NATIONAL DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Professionals Gather for South Florida's Inaugural GLBT Summit

From left to right: Pedro Rivera, Angela Ward, and Stephen Wilkes at the GLBT Summit

The Florida Diversity Council hosted their Inaugural GLBT Summit on Friday, June 22, 2012, at the Pride Center in Wilton Manors, Florida. The goal of this event was to promote the advancement of workplace equality for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Transgender people, their allies and partners, and to provide value to today's leading organizations.

"As our country struggles to return to the vibrant economy we once had, corporations, organizations, and schools across America will need an influx of new ideas in order to remain competitive on the world stage", said Dennis Kennedy, founder and CEO of the Florida Diversity Council. "These ideas will flow best from a diverse workforce, where people from all walks of life will be able to share their unique perspectives and viewpoints"

Attendees of the summit had the opportunity to hear from plethora of experts, who covered a variety of topics including "Legislative Update: Building Equality and Fairness in the Workplace", "Gender Identity and Expression in the Workplace, Creating Policy and Making Practice", and "Diversity Supplier Relationships and Creating a Strong Ally Culture". Participants were also able to network with their peers about GLBT best practices and learn how to create positive change within their organization. Once the summit ended, the attendees attended a post-summit networking reception and, continued conversations with their peers and speakers regarding the event.

Attendees of the GLBT Summit

The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank all of the sponsors and panelists for helping to make the Inaugural GLBT summit a rousing success.

Summit Speakers:

Angela Ward
President, Resort Title Agency
Bluegreen Corporation

Robert Boo
Executive Director
Pride Center

Nadine Smith
Executive Director
Equality Florida

Stephanie Schneider
Attorney
Law Office of Stephanie L. Schneider, P.A.

Aisha Sanchez
Associate
Ford & Harrison LLP

Jose Nido
Vice President, Global Supplier Diversity Strategic Sourcing
Wyndham Worldwide

Katherine Martinez
Market HR Manager
Wal-Mart

Keith Blackburn
President & CEO
Greater Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Patrick Costello
Attorney
Quarles & Brady LLP

Dana Hill
Sr. Manager
Florida Blue