

The Florida Diversity Council Hosts the 6th Annual Young Women's Leadership Symposium



Panelist from right to left to: Chief Jane Castor, Tina Spinks, Charlotte Sutton, Julia Politowicz, Shalewa Noel-Thomas

The Sixth Annual Tampa Bay Young Women's Leadership Symposium was held on March 1, 2014 at the Columbia Restaurant in Tampa, Florida. The mission of this symposium was to reach out and encourage young female students to pursue college degrees, and ultimately enhance their future career opportunities.

“At the Young Women's Leadership Symposium, we wanted to create an atmosphere for young women that would encourage the development of future leaders by giving them access to female mentors who can support their goals,” said

Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the Florida Diversity Council.

The event included breakfast, a roundtable for the mentors and students, and an executive panel for open discussion.

The keynote speaker for the event was Maja Kazazic, who was an inspirational story of success for the young girls. Originally from Bosnia, she was evacuated to the United States at age 16 after a near fatal bombing, where she then enrolled in high school, and put herself through college. She is now the

successful owner of a software development company.

Panelists for the event included Charlotte Sutton, Senior Editor, Health & Politics, Tampa Bay Times; Shalewa Noel-Thomas, PhD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor, Coordinator, Rural South Public Health Training Center, University of Florida; Chief Jane Castor, Tampa Police Department; Julia Politowicz, Vice President of Project Management Office, North America Card Division, FIS International; and Tina Spinks, Senior Account Manager, Senior Home Care.

The Young Women in Leadership Symposium featured an exceptional list of professionals that motivated the young women to make promising goals for the future. The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank all the sponsors, speakers and attendees for helping to make this year's Young Women's Leadership Symposium a success.