

Soledad O'Brien Highlights the 4th Annual Florida Diversity & Leadership Conference



Soledad O'Brien & conference volunteers along with Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council

On Thursday, April 11, 2013, the Florida Diversity Council held its 4th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference at the Rosen Plaza Orlando Hotel in Orlando, FL. This year's conference was divided into three concurrent sessions consisting of a total of eleven panel discussions which focused on the theme "DiversityFirst™: Creating New Opportunities for Your Community."

"With this theme, we wanted to raise awareness to the need of leadership within the professional community," said Dennis Kennedy, Founder and CEO of National Diversity Council. "By addressing this with professionals across the state, we hope to begin the winds of change Florida."

The conference opened with the "Most Powerful and Influential Women's Breakfast" where twenty women

were honored for their leadership accomplishments and contributions to their organizations throughout their careers. After the breakfast, the attendees were given the opportunity to network with one another and visit exhibitor booths.

Following the networking session, the attendees gained insight and knowledge from an informative series of panel discussions which included topics such as "Women in C-Suites and Corporate Boards", "Its not a Glass Ceiling but a Sticky Floor", "Fast Track to the Corner Office", and "Top Leadership Competencies". These topics were designed to challenge conventional ideology and promote organizational changes incorporating diversity and inclusion best practices.

The Multicultural Leadership Awards Luncheon followed the concurrent

panel of discussions where an array of executive leaders from across the state of Florida were honored for their leadership excellence within public and private sectors. After the awards ceremony, the keynote speech was delivered by Soledad O'Brien, correspondent and host of Starting Point, CNN . O'Brien's insight and experience perfectly accentuated the conference's theme.

The Florida Diversity Council would like to thank the sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping to make this year's event a rousing success.



2013's Most Powerful & Influential Women