VP/General Counsel  
Prudential Financial



**Rita Matjins**  
Sr. VP  
Corp. Marketing  
ADP



**Barbara Spengler**  
Sr./VP, Global Info Technology  
Wyndam Exchange & Rentals



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Wyndam Exchange & Rentals

## *Connecticut Panelists*



**Tanya A. Bovee**  
Partner  
Jackson Lewis, LLP



**Vimita Holston**  
2nd VP, Personal Insurance Operations  
Travelers



**Lori Valle-Yanez**  
Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer  
Mass Mutual Financial Group



**Denise Fletcher**  
VP & CIO  
Healthcare Payer/  
Pharma Scs. Group,  
XEROX



**Rosanna Durruthy**  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Cigna



**Jill Albertelli**  
Vice President  
Procurement  
Pratt & Whitney