

From: [Diversity Awareness Partnership](#)
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Diversity Awareness Partnership

October 2011

11 October 2011



2011 Annual Diversity Dinner & 10th Anniversary Celebration

On October 27, The Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) will hold its 2011 Annual Diversity Dinner and 10th Anniversary Celebration.

About Us

The Diversity Awareness Partnership is a 501-c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the St. Louis region around issues of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. We achieve our mission through youth programs, diversity training, community forums and diversity publications.

Themed *Make a Difference by Accepting Everyone Else's*, the Diversity Awareness Partnership has become a replicable model for communities across the nation in advancing diversity and inclusion efforts.

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The one of a kind evening will take place under the stars at the Saint Louis Science Center's magical James S. McDonnell Planetarium and feature a rare blend of cultural performances, a gourmet dinner and a live guided tour of the night sky as it is seen across the world. With a 10 year anniversary theme, new silent auction items, never before featured performances, and a memorable surprise, the 2011 Annual Diversity Dinner remains unparalleled by any other fundraiser.

The Diversity Awareness Partnership is excited to feature [Elliot Weiler](#), Fox 2 News, as the Emcee and Tim Thornton of Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C., to share special remarks.

The event will be held in honor of the Diversity Awareness Partnership's 10-year partners, [Webster University](#), the [St. Louis Rams](#), the St. Louis Cardinals and [Edward Jones](#). To purchase tickets or learn more about the Diversity Dinner, please visit our website: http://www.dapstl.org/annualdiversitydinner_temp.html. The Deadline to purchase tickets is October 13th!

Thank You, Saint Louis Science Center

The Saint Louis Science Center has been instrumental in the development of the Diversity Awareness Partnership since its earliest years and has been more than enthusiastic with every stride to our 10th Anniversary - which we are celebrating this year!

Frieda Smith, former Board Chair and current Advisory Board Member, jump-started the Saint Louis Science Center's involvement with the Diversity Awareness Partnership. Her passion for diversity and inclusion has played a major role in the development and implementation of the Board of Directors, programs including LGBT community forums and fundraising efforts.



"The Saint Louis Science Center joined the team at the very beginning! Diversity awareness is something that has been a commitment of ours [Saint Louis Science Center] for many years," Frieda shared. "I have always been impressed by DAP's commitment to awareness, not advocacy; and, to continuing an initiative once it begins, only adding a new focus if we can maintain the existing ones as well."

Pictured: Frieda Smith

A few months before her transition to the Advisory Board in August, Smith invited Jill Willhite of the Saint Louis Science Center to join the DAP's Board of Directors.

"The Diversity Awareness Partnership is an organization where I can continue learning and hopefully make a difference in corporate cultures, organizations and communities in Saint Louis and the surrounding region," Willhite shared. "To bring awareness is a crucial element in accepting others and ultimately celebrating the differences in all."



In just her first year of membership on the Diversity Awareness Partnership's Board of Directors, Jill Willhite was elected an At-Large position on the Executive Committee. From youth programming to strategic planning, to the Annual Diversity Dinner, Willhite brings energy and optimism to every DAP initiative.

Pictured: Jill Willhite

When it comes to diversity and inclusion, the Saint Louis Science Center demonstrates an excellent model for businesses and organizations operating in St. Louis. *"It was very exciting to me when I was told at the end of 2010, that in 2011 the Science Center would join other progressive organizations in the St. Louis area by providing partner benefits as an option for our employees."* Smith said.

Aside from fostering an inclusive workplace and contributing significantly to the DAP's Board of Directors, each year, the Saint Louis Science Center makes the Annual Diversity Dinner, an event that exposes 300 community members to diversity progress and needs, possible by donating the James S. McDonnell Planetarium.

In her concluding remarks, Frieda Smith said, *"DAP's tag line still tells it all... make a difference by accepting everyone else's."* It is truly because of the Saint Louis Science Center's community values, generous contributions and presence on the DAP's Board of Directors, the Diversity Awareness Partnership staff and volunteers have the ability and momentum to effectively encourage St. Louis communities to *Make a Difference by Accepting Everyone Else's*.

THANK YOU FRIEDA, JILL AND THE SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER!

Give Respect - Get Respect Youth Program Kicks Off 9th Year!

On September 21, 2011, the Diversity Awareness Partnership kicked off its 9th Give Respect - Get Respect Youth Program! The program began in 2002 in collaboration with Edward Jones.

Two students and one teacher from 24 area schools teamed up with the participating Edward Jones Associates at the first session on September 21, 2011 to begin their diversity and inclusion journey together. Throughout the year, participants will explore race, religion, disability and sexual orientation

through hands on activities and facilitated dialogue.

The program will conclude in May with a diversity/inclusion project. 2011-2012 Participating schools include: Belleville Central Junior High School, De La Salle Middle School, Fox Middle School, Parkway Northeast Middle School, Belleville West Junior High School, Coolidge Middle School, Loyola Academy School, Barnwell Middle School, Alton High School, CBC High School, Collinsville High School, Confluence Preparatory High School, Fox High School, Hazelwood West High School, Normandy Senior High School, Parkway North High School, Pattonville High School, Roosevelt High School, Soldan International Studies High School, Sumner High School, SIUE East St. Louis Charter School, Whitfield School, Lutheran North High School and Francis Howell North High School.

Save the Date for Diversity & Inclusion Summit on May 1, 2012



The Diversity Awareness Partnership is excited to welcome Luke Visconti, CEO of DiversityInc Media LLC, to St. Louis to give his insightful presentation, based on his column, "Ask the White Guy" on May 1, 2012 at the DAP's Diversity & Inclusion Summit, hosted by Edward Jones.

Pictured: Luke Visconti

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