

Students Gather to Learn from Professionals at the Florida Diversity Council's STEM Youth Diversity Summit



Attendees of the STEM Youth Diversity Summit

The Florida Diversity Council held its inaugural Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Youth Diversity Summit on July 25, 2012, at the University of Miami. There were high school and college students from diverse backgrounds in attendance who came to benefit from topics chosen to provide valuable insight that would enhance their personal and professional growth.

“The STEM Youth Diversity Summit was a forum created to allow young men and women to gain a better understanding about careers in STEM and the importance of diversity in these fields,” said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of National Diversity Council. “This summit also created an environment which enabled the attendees to grow in their knowledge of what will be expected of them in college and beyond.”

The half-day event began with opening

remarks and recognition of sponsors followed by the keynote address. The keynote speaker for the summit was Dr. Stephens Symes, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs of the University of Miami. In his keynote speech, Dr. Symes expressed how the use of STEM skills in the workforce could change and improve the world.

After the keynote address, the attendees were divided into two workshop sessions titled, “Curriculum Preparation for College: What to take in high school to prepare for majors in STEM” and “Paid/Non-Paid: How to enhance your resume to pursue a career in STEM.”

Following the workshop sessions, the attendees were brought together to hear from an executive panel of professionals from diverse backgrounds and educational institutions who gave their insight on “Careers in STEM Field.” The panel included Ruben Stokes, Group

Director of Diversity and Inclusion; Brenda Westthorp, President, Westthorp and Associates; Dr. Helena M-Solo Gabriele, Professor, University of Miami; and Victoria Ushrenko, Founder and President, ITWomen.



Summit Panelists from left to right: Ruben Stokes, Victoria Ushrenko, Brenda Westthorp, Helena M-Solo Gabriele

The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank all of its speakers, panelists, and sponsors for helping make the Inaugural STEM Youth Diversity summit a rousing success!