

# California Diversity Council Hosts Women in Leadership Symposiums across Northern California



*Panelists of the San Francisco and Silicon Valley Women in Leadership Symposiums*

The California Diversity Council hosted its annual Women in Leadership Symposium Series in San Francisco/ Bay Area and Silicon Valley on March 14th and 15th. The focus for these annual symposiums was to bring together a diverse group of women executives to address topics on leadership and career advancement, in an effort to educate, inspire, and encourage attendees to reflect on their own goals and status, as they strive to advance within their own organizations. The theme for this year's symposiums was "Women Leaders as Architects of Change."

"The California Diversity Council Women in Leadership Symposiums were created to establish an environment where executive women leaders from across the state of California could come together to share their personal experiences and expertise with the women in attendance," Dennis Kennedy, CEO and Founder of the National Diversity Council, said.

Each symposium opened with a period where the attendees could network with each other, allowing some of California's business elite to make invaluable cross-industry contacts. Following the networking session, the symposiums began.

For the purpose of increasing opportunities for female leaders, multiple informative panel discussions were held at each event. Discussion topics ranged from, "Becoming a Person of Influence";

"Personal Branding: Accessorizing Your Assets"; and "Own Your Finances, Own Your Life."

Panelists and moderators at each event were an accomplished group, committed to the professional success of women. Each panelist shared the experiences and challenges they faced while rising to the top in their respective organizations. Their experiences and expertise accentuated the theme of the symposiums.

The California Diversity Council would like to thank the sponsors, speakers and attendees, for helping to make the Women in Leadership Symposiums a rousing success.

## **Featured Panelists of the California Women In Leadership Symposiums:**

### ***San Francisco:***

Kathleen Roberts, Ph.D., J.D.  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Samuel Merritt University

Laura Maechtlen  
Partner  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Joan Haratani  
Partner  
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Cheryl Porro  
VP, Agility, Innovation and Culture  
SalesForce

Kristi Cappelletti-Matthews  
VP Global Compensation, HRIS & HR  
Operations  
VSP Global

Tammi Jackson  
VP, Finance and Administration/Treasurer  
Mills College

Teresa Beck  
Partner  
Lincoln, Gustafon & Cercos, L.L.P.

Amy Bunszel  
Vice President  
Autocad Product Line Group Autodesk

### ***Silicon Valley:***

Michelle De Hertogh  
Senior Director, Global Alliances &  
Service Provider Marketing  
EMC

Lori Cornmesser  
VP, WW Partner Development and Sales  
Juniper Networks

Faye Sahai  
VP, Innovation & Adv Tech, Digital  
Health Technology & Strategic Initiatives  
Kaiser Permanente

Tamara Blue  
VP, Financial Consultant  
Charles Schwabb