



May 10, 2016

Texas Diversity Council Hosts 12th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference

On April 12, 2016, the Texas Diversity Council hosted the 12th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference at the Westin Memorial City in Houston, Texas. Attendees of the conference gained knowledge and advice from corporate leaders who shared insight from their personal success and leadership experience as professionals.

“I am so proud of the success of the Diversity and Leadership Conference,” said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and Chair of the National Diversity Council. “This type of event offers a major contribution to the improvement of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.”



During this three-day conference, attendees had the opportunity to network with other influential business leaders in the state. In addition to networking opportunities, attendees participated in workshops that featured discussion such as “The Impact of Multiculturalism in America,” “Introduction to LGBTQ Inclusion,” and “Working with People Who Are Not Like Me.”

Additional events taking place during the conference included the Global Diversity Summit and the disABILITY Summit. The Global Diversity Summit encouraged attendees to consider the importance of diversity in the global context. Bringing awareness to the impacts of globalization in the workplace helped attendees understand how to adjust and thrive in diverse working environments. The purpose of the disABILITY Summit was to educate and bring awareness to the growing need to incorporate individuals with disabilities into the diversity programs and initiatives of all organizations. Attendees were provided with resources and knowledge of best practices in order to improve overall inclusiveness.

The Texas Diversity Council also honored exceptional leaders with awards highlighting their commitment to success. On day one of the conference, awardees were honored at the Multicultural Awards Luncheon. The Multicultural Leadership award is reserved for individuals of color who have made a difference through their achievements and exemplify the ability to excel in their field. These individuals have achieved excellence despite the odds.

On day two of the conference, prominent female business leaders were recognized during breakfast with the Texas Most Powerful and Influential Award. This award honors women who have sustained a record of accomplishments, have clout within their organization, and demonstrate leadership and commitment to their community well being. Three extraordinary leaders were also recognized with the DiversityFIRST Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals within the legal, academic, corporate, an health community that have sustained commitment to the pursuit of cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

The Texas Diversity Council would like to thank all the sponsors, speakers and attendees for helping to make this event a success.

Event program booklets and photos can be viewed on our [timeline](#)

Most Powerful and Influential Women Award Winners

Alison L. Chen

Partner

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Jennifer Kinney Parnell

Partner

Locke Lord LLP

Bonnie Houston

Senior VP, Human Resources & Administration

National Oilwell Varco

Jennifer Stewart

Senior VP, Tax & Treasury

Southwestern Energy Company

Deneen Donnley

Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary

USAA

Leane K. Capps

Partner

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Stacy Doré

Executive VP & General Counsel

Energy Future Holdings Corp

Ophelia F Camiña

Partner

Susman Godfrey

Gina Luna

Chairman, Houston Region

JP Morgan Chase

Kristy N. Waterman

Vice President, Chief Counsel – Corporate and

Corporate Secretary

Dean Foods Company

Grace B. Holmes

VP, Corporate Secretary & Chief Governance Officer

Cameron International Corporation

Diversity Champion Award Winners

Geronimo M. Rodriguez Jr.

VP, Advocacy and External Affairs

Seton Healthcare Family

Justin Tredway

Account Executive

Aerotek, Inc.

Shelly Whitelock

District Manager, Coastal Bay Market

Wells Fargo

Tina McDaniel Mendler

Inclusion & Engagement Specialist

Tesoro Corporation

Diamond Sanders

Quality Assurance Analyst

Wells Fargo, Dallas Region

Alicia De Leon

Regional Sales Manager

Burnett Specialists

Multicultural Leadership Award Winners

Edward B. Adams Jr.
Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright

Stephen Metoyer
Tax Principal
Deloitte

Fernando Osorio
Retired VP
Hewlett Packard

Sudhir Pai
Managing Director
Schlumberger-Liquid Robotics JV

Purvi Patel Albers
Partner
Haynes & Boone

Tandra Jackson
Partner
KPMG

Rohby Word Mitchell
Director of Diversity and HR Compliance
Spectra Energy

Dale Wainwright
Partner
Bracewell LLP

Spring Williams-Cox
Operations Division Director
UPS

Tabre Malik
CFO, Commercial Operations
GEO Oil & Gas North America & Global Complex
COE

Leadership Excellence Award Winners

Matt Brand
Senior VP, Corporate Partnerships
Houston Astros

Toby Zyroll
President
National Oilwell Varco

DiversityFIRST Award Winners

Dr. Heather H. Martinez
Senior Director, Office of Community
Engagement
Houston Astros

Roderick Brown
Community Relations/HR
UPS

Vandi Theriot
VP, Talent Services
TDECU-Your Credit Union