

Donna Brazile Highlights 2011 Women's Conference

The Illinois Women's Conference was held in The Allerton Hotel on Thursday, March 24 in Chicago. Over **200** of Illinois's elite businesswomen were present to celebrate and acknowledge the female community leaders who best exhibit distinction in leadership and a commitment to the highest ethical standards and professional excellence.

The theme of the Illinois Women's Conference was "Live well, Learn more, Inspire others!" The conference was aimed at celebrating the role that women play in positively influencing others and advancing their organizations. National Women's Council Founder and CEO, Dennis Kennedy said, "We held this conference to gather local businesswomen from diverse industries and backgrounds and show them how much force they have to change the landscape of the business world."

The event opened with a Continental Breakfast, followed by the presentation of the Most Powerful and Influential Women Awards, where Illinois's most noteworthy women were honored with an award for stellar contributions to their fields. The awards were given to women who sustained a steady record of impressive accomplishments throughout their careers and demonstrated a commitment to the well-being



Attendees at the Illinois Women's Conference

of the community, among other qualities.

Immediately following the award ceremony, the attendees had the chance to network amongst themselves as well as with the event sponsors' representatives.

After the networking concluded, a series of fourteen informative panel discussions were held – of which the participants could select four to attend – including "Reaching your Destiny through Entrepreneurship," "Utilizing Social Media for Your Business and Promoting Your Brand," and "What Got You Here, Won't Get You There." Each panel discussion was moderated by an esteemed member of Illinois's business community.

During the luncheon, Donna Brazile, Veteran Democratic political strategist and this year's keynote speaker, addressed the audience. Ms. Brazile spoke about the importance of the female presence in today's business environment. Her speech highlighted the importance of hard work – in spite of severe criticism from others – and the value of a female approach in our diverse workplaces

The conference closed with a secondary opportunity for the guests to network amongst themselves and the sponsors' representatives.