



October 28, 2015

## **Business Professionals Honored at the Inaugural Northern California Diversity and Leadership Conference**

On October 1, 2015, the California Diversity Council hosted their Inaugural Northern California Diversity and Leadership Conference at Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. The conference consisted of concurrent sessions focusing on best practices and professional development as well as the honoring of business professionals with the Most Powerful and Influential Women Award, the Multicultural Leadership Award, and the DiversityFirst™ Award.



“These men and women have taken great strides and risen to the top of their respective organizations.” said Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council. “Through this conference, I hope to promote the principles of diversity and leadership while also recognizing individuals who personify those principles.”

The conference began with registration and the Most Powerful and Influential Women Award breakfast with keynote Donna Brazile. These top business women display exemplary work ethic and have overcome numerous barriers to rise to the top of their organizations. Following the awards breakfast, concurrent sessions were held focusing on best practices and professional development.

During lunch, business executives were honored with the Multicultural Leadership Award. Recipients of this award demonstrate leadership excellence while retaining commendable reputations within their industry. In addition, the DiversityFirst™ award winners were recognized for their dedication in raising awareness for diversity and inclusion along with advocating for civil and human rights. After the awards ceremony, more concurrent sessions were held leading to the conclusion of the event.

The California Diversity Council would like to thank all the sponsors, speakers and attendees for helping to make this event a success.



#### Most Powerful & Influential Women Award Winners:

- Peggy Abkemeier-Alford, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Americas, Global Credit & Global Products, PayPal
- Wendy Bahr, Senior Vice President, Cisco
- Lisa Cleary, Vice President, Products, Demandbase
- Ana Corrales, Head of Operations, Nest/Google
- Jennifer Gannon, Senior Vice President, Strategic Sales, Randstad USA
- Patricia Hatter, Senior Vice President of Operations and Chief Information Officer, McAfee
- Sharon Foote Heckel, Vice President, People Empowerment, SolarCity
  
- Christina Lawrence, Vice President, Clinical Operations, Presence Learning
- Belinda Lee, Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP
- Mika Reiner Mayer, Partner, Morrison Foerster LLP
- Felicia Medina, Managing Partner, Sanford Heisler Kimpel LLP
- Mary Stork, USAA Financial Planning and Advice, USAA
- Neeracha Taychakhoonavudh, Senior Vice President, Salesforce.com
- Yvonne Thomson, Vice President, Culture & Employee Experience, Symantec
- Kelly Mahon Tullier, Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Visa

#### Multicultural Leadership Award Winners:

- Jolen Anderson, Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, Visa
- Ari Bose, Chief Information Officer, Brocade
- Gabrielle Bullock, Principal, Perkins Will
- Charles Butler, Vice President, Investor Relations, Castlight Health
- Pilar Garcia, Vice President, Legal and Deputy General Counsel at SanDisk, SanDisk Corp
- Faisal Hanafi, Vice President, Strategy and Partner Experience, Cisco
- Juan Jones, Senior Vice President, Oracle Kavitha Mariappan, Vice President, Marketing, Databricks
- Cecily Joseph, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, Symantec
- Jason Rodriguez, Vice President and Chief of Staff, HP
- Keith White, Senior Vice President, Loss Prevention, Gap
- Rachel Williams, Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Yelp

#### DiversityFIRST™ Awards Winners

- Dr. Jacqueline Ejuwa, Pharmacy Doctor, Senior Director, Mandates Control Group, Co-Founder Black Employee Network, Blue Shield of California
- Wendell Ferguson, Senior Project Manager, IT, Co-Founder Black Employee Network, Blue Shield of California



- Charles Sharp, Senior Director, Finance, Co-Founder Black Employee Network, Blue Shield of California
- DeWayne Walton, Online Analyst Consultant Lead, Markets, Co-Founder Black Employee Network, Blue Shield of California
- Barbara Williams Hardy, Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Oracle Corporation