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Top diversity experts at Nazareth College today

By [Mary Chao](#)
Democrat and Chronicle



Aimee K. Wiles
 "Learn it Live" actor Nadine Earl Carey as "Ann" offers a conflict solution to other actors at the diversity conference at Nazareth College Wednesday.

(May 15, 2002) — About 500 people are expected to attend the Power of Diversity conference Wednesday at Nazareth College.

"Hear It! Feel It! Live It!" will feature some of the top workplace diversity experts in the country,



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including Samuel Betances, an author and human rights activist.

Keynote speaker Wednesday morning was Thomas Richards, chairman and chief executive officer of RGS Energy Group, one of the main sponsors of the conference. He said diversity at the workplace is a necessary goal but one that is hard to achieve.

"That has been our experience" at Rochester Gas and Electric, an RGS subsidiary, Richards said.

"We have moved ahead and stalled and leaped ahead again and so on in our efforts to embrace diversity and make our company a place where diversity is not only present but also valued. And I wonder if your places of work are any different, because this is very much a human struggle and it is a difficult one."

Richards believes RG&E is on track with many programs including employee education, a company diversity council, hiring programs and recruitment.

"It is not only the right thing to do, it is the right business strategy for the time as well," he said.

"The two need not, and should not, be mutually exclusive."



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