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THE Business Magazine for Women



Michelle Kerrick

an executive member and 14 other women on the host committee are helping Arizona host **Super Bowl XLII 2008**

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MGM MIRAGE

Executives Contribute to Success of First- Ever Women of Color Conference in Las Vegas

The women of MGM MIRAGE played a significant role in the success of the recent Women of Color Conference in Las Vegas. Executives from the gaming company were involved in all aspects of the event—from the initial idea of the event to planning to serving as panelists. The first-ever event was hosted by the four local minority chambers of commerce—American Indian, Asian, Latin and Urban—and attracted over 500 women from across the country. Topics for discussion included health and wellness; finance and wealth building; careers and climbing the corporate ladder; education; and leadership skills.

Debra Nelson, MGM MIRAGE Vice President for Corporate Diversity, Communications and Community Affairs, saw a need for dialogue among minority women in the Las Vegas community. She approached the chambers of commerce with the idea, and they overwhelmingly agreed. From there, a day-long event was created to bring women together from across Southern Nevada and beyond.

"MGM MIRAGE is committed to advancing diversity in corporate America and in the community, and the Women of Color conference provided us an opportunity to provide women a place to discuss issues important to them," said Nelson. "Our executives who were honored to be among those participating as panelists and to serve as role models for current business leaders and future professionals."

MGM MIRAGE executives that participated in the Women of Color Conference included: Rose McKinney-James, MGM MIRAGE Board of Directors, Punam Mathur, Senior Vice President of Corporate Diversity & Community Affairs and



**Debra Nelson, MGM
MIRAGE Vice President for
Corporate Diversity**



Patricia Norman, Director of Administration for Corporate Diversity & Community Affairs, in addition to Nelson.

McKinney-James joined Mathur on a panel entitled "Cultivating Women Leaders: Skills for Success in the Community, at Work and at Home" where participants learned what it takes to drive agendas, influence others and gain the respect of decision-makers while balancing commitments at home and in the community. McKinney-James is President of Energy Works Consulting and McKinney James and Associates. Both firms provide business consulting services in government affairs, economic development and public policy related to energy, education and the environment. She serves on the boards of MGM MIRAGE, Toyota Financial Savings Bank, the Energy Foundation, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Nature Conservancy. McKinney-James is currently the Board Chair of Nevada Partners. A distinguished leader, she has been recognized as one of "Twenty-five Notable Las Vegas Women."

At MGM MIRAGE, Patricia Norman serves as Director of Administration for the Corporate Diversity Department, but at the conference, she shared her expertise as a certified personal trainer by the American Council on Exercise. A fitness enthusiast, she has been involved in group exercise and athletics for 17 years. Norman currently instructs cardiovascular and weight training classes part-time at Las Vegas Athletic Club, where she is also a member of the advisory board. Last year, she used her athleticism to raise money for multiple sclerosis by participating in a 150-mile bike ride.

When asked about the success of the conference, Nelson simply responded, "Perhaps the greatest achievement of this event is providing women a forum to come together and learn from each other's experiences. Having the conference become an annual event that inspires and motivates women to reach their fullest potential would be the greatest compliment we can receive." **W3.0**