

Special Edition • Membership eNewsletter

From the Classroom to the Boardroom:

How AABE Members are
Helping Tomorrow's Leaders
Turn Inspiration to Preparation

AABE Chapters in the Spotlight: BEAM Special Edition

A Message from Paula Jackson, AABE President and CEO: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders through BEAM



Each October, our association celebrates **Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM)** as a way of informing and broadening the knowledge of students about the energy industry. Through the work of our chapters we look to enhance students' exposure to various career opportunities and professional role models across all energy sectors.

Students from around the country have had the opportunity to experience AABE BEAM programs. And while our organization has spent years encouraging young people to get into this industry, it seems that the rest of the country is catching up.



In September, the U.S. Department of Energy launched the **Minorities in Energy Initiative**, a national dialogue to address the pathways forward