

Colin Powell Highlights the 5th Annual Ohio Diversity and Leadership Conference



From left to right: Gen. Colin Powell and Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council

The Ohio Diversity Council held its 5th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference on October 24th through 26th on the campus of the Ohio State University in Columbus. Over 300 of Ohio's business elite gathered to help the council celebrate diversity and inclusion best practices that initiate and fuel Ohio's diverse leadership in the business world focusing on the theme, "From Awareness to Action."

The goal of this conference was to honor individuals and organizations who promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace and community and to provide information regarding the benefits and necessity of having a diverse and inclusive strategy.

The conference began on October 24th with the DiversityFIRST™

Career Fair – which was free and open to all job seeking candidates. During the career fair, the candidates were given the opportunity to meet with our on-site career advisors to discuss their personal interview strategies and to apply for available positions with participating companies.

Following the DiversityFIRST™ Career Fair, the Diversity and Leadership Conference began on October 25th honoring high-ranking female executives from various organizations in the Ohio area with the "Most Powerful and Influential Women Award." These women were awarded for their leadership and commitment within the workplace and the community. Individuals were also honored for their sustainable records of accomplishments and for their contributions to their field of work through the scope of their careers with the "Multicultural Leadership Award." Gale King, Chief Administration Officer of Nationwide, was also honored as Ohio's Women of the Year.

During the course of this two-day conference, twenty informative sessions were presented with several panel discussion topics from which the participants could choose five to attend. Topics ranged from "Extraordinary, Powerful & Influential Women"; "Sponsorship: Positioning Yourself for Advancement";

"Enlisting Male Leadership for Women's Advancement"; "Leading Strategically"; "Diverse Team Dynamics; Winning the Game"; to "Race Matters."

On October 26th, the Diversity and Leadership Conference was concluded with General Colin Powell delivering the keynote speech. Gen. Powell has held senior military positions during four presidential administrations. He served as National Security Advisor for President Ronald Reagan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Under President George W. Bush, Gen. Powell served as Secretary of State, leading the State Department in major efforts to address and solve regional and civil conflicts. His insight and experience perfectly accented the conference's theme.

"We were honored to have General Colin Powell as keynote speaker at this year's Ohio Diversity and Leadership Conference," said Dennis Kennedy, CEO and Founder of the National Diversity Council. "His career represents the principles of this conference."

The Ohio Diversity Council would like to thank all of the sponsors, participants, and speakers for helping make the Ohio Diversity and Leadership Conference a huge success.