



NEWS RELEASE

October 18, 2011

Gulf Coast Texas Advisory Board presents the 8th Annual DiversityFIRST™ Award Winners

Houston, TX - The Gulf Coast Advisory Board, a member council of the Texas Diversity Council (TXDC), hosted their "8th Annual DiversityFIRST™ Awards Luncheon" on Thursday, October 13, 2011, which featured keynote speaker, **Dr. Gregory J. Vincent**, Vice President-Diversity & Community Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin. The theme this year was "***Embracing Inclusion: Education in a World of Differences***". The event was held at The University of Houston Hilton Hotel, 4800 Calhoun Street Houston, Texas 77204-3902.

The luncheon included recognition of Corporate Commitment and Individual DiversityFIRST™ Award Winners for their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace and in the business community. *Congratulations to all the winners below.*

Corporate Commitment Award Nominees

KPMG	Memorial Hermann	American Express
Schlumberger	The Home Depot	ADP
Baker Botts, LLP	Baker Hughes	Walgreens Distribution Center

Corporate Commitment Award Winners

Baker Botts, LLP	The Home Depot
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Individual DiversityFIRST™ Award Winners

David Medina Director Multicultural Community Relations Rice University	Jona Sargent Claim Team Manager State Farm Insurance Company
Betsy Bagley Principal Consultant NLC Strategies	Donald Smith National Account Manager iSymphony
Marion Konishi Takehara Retired Cy-Fair Independent School District	

The **Gulf Coast Advisory Board** (GCAB), a non-profit 501c3 organization, is committed to fostering a learning environment for organizations to grow in their knowledge of diversity and inclusion, and is an opportunity for organizations to learn from top corporate leaders in the areas of both. GCAB is a member of the Texas Diversity Council. More information about the Texas Diversity Council is available at www.texasdiversitycouncil.org.

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Corporate Commitment Award Winners



L to Right: **Jason deGroot**, Vice President, TXDC;
Paul Courtney, Manager of Records Services, Baker Botts, LLP;
Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO, TXDC



L to Right: **Jason deGroot**, Vice President, TXDC;
Tim Wilkerson, Regional Vice President, The Home Depot;
Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO, TXDC

Individual DiversityFIRST™ Award Winners



L to Right: **Dennis Kennedy**, Founder & CEO, TXDC;
Betsy Bagley, Principal Consultant, NLC Strategies;
Jason deGroot, Vice President, TXDC



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David Medina, Director, Multicultural Community Relations,
Rice University;
Jason deGroot, Vice President, TXDC



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Donald Smith, National Account Manager, iSymphony;
Jason deGroot, Vice President, TXDC



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Jona Sargent, Manager, State Farm Insurance Company;
Jason deGroot, Vice President, TXDC



L to Right: **Dennis Kennedy**, Founder & CEO, TXDC;
Marion Takehara, Cy-Fair Independent School District;
Jason deGroot, Vice President, TXDC