

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

On Thursday, September 4, 2014, the Pennsylvania Diversity Council held its 5th Annual Diversity and Leadership Conference at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue Hotel, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This year's conference was divided into three concurrent sessions consisting of a total of thirteen panel discussions that focused on the theme "Imagine Inclusion."



"With this theme, we wanted to raise awareness to the need of culture change and inclusion 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 to Pennsylvania."

The conference opened with the "Most Powerful and Influential Women's Breakfast" where seventeen 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 "The Impact of Changing Demographics in the Workplace & Community", "D & I as a Revenue Growth Strategy and Diversity Hot Topics", "Learning to Lead", and "How to Foster a Work Environment Where Women Thrive & get to the C-Suite". 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 Pennsylvania was honored for their leadership excellence within public and private sectors. After the awards ceremony, the keynote speech was delivered by General Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State and retired US general. Powell's insight and experience perfectly accentuated the conference's theme.

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