

# Florida Diversity Council Celebrates Top Executive Leaders at the Diversity and Leadership Conference



*Pictures from left to right: 2012 Most Powerful & Influential Women of Florida; 2012 Multicultural Leadership Award Recipients of Florida.*

On Thursday, April 12, 2012, the Florida Diversity Council held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL. This year's conference was divided into four concurrent sessions consisting of a total of 14 panel discussions which focused on the theme "DiversityFirst™: Creating New Opportunities for Your Community."

"With this theme, we wanted to raise awareness to the need of leadership within the professional community," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of National Diversity Council. "By addressing this with professionals across the state, we hope to begin the winds of change Florida."

The conference opened with the "Most Powerful and Influential Women's Breakfast" where eleven

women were honored for their leadership accomplishments and contributions to their organizations throughout their careers. Val Demings, Former Orlando Chief of Police, delivered the keynote speech following the award recognitions. After the breakfast, the attendees were given the opportunity to network with one another and visit exhibitor booths.

Following the networking session, the attendees gained insight and knowledge from an informative series of panel discussions which included topics such as "Winning at the Game of Office Politics", "Latinos in Leadership: Growing their Influence", "Creating Your Significance-Personal Branding", and "Tools for Maximizing Your Leadership Potential". These topics were designed to challenge conventional ideology and promote organizational changes

incorporating diversity and inclusion best practices.

The DiversityFirst™ Awards Luncheon followed the concurrent panel of discussions where an array of executive leaders from across the state of Florida received the 2012 Multicultural Leadership Award for their leadership excellence within public and private sectors. After the awards ceremony, the keynote speech was delivered by Dr. George Wright, President of Prairie View A&M University of Texas. Wright's insight and experience perfectly accentuated the conference's theme.

The Florida Diversity Council (FDC) would like to thank the sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping to make this year's event a rousing success.