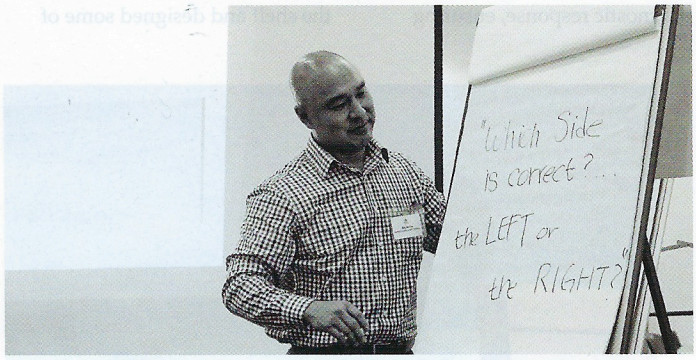
The Brooklyn Brainstorm – A Powerful Exchange of Ideas on Supplier and Workforce Diversity

On May 18, **The Honorable Ronald Brisé**, Florida Public Service Commission and **Robert MacLean**, President of New Jersey American Water, Co-Chairs of the **National Utilities Diversity Council**, convened the NUDC's 4th annual conference. **The Brooklyn Brainstorm** brought together leaders from around the US to discuss the future of supplier and workforce diversity, with special focus on the utilities and communications industries. The attendees received insights from plenary speakers, **The Honorable John Betkoski, III**, Vice Chairman of the Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority and First Vice President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; **The Honorable Henry Cisneros**, Founder and Chairman of City View and Chairman of the Executive Committee and Principal of Siebert Cisneros Shank; and **Harry Sideris**, President of Duke Energy Florida.

The conference was hosted by National Grid New York and the assembly was welcomed by **Rudolph Wynter**, President and COO of FERC Regulated Businesses and New Energy Solutions. National leaders from the regulatory sector, supplier and workforce diversity and from diverse suppliers attend the Brainstorm and attendance is limited to 75.



In addition to the insights from plenary speakers, the conference attendees delved deeply into the following key topics:

Supplier Diversity

Feeling the Pressure -
The Honorable Maida Coleman, Missouri Public Service Commission, moderated a discussion with thought leaders Sherrie Duncan of Duke Energy and Tim McLaughlin of San Jose Water about how to keep the focus and support on supplier diversity in light of the increasing pressure on costs.

What Comes Next -
Moderator Emmett Vaughn of Exelon led the Dream Team of former US MBDA Director Alejandra Castillo, Fernando Hernandez from Microsoft, and Joan Kerr of Pacific Gas & Electric in examining the role of supplier diversity in meeting strategic corporate goals and the level at which supplier diversity is considered within the corporate structure of high performing companies.

Workforce Diversity

Addressing Attitudes and Behaviors -
Dr. Martha Miller, Yvette Carter of Gainesville Regional Utilities, Gary Gioiso of Philadelphia Gas Works and The Honorable Kimberly O'Guinn, of the Arkansas Public Service Commission created an engaged discussion of the role of unconscious bias in hiring, onboarding and retaining/promoting talent.

Imagining the Future: What Skills Will We Need?
Under the facilitation of Jimmie Cho of Southern California Gas Co, Reggie Davis of the Utility Workers Union of America and Marianne Taylor of American Water helped vision about the types of current and future skills and trends in the workforce for utilities and communications to aid in employment trend analysis and planning.

The 2017 Brooklyn Brainstorm was a high energy and highly creative gathering due to the amazing plenary speakers, moderators, thought leaders and registrants, all of whom leapt to the opportunity to "solutioneer" on some of the most important questions facing our industries.

Conference Sponsors

The ELITE SDVOB Network, ACT-1 Group, CL King & Associates, Exelon, National Grid, Osceola Consulting, Siebert, Cisneros Shank and Co. LLC, CastleOak Securities, Drexel Hamilton, Loop Capital Market, Ramirez and Co., TAS Strategies, The Williams Capital Group L.P., Diversity Communications (in kind), Edison Electric Institute (in kind), Multicultural Media Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) (in kind)

NUDC Mission

The National Utilities Diversity Council educates, develops best practices and guides efforts that will promote diversity in the utilities and communications industries in the areas of governance, employment, procurement, language access/customer service, and philanthropy.

We do this through
Webinars & Virtual Panels
Supplier Diversity Toolkit
Workforce Diversity Toolkit (coming soon)
The Brooklyn Brainstorm
Trends & Best Practices Research

NUDC
National Utilities Diversity Council

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