



May 10, 2016

## Texas Diversity Council Hosts 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference

On April 12, 2016, the Texas Diversity Council hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> 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*