

## A Message from Paula Jackson, AABE President and CEO: Scholarship Opportunities for Our Community



The AABE has always maintained as one of its objectives to increase the participation of African Americans in the energy sector. We do this in a variety of ways; We offer scholarships to students who major in the STEM disciplines and provide them information about internships and other employment opportunities.

We host our **Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM)** activities and our communities benefit from our energy education efforts. Additionally we advocate for greater support for STEM education, community outreach and entrepreneurial engagements throughout the industry.

Today our industry is going through a renaissance which provides even more opportunities for our communities to be engaged and involved. Over the past months, I have spoken to multiple audiences about the opportunities in our industry and what AABE has been doing to increase our presence in this industry. Our organization's story is a compelling one and a lot has been done. Our chapters have worked hard through their various programs to expose students and educate our communities about this industry. However, there is so much more to be done.

Our association is also going through somewhat of a renaissance. Often, when groups hear about the work that the AABE does, they are not only interested in learning more, but are interested in connecting and working together. When I hear of strong programs which encourage students to pursue STEM disciplines, the AABE programs are among them. And so, I would like to thank our chapters for their top-notch BEAM and scholarship programs. Thanks to our members and committees for being innovative and engaged in your communities.

*Thanks for leading the charge.*

So what will we do next? I have my own ideas, but I would also like to hear from you. Over the next several months, I invite you to call, email, or tweet me ([@PRJackson](#)) your thoughts and ideas and over that same time I will share my own.

In September, we'll roll out a special initiative centered on our best practices and innovative ideas. We will leverage these best practices so we can learn from one another. In order to meet the challenges ahead of us, we need everyone to be involved. It is through that involvement that we will find our greatest success.



**Paula R. Jackson**  
President  
American Association of Blacks in Energy



Follow Paula on Twitter: [@prjackson](#)

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## A Message from Your Member Services Department

As many of you know, the AABE is preparing the pathway for our members to thrive both within the energy industry and within our community.

In the coming months, we will highlight your individual efforts to move the AABE mission forward.

This month's newsletter focuses on our commitment to education and our focus on ensuring that all of our members are aware of the great networking opportunities that are available at their local chapter.

Please share any events, news or your thoughts with me and I'll be sure to include your info future versions of the newsletter.

Thank you for your continued membership and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



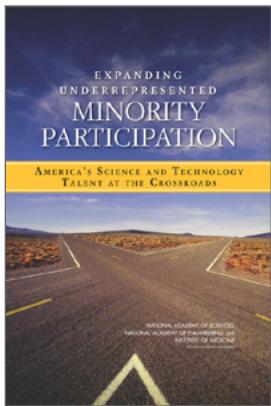
**LaKeesha Wilson**  
AABE Member Services  
e: [lwilson@aabe.org](mailto:lwilson@aabe.org)  
phone: (202) 371-9530

## Latest Energy Industry and Scholarship News

### Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads by The Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP)

In order for the United States to maintain the global leadership and competitiveness in science and technology that are critical to achieving national goals, we must invest in research, encourage innovation, and grow a strong and talented science and technology workforce. **Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation** explores the role of

diversity in the science, technology, engineering and medicine (STEM) workforce and its value in keeping America innovative and competitive.



According to the book, the U.S. labor market is projected to grow faster in science and engineering than in any other sector in the coming years, making minority participation in STEM education at all levels a national priority.

Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation analyzes the rate of change and the challenges the nation currently faces in developing a strong and diverse workforce.

Although minorities are the fastest growing segment of the population, they are underrepresented in the fields of science and engineering. Historically, there has been

a strong connection between increasing educational attainment in the United States and the growth in and global leadership of the economy. Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation suggests that the federal government, industry, and post-secondary institutions work collaboratively with K-12 schools and school systems to increase minority access to and demand for post-secondary STEM education and technical training.

The book also identifies best practices and offers a comprehensive road map for increasing involvement of underrepresented minorities and improving the quality of their education. It offers recommendations that focus on academic and social support, institutional roles, teacher preparation, affordability and program development.

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(Registered Members Only • Login Required)

## Latest Energy Industry and Scholarship News

### Opportunities for Minority Students in the Solar Industry

Solar industry jobs are **increasing** along with the rapidly expanding solar industry. As reported this month by the Solar Foundation's **National Solar Jobs Census**, jobs in the industry are increasing by 13.2 percent annually, six times faster than the overall job market. This equates about 1 of every 230 new jobs in the US economy was created by the solar industry this past year.

