



November 25, 2015

## **Fourth Annual Florida Veterans Summit Explores Issues Relating to Transitioning Veterans**

On November 6, 2015, the Florida Diversity Council held its Fourth Annual Veterans Summit at Jacksonville University's Terry Concert Hall. The Veterans Summit is targeted towards business leaders and strives to teach organizational representatives how to develop best practices that cater to veterans in the workplace. The speakers discussed various topics relating to the event theme of "Today's Veteran: Transitioning to Campus & Corporate."



Mark Walters, Event Chair, opened the event and introduced Tim Cost, President of Jacksonville University, to conduct a welcome on behalf of the university hosting the event. Attendees then heard from Keynote Speaker Lisa Firmin, MS, MHRM, retired Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and Associate Provost for Diversity and Recruitment at The University of Texas at San Antonio. During her keynote address, Colonel Firmin (ret.) shared her personal experiences climbing through the Air Force ranks to become the most senior ranking Latina officer at the time of her military retirement. She also discussed strategies that she has implemented within the University of Texas systems to foster veteran recruitment and retention within the student body as well as faculty.

The summit concluded with an executive panel featuring topics such as "Translating Military Backgrounds to the Private Sector," "The Role of ERGs in Developing Veterans," and "Recruiting Veterans on College Campuses." Business representatives from the private sector and academic institutions, who are also veterans themselves, served as panelists for these important topics and shared their valuable insights and experiences. Attendees left the summit equipped with knowledge gained from the speakers and a list of resources for further information on topics discussed during the event.

The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank the event planning committee, speakers, volunteers, and attendees who helped bring this event to fruition. A special thanks is also given to the event sponsors, without which the Fourth Annual Florida Veterans Summit would not have been possible: Jacksonville University, Black Knight Financial Services, Saint Leo University, Fortegra, USAA, and Aerotek.

The event program booklet, photos, and other items from the event can be viewed here:

[Post Event Timeline](#)

[Program Booklet](#)

[Photos](#)