



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TEXAS DIVERSITY COUNCIL PROVIDES
GULF COAST AREA YOUNG WOMEN A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS**

Houston, TX- The Gulf Coast Advisory Board, a member of the Texas Diversity Council, holds their annual **Gulf Coast Young Women's Leadership Symposium** on **Saturday, December 1, 2012**. The event will be held from **7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at the Baker Ripley Neighborhood Center, 6500 Rookin Houston, TX. The theme for this year is *"Today's Girls: Tomorrow's Leaders...Roadmap to High School"*. Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO, National Diversity Council says, "This valuable program is just one piece of the foundation needed to help these young ladies succeed and I am proud that the Texas Diversity Council has this opportunity to make a difference early in their lives."

The goal of the Symposium is to promote the development of future leaders by providing young women access to mentors. It will focus on overcoming obstacles, dealing with change, and building self esteem while learning about different careers.

The young women will participate in four workshops:

- ***Know Who You Are, Before Someone Tells You***
- ***Etiquette***
- ***Money Matters.....NOW***
- ***Social Responsibilities***

Our mentors include Dr. Irishea Hilliard, Chief Operating Officer of New Light Church, Michelle Nguyen, Director, Client Management with Cigna Global Health Benefits, Cynthia DeGraff, NASA Contractor, Leah Davis, President This Rock Entertainment, Magaly Chocano, CEO Sweb Development, Dr. Zenithe Pierre, Physician with Memorial Hermann Medical Group, and Poornima Swaminathan, Director of Public Relations for United States Professional Tennis Association, to name a few.

Program chair, **Chatama McFarland**, explains "The Young Women in Leadership Symposium (YWLS) equips 8th grade girls with resources and insight to assist them in designing their future, overcoming the odds, and finishing strong".

The Texas Diversity Council has hosted similar symposiums in San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin, with more locations being added. For more information on the Gulf Coast Young Women's Leadership Symposium and a complete list of mentors visit <http://www.ywlsymposium.com/GC/>.

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