

The NDC Carolinas Diversity Council Hosts its Inaugural LGBT&A Summit



LGBT&A speakers from left to right: Mandy Carter (keynote), Stan Kimer, Deena Fidas, Liz Cooper, Lenora Billings-Harris, Robert Dogens, and Dr. Katherine Stephenson

Approximately 140 business professionals were in attendance at the Carolinas LGBTA Summit on June 6th at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC. This summit helped empower members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and allies communities through a series of panel discussions consisting of topics with valuable insights to benefit their personal and professional growth.

“The LGBTA Summit provided an environment where individuals were able to discuss issues they face within the LGBTA community,” Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO said. “Through the What Works in the Workplace track, we were able to address transgender issues and best practices and lessons on culture from a few of the most

successful corporations from the Charlotte area.”

The summit began with a networking session which allowed the attendees to create business contacts. Following the networking session, the participants attended a series of 15 panels with topics focusing on the LGBTA community. A few of the topics were: “LGBT in the Workplace Overview”; “Diversity within the Bi-Sexual Community”; “Understanding Unconscious Bias”; and “Being an Ally.”

In the midst of the panel sessions, Mandy Carter, National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin 2013 Commemoration Project, delivered the keynote speech. In her speech, Carter focused on framing opportunity and challenge for the LGBT

movement for possible “movement moment” of “justice or just us?”; the ever shifting demographics of the US that will be the majority of people of color by 2050; and the importance of “intentional intersectionality” of racial, social, economic justice organizing that opens up and expands opportunities for the LGBT movement. Her knowledge and insight greatly accentuated the LGBTA Summit.

The NDC Carolinas Council would like to thank all of the sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping make the Inaugural LGBT & A Summit a success.