As the nation's demographics are shifting and now **most children under the age of one are minorities**, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek solar



career opportunities. Women and minorities make up **70 percent** of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders. This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals.

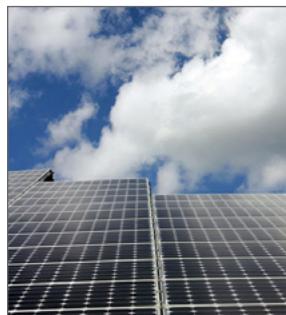
The Energy Department's **Minority University Research Associates (MURA) Program**

seeks to address the gap by encouraging minority students to pursue careers in science and technology. Funded by the Department's **Solar Energy Technologies Program**, MURA supports research associates and professors/principal investigators from selected schools as they perform renewable energy research projects during the academic year. These projects contribute to the development of cost-competitive, market-applicable technologies and help to achieve Energy Department goals.

The last round of awards, for projects in 2010-2013, funded six schools across the country for undergraduate internships, graduate student internships at **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** and **National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**, and funding for **Howard University's Center for Energy Systems and Control**.



**Jesus Ortega**, a **University of Texas – El Paso** student, is supported with his research by a MURA award to his advisor, Vinod Kumar, for his work on thermal energy storage systems. MURA gave Ortega his first internship with the Energy Department and allowed him to see what the world of renewable energy has to offer.



"At first I was a bit skeptical about the potential of these technologies," Ortega said, "but now I am one of the lead student researchers in my school working with solar energy." Ortega is thankful for MURA at his small university, as it offers him the same opportunities to grow in research fields and connect with people from bigger universities.

This program contributes to the development of a diverse and competent workforce ready to support the nation's growing clean-energy industry. By providing research opportunities for minority students, the MURA Program encourages members of the African American, Hispanic, Asian American Pacific Islanders, Native American, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian Native communities to pursue careers in science and technology.

In addition, the innovative research projects funded by the MURA Program have furthered the Energy Department's goal of making solar energy cost-competitive with conventional sources of electricity.

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## Entrepreneur's Corner

### Cynthia V. Anderson Discusses Women and Careers in STEM



Cynthia V. Anderson  
Photo: U.S. Department of Energy

The Department of Energy spoke with Cynthia V. Anderson, the former Chief Operating Officer and the Director of the Environmental Management Recovery Act Program for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management.

Cynthia's distinguished leadership includes her oversight of the Department of Energy's \$6 billion initiative to accelerate environmental restoration, facility decommissioning and demolition, and radioactive waste disposal while saving and creating thousands of jobs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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The AABE Job Board is always open for business. [Click here, login and discover your next step to success.](#)



## The AABE Job Board Move On Up



## Experience the Energy of Houston!

37th Annual AABE National Conference  
Hilton Americas Hotel, Houston, Texas

April 8–11, 2014

## Members and Chapters on the Move

### AABE Atlanta & Georgia Power's African American Women's Networking Group host energy efficiency seminar at Home Depot in Decatur, GA

AABE Atlanta and Georgia Power's African American Women's Networking Group (AAWNG) hosted a no-cost energy efficiency seminar at the Decatur Home Depot on Thursday, May 23rd.

Demonstrations and hands-on workshops were held to provide customers with low-cost ways to make their homes more energy efficient, including energy efficient lighting options, efficient heating and cooling options, replacing weather stripping/caulking around the house, insulating water heaters and pipes, and more. Customers also received CFLs (Compact fluorescent light bulbs) and informational materials to assist them at home.

Special thanks to Vice President, Rodney Russell for coordinating this successful event which was a resource to the business, as well as the community.



### AABE Scholarship Recipient Earl Roach: Paying it Forward



Earl Roach, was the 2008 AABE NJ Chapter and North East Region scholarship recipient and we recently caught up with him to learn how he's inspiring a new generation of math students:



*I am currently out of the great state of NJ, but I am happy to be in Arkansas teaching High School Algebra I and Geometry at Lakeside High School in Lake Village, Arkansas. As a Teach for America corps member I am highly invested in addressing the educational inequities that currently plague our nation. In an region such as the Mississippi Delta, schools consistently suffer from a serve lack of technological, personnel and health resources. It is TFA's and my hope alike that one day all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.*

*I wanted to send the AABE organization a thank you for the Scholarships that I received. Your organization's commitment to provide students like me an opportunity to explore math and science fields inspired me to do the same as an educator. - Earl Roach*

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## Members and Chapters on the Move

### Thomas H. Graham Promoted to Pepco Holdings Vice President, People Strategy & Human Resources



Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI), recently announced the promotion of AABE Member **Thomas H. Graham** to the position of vice president, people strategy & human resources, reporting directly to Joseph M. Rigby, chairman, president and CEO of PHI.

