

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University of North Texas Vice President Institutional Equity and Diversity to Give Keynote at the 2012 Gulf Coast DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon in October

HOUSTON, TX- [Gilda Garcia](#), Ed.D., Vice President Institutional Equity and Diversity, University of North Texas, will speak on the future of diversity and inclusion at the [2012 Gulf Coast DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon](#), slated for Oct. 31, 2012. The event, sponsored by the Texas Diversity Council Gulf Coast Advisory Board, will take place at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel, 4800 Calhoun St., Houston, TX 73204-3902.

The morning diversity best practice session, which will run from 9 to 11 a.m., is free and open to the public. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Carmen Carter, Chief Diversity Officer for the National Diversity Council will begin with **Diversity Unleashed - Inclusion is a Mindset™!** Alice Otchere, Senior Director Human Resources, CenterPoint Energy will then be delivering an interactive session on **“Diverse Team Dynamics; Winning the Game”**.

The Texas Diversity Council will recognize 5 Gulf Coast individuals and 2 organizations for their contributions at the DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Individual DiversityFIRST™ Leadership Award is awarded annually to individuals who demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in the promotion and advancement of diversity through inclusion and strong leadership in the areas of workforce diversity, supplier diversity, multicultural outreach and community involvement.

The Corporate Commitment DiversityFIRST™ Leadership Award, which goes to businesses, corporations or organizations that have a diversified work force; visionary and insightful leadership to confront and resolve inequities; outreach to multiracial and multicultural populations; organizational commitment to the recruitment and retention of underrepresented populations; diversity initiatives that foster a more inclusive and equitable work and learning environment; and continued corporate community involvement.

Individual tickets for the luncheon are \$79 and a half table sponsor or four seats are \$500. Other sponsorship opportunities are available. Interested parties can contact Texas Diversity Council Vice President Jason deGroot at jason.degroot@texasdiversitycouncil.org.

VALIC and CenterPoint Energy are the event co-title sponsors. Other sponsors include Andrews Kurth, AT&T, Southwest Airlines, Brinker International, Cigna, MD Anderson, CNA, HEB, METRO, BP and Kelsey-Seybold, among others.