

# Central Texas Diversity Council Hosts 8th Annual Women in Leadership Symposium



*Executive Female Panel of the Central Texas Women in Leadership Symposium*

“Women of Influence: Leading with Courage and Conviction,” was this year’s theme for the Texas Diversity Council’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Leadership Symposium in Austin, TX. The event was held at the Commons Learning Center of J.J. Pickle Research Campus, on February 13<sup>th</sup>. A diverse group of female business professionals, from numerous organizations, attended the symposium.

This year’s Women in Leadership Symposium consisted of a panel of six female executives who gathered to inspire and encourage women to reflect on their own career goals and status as they strive to advance in their own 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, “Beyond the Box – Letting Go of Preconceived Barriers and Fears”; “Giving and Receiving – Supporting One Another in Both Directions”; “How Women Can Leverage Power in the Workplace”; and “Women Leaders in Non-Traditional Roles.”

“We wanted to create an environment which allowed women from various ethnic backgrounds to come together to gather a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise from female executives in the Austin area,” said Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council. “The

topics that were discussed at this symposium were pertinent to today’s women leaders and I hope the attendees gained a rewarding experience as they focus on their own career development.”

The symposium panelists were Lisa C. Firmin, Assoc. Provost for Diversity and Recruitment, University of Texas at San Antonio; Angie Sherrell, Independent Marketing Executive; Lisa Wang – Doyle, Senior Vice President for Human Resources, David’s Healthcare; Natalie Madeira Cofield, President & CEO, Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce; Mary R. Pawelek, Managing Partner, Bowman & Brooke’s; and Smita Ruzicka, PhD, Assistant Dean of Students, University of Texas at Austin. Each panelist shared their professional and personal experiences, which greatly accentuated this year’s theme.

The Texas Diversity Council would like to thank all the sponsors, speakers and attendees for helping make this year’s symposium a great success.