



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rhonda Talford Knight



Dr. Rhonda Talford Knight is passionate about creating cultural understanding, awareness, and sensitivity in order to help individuals be advocates for themselves and others. She holds in high regard creating open spaces of inclusion through meaningful dialogue by ensuring all voices are heard, respected, and valued. While this type of work is not considered easy, she comes highly recommended by her clients in the work she has done with and for their communities. In this work, she also coaches and helps clients to develop sustainable Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) practices through a strategy that reaches across their organization.

Knight values creating global awareness. She has traveled to Cuba working with students and faculty and spent time in Eskişehir, Turkey working with faculty and graduate students at Anadolu University. While there, she focused on creating an understanding of cultural competency while deepening her work and research on global awareness. Knight previously served as vice president inclusion manager for Huntington Bank and prior to that as an assistant professor at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio where her coursework was grounded in DEI.

Knight is committed to supporting women, girls, and volunteers in various capacities with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter of Columbus, Ohio, Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland, Columbus School for Girls, Dress for Success, WELD, and the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. She is a founding member of the Matriots, an Ohio independent political action committee, a board member for ROX™ (Ruling Our Experiences), which is the national leader in research, education and programming for girls, The Childhood League Center where they are committed to serving children under the age of 6 with developmental delays, and WSBA (Women's Small Business Accelerator) who supports women small business owners throughout Central Ohio.

Recognized nationally and internationally for her work, Knight was recently awarded the 2019 Pacesetter Award from her undergraduate alma mater, Otterbein University, was named one of the 2018 Women Worth Watching Profiles in Diversity Journal and in 2014 received the Multicultural Institute/Agency Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education.

Knight holds a Master's degree with an endorsement in technology and a Doctoral degree in social studies and global education with a focus in cultural competency and technology, both from The Ohio State University. She resides in Ohio with her two daughters. When she is not busy with her work, she enjoys downtime with her family and running.

For more information about the Not Another Statistic Diversity Conference, visit mountunion.edu/nasdc.