



Cathy Harris is founder and President of C. Harris Companies, Inc., a management and staff development firm focused on the strategic planning and implementation of strategies in leadership development, customer service, diversity (including sexual harassment prevention and generational differences), conflict resolution, cross-cultural communication, and team building. She is a skilled facilitator, trainer and consultant for businesses, corporations, universities and government organizations. Ms. Harris explores their challenges and assists in improving their corporate culture, morale, productivity, team and personal effectiveness. She's known for her ability to move people beyond their personal biases and assumptions toward one another and engage in dialogues that build healthy, working relationships. She specializes in fostering diversity, communication and dialogue skills, team building and conflict resolution.

Through experiential, highly interactive, engaging and humorous presentations, Ms. Harris personally connects with her varied audience members, consistently earning a 9.14 and higher performance rating on a ten-point scale. She encourages unity, harmony and cohesiveness with a friendly, natural and fun style. Her impact is positive and long-lasting. Ms. Harris deals easily with sensitive issues and encourages others to do the same

Ms. Harris has more than 22 years' experience as a small business owner. As such, she led major change initiatives for Chevron Chemical Company and the USDA's National Finance Center. John Ortego, the center's Director, said Ms. Harris's work "... has been a factor in creating a unified, productive, and positive workforce and atmosphere." He also said that it was the "best diversity training he ever attended." After major improvements in equity, performance and morale at the National Finance Center, officials in Washington, DC took notice and commissioned Ms. Harris to train USDA managers and supervisors in the DC area. Ms. Harris is also a volunteer with the Global Facilitators Service Corps, www.globalfacilitators.org, which sponsors workshops in disaster and crisis intervention, resiliency and trauma debriefing.

HONORS

Ms. Harris has received the New Orleans Peace Foundation's 1996 Peacemaker Award. She also was given the George Washington Medal of Honor from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge along with Dr. Stephen Ambrose, creator of Saving Private Ryan and the hit HBO mini-series Band of Brothers. Ms. Harris is featured as one of 10 Top Female Achievers in the July 2008 issue of New Orleans Magazine and was recognized in Ebony Magazine for outstanding community service. An overview of her challenges and triumphs is captured in the book, *Discovering Your Inner Strength*, along with Steven Covey, Ken Blanchard and others.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ms. Harris is co-founder (along with Sally-Ann Roberts) and past president of Each One Save One, a mentoring organization for New Orleans' schools. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Advocates for Science and Math High School and was involved in the design and development of the Just for Boys program at Vorce Jackson Waters Elementary School. Ms. Harris also serves on the Board of Directors of Knowledgeworks, a resource organization for non-profits and the executive committee of the Horizon Initiative, an organization committed to bring new business to New Orleans and retain and grow existing businesses. She further authored a column for El Vocero, a bi-monthly Latino newspaper in New Orleans. Ms. Harris is past president of the National Speakers Association - New Orleans Chapter, and an active member of the American Society for Training and Development and the Society for Human Resource Management. She is a six-year member of the Diversity Professional Experts Group of the National Speakers Association.