

# NDC Carolinas Diversity Council Hosts the Inaugural Wilmington Women in Leadership Symposium



*Panelists from left to right: Dr. Christina Lanier, Velve Jenkins, Barbara Burke, Dr. Michelle Scatton-Tessier, and Alaine Lasseter*

The Inaugural Wilmington Women in Leadership Symposium was held on April 23rd at the Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College. Students from the college and professionals from the Wilmington area were in attendance to receive a wealth of knowledge from a diverse group of successful women executives. This year's theme was "Women Leaders as Architects of Change."

The symposium consisted of a panel of five female executives who gathered to inspire and encourage women to reflect on their own career goals as they strive to advance in their respective organizations. To help achieve this goal, topics relevant to women in today's workplace were chosen which, perfectly accentuated the symposium's theme. A few of the topics were, "Cross Cultural Leadership: Women Bridging the Racial Divide"; "Perceptions of Assertive Women"; and "Establishing Credibility in the Workplace."

"We wanted to create an environment

which allowed attendees of various ethnic backgrounds to come together, in order to gather a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise from female executives in the Wilmington area," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council.

Also, as part of the symposium, Dr. Sybil Burgess, Biology and Chemistry Faculty of the Brunswick Community College, was present to give a presentation on an unpublished study by the National Science Foundation-Advance. The study showed that there are a higher proportion of men than women in STEM and Social Science fields in the Community College System.

The symposium panelists were Dr. Christina Lanier, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology, UNC Wilmington; Velve Jenkins, Associate VP for Economic and Workforce Development, Brunswick Community College; Barbara Burke, Director of Clinical Management, PPD, Board of

Directors, Cape Fear Clinic, Tileston Health Clinic, and Wilmington Family YMCA; Dr. Michelle Scatton-Tessier, Director of the Women's Studies and Resource Center and Associate Professor of French, UNC Wilmington; and Alaine Lasseter, VP of Development and Executive Director, The New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation.

Each panelist shared their professional and personal experiences, which helped and inspired the attendees to achieve their personal career goals.

The NDC Carolinas Diversity Council would like to thank all the sponsors, speakers and attendees for helping make this year's Inaugural Wilmington Women in Leadership Symposium a success.