



*Integrity | Innovation | Excellence | Transparency*

## **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE HOSTS SECOND CONFERENCE**

The Women's Leadership Institute hosted its second conference on April 7, 2018 at Westchester Community College, Valhalla, New York. The conference was a day filled with powerful information conveyed by nationally recognized leaders who offered a full spectrum of topics kicked off by our keynote speaker, Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. Ms. Austin presented a series of steps and techniques that helped conference participants refine their vision and affirm actions to break through limiting mental models so that they might access meaningful leadership opportunities. Her approach emphasized the significance of reframing issues as transforming circumstances to invent, create and explore pathways to leadership acumen. In addition to Jennifer Jones Austin's message the profoundly skilled panel discussed topics that highlighted the conference theme of "Building Bridging and Blazing Pathways." The panel comprised of six accomplished leaders encouraged conference participants by offering unique and stimulating strategies designed to enhance leadership development. The diversity of the panelists, including Ebone Carrington, Dee Marshall, Francesea Maxime, Kim Mitchell, Zenaida Rodriguez, Mecca Santana and Vanessa Wakeman provided an outstanding format for learning and networking. The panelists and keynote speaker shared clear leadership applications appropriate for various scenarios related to their expertise which was well received by the conference participants. The WLI's second conference format evolved after year-long discussions with community leaders who dialogued and identified trends of gender bias impacting leadership opportunities, which prompted thorough research of topics pertinent to issues faced by women striving to advance and strengthen their leadership capacity. This group of well-informed leaders felt compelled to plan this significant forum as a means of narrowing the leadership gender gap. The group's primary objective was to bring iconic women to present cutting edge information to help conference participants overcome challenges while creating limitless possibilities for themselves and their organizations. The panelists and keynote speaker presented inspiring vignettes that promoted strategic thinking, accelerated the desire for innovation, referenced best practices for expanding capacity and leadership networks designed to foster transformational individual and organizational effectiveness.

*Mission: Improve the practice of leadership and understanding of the dynamics related to management by referencing real world application*

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