In his new role, Graham will be a member of PHI's executive leadership team. He previously served as president, Pepco region. Graham will officially take over as vice president, people strategy & human resources, effective Aug. 1. Until his successor is named, he will continue as president and primary spokesperson for the Pepco region.

Graham will be responsible for developing and implementing enterprise-wide policies and programs encompassing all aspects of human resource management including employment, employee and labor relations, employee benefits, succession planning, compensation, performance accountability, employee training, placement, organizational development, diversity programs, compliance with applicable federal laws, and management and employee assistance. PHI has more than 4,500 employees working across New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia and about 4,400 retirees throughout the United States.

"I am grateful to Tom for his outstanding service as president of the Pepco Region for the past eight years and look forward to him bringing his exceptional leadership skills and deep knowledge of the business to his new senior executive position as PHI vice president, people strategy & human resources," said Rigby. "Tom has a keen ability to think strategically, make sound business decisions and align to and model PHI's cultural beliefs. His leadership and experience will serve the PHI community well."

Graham has nearly three decades of experience working for Pepco and PHI in a wide array of leadership capacities. He began his career at Pepco in energy use management and served in progressively responsible positions in customer care, design and construction, and government affairs and public policy. He also was responsible for the design, implementation and management of Pepco's Customer Advisory Board, Trade Ally Program and Community Partnership Program, which received two industry excellence awards from the Edison Electric Institute and Southeastern Electric Exchange.

Graham earned a bachelor's degree as an honors student in business management at the University of Tampa. He also completed the Executive Education Program in financial management at the University of Michigan and the Senior Executive Leadership Certificate Program at Georgetown University.

Graham is a member and leader in numerous community organizations including serving on the board of the Center for Energy Workforce Development (chair), Maryland Chamber of Commerce (chair) and PHI Community Foundation (president). He is also affiliated with Leadership Maryland, Leadership Montgomery, Leadership Prince George's and American Association of Blacks in Energy. Graham has received numerous awards including being a recipient of the Washington Business Journal Minority Business Leaders Award and being recognized by The Daily Record in 2013 as one of the 50 most Influential Marylanders.

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## Members and Chapters on the Move

### AABE Atlanta Chapter: The James K. Davis Scholarship Awards Banquet

On May 16, 2013, AABE Atlanta hosted its annual **James K. Davis Scholarship Banquet**, where \$26,000 in scholarships were awarded to 15 Atlanta area high school seniors, and 15 continuing education students majoring in energy related fields.



Since 1994, Atlanta Chapter has awarded \$445,000 to 400+ Atlanta area minority students.



The 2nd annual Richard L. Holmes Community Service Award was also presented to **Qadeera Girard** (center), shown with **Richard Holmes** and **Valerie Searcy** (Scholarship Chair).

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July 2013 Membership eNewsletter

## Members and Chapters on the Move

### AABE New York Chapter: Supporting the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) program

The AABE NYMAC is supporting a STEM program being hosted at P.S. 5 located at 820 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11233. [The SEEK Program](#) is designed to be a fun and engaging educational experience, mostly led by NSBE engineering students and technical professionals dedicated to pursuing professional excellence and giving back to the community.



The SEEK Program utilizes a hands-on design curriculum developed by SAE International (Society of Automotive Engineers). Campers work in teams, using their knowledge to solve problems and create products while discovering the underlying math and science principles involved in these processes.

The program is a free three-week STEM curriculum designed for 3rd through 5th grade students. It runs from July 22 to August 9.

SEEK Participants will:

- Be exposed to STEM through hands on engineering projects
- Be exposed to Collegiate STEM students
- Be exposed to the roles and responsibilities of engineers

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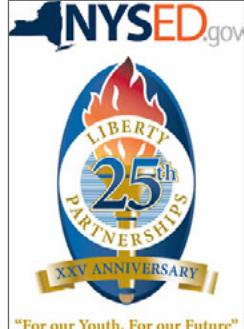
### STEM Program Launces at Bedford Academy High School

The AABE-NYMAC, Con Edison, and National Grid 2013 Summer Energy Academy Program for Middle School children is being hosted at Bedford Academy H.S. located at 1119 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

The program introduces Middle School Students to the possibilities that exist in the energy industry when they study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The SEA students (grades 6-9) are selected based on a review of their academics, ELA scores, brief essay and interview. The program was launched on Monday, July 8th and concludes on August 9th.

