

**National Coalition of Black Women
Omaha Chapter, Inc.**



Leadership Development

While black women are plagued by disease and poverty in severely high numbers, the numbers of black women in positions of leadership and authority is just as severely low. And though women of all races are lagging far behind our male counterparts, women of color face greater challenges to accessing leadership development, professional growth and development, and networking opportunities in the Omaha metropolitan area that would position them for positions of greater authority and impact. Historically, women have been the foundation of change and growth in the African American community. But in today's culture women need a convening opportunity to network, share experiences and trials, and develop support systems, networks, and ladders of succession that birth and nurture new leaders instinctively.

Our community is blessed with many leadership development programs such as Leadership Omaha, ICAN, and Ready to Run. However, these programs have traditionally attracted a small percentage of women of color. Women of color who are not in decision making roles within their companies, and those who lack the personal funds to afford such programs are often excluded from these phenomenal opportunities. Further, women of color need the opportunity to learn from women who have faced the obstacles of being a woman, and being a woman of color, and have yet defined personal success and achieved it.

After an amazingly successful First Annual Women of Color in Leadership Summit in May of 2008, NCBW members were inspired and challenged to continue the discussions, education, and empowerment for women who are ready for change.

In response to requests for this year's participants, we will be launching Women's Mentoring Circles this fall. Please check our website often for information on how you can join the circles for a powerful sharing experience.

We will also host the Second Annual Women of Color in Leadership Summit on May 15, 2009. The summit will engage women of color, community leaders and stakeholders in discussions and workshops focused on the challenges and opportunities facing women of color and positions of leadership & authority. This years keynote speaker is Janice Fenn, author of *Do You See What I See? A Diversity Tale for Retaining People of Color*. The Summit workshops will include:

Women's Development~ Diverse career and personal pathways, Gender or Race~ What Gap do we close in Corporate America, Women in Leadership~ Confronting the Obstacles, Assumptions and Practices of Empowerment and Change, Striking a Balance between Personal & Professional Expectations, Start Your Own Business or Climb the Corporate Ladder~ What's Your Choice?, What Your Mother Never Told You and Your Daughter is Asking~ When do you take Care of your self?, and Women Supporting Women~ How committed are you to seeing that your sisters succeed?

Don't miss it!