### The AABE-NYMAC Summer Energy Academy Program

The Long Island University – Brooklyn Branch, 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201 is hosting the [AABE-NYMAC Summer Energy Academy Program](#) for High School Junior and Senior Students at their site along with their [Liberty Partnership Program \(LPP\)](#).



The Liberty Partnership Program (LPP) increases student's motivation and their ability to complete secondary education and seek entry into post-secondary education, meaningful employment.

The Liberty Partnership Program (LPP) is a college readiness program for high school students. This summer 70 students will participate in the seven-week program. The program will meet Tuesday-Thursday, from 10am to 3pm. LPP was launched on Tuesday, July 9th and concludes on Thursday, August 22nd. The program is comprised of SAT Prep, discussion groups, field trips and partnerships with the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the Summer Energy Academy.

## Members and Chapters on the Move

### AABE Atlanta Chapter: Highlights from the June Networking Mixer

AABE Atlanta hosted a networking mixer on June 27th which was a big success. The 70 members and guests who attended the event enjoyed networking, reconnecting with colleagues, making new connections, and meeting executives from **Georgia Power**, **AGL Resources** and other industry companies. The energy was palpable and a great time was had by all who participated.

Please welcome our five newest members who joined AABE Atlanta at the event:



- **Kristie Swink Benson** (AGL Resources)
- **Fred Curry** (SouthStar Energy)
- **Charlotte King** (Snowden & King Marketing)
- **Anita Rolland** (Southern Co. Services)
- **Trevour Garner** (SouthStar Energy)



Congratulations to **Johnny Howze**, who brought the most guests (6), and to **Lillie Battle** and **Jessica Coleman**, who won the networking card challenge. A very big Thank You to **Mr. Walter Dukes** (Georgia Power) for co-sponsoring this event.



### Upcoming AABE Events

- September 19, 2013 Mississippi Chapter 1st Annual Golf Tournament
- September 19, 2013 AABE Virginia Chapter General Body Meeting
- September 27, 2013 Atlanta Chapter Golf Tournament
- November 14, 2013 AABE Virginia Chapter General Body Meeting

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## Members and Chapters on the Move

### The Atlanta Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy®

Presents the

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual James K. Davis Scholarship Golf Tournament

*Flat Creek Country Club*

*100 Flat Creek Road, Peachtree City, GA 30269*

**FRIDAY, September 27, 2013**

8:00 a.m. registration; 9:00 a.m. shotgun start

**Early Registration Deadline:** *Friday, August 30, 2013*

\$135 early entry fee (\$500 per team of four)

\$160 after Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> (\$600 per team of four)

**Includes:** Cart, Green Fees, Range Balls,  
Lunch, Snacks, Awards & Door Prizes

**Format:** Four Man Best Ball (Scramble)

**Make checks payable to:**

AABE Atlanta Chapter  
c/o Willie Palmer  
P.O. Box 55216  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
404-572-7603 (P) ■ 404-572-7607 (F)

**For more information, click [here](#) to view  
the AABE Atlanta Chapter Golf Tournament Flyer**

### AABE Kansas-Missouri Chapter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY

13th Annual

### Golf Tournament Four-person Scramble

A fundraiser  
to provide  
scholarships  
to local minority  
students majoring  
in business, science  
and engineering

Shot-gun start  
at 8 a.m.  
Registration at  
7:30 a.m.  
Lunch will be  
provided

**Wednesday, August 28, 2013**  
**Shoal Creek Golf Course**  
**8905 N. Shoal Creek Pkwy.**  
**Kansas City, Missouri**

Tournament Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

### Questions?

Contact our tournament  
directors,

**Shaylyn Dean**  
(816) 360-5759  
[shaylyn.dean@sug.com](mailto:shaylyn.dean@sug.com)

or

**Rita Boyd**  
(816) 556-2971  
[rita.boyd@kcpl.com](mailto:rita.boyd@kcpl.com)

*Ask about scoring enhancers!  
3 ft. of putts available via the string  
method Tiger Woods Drive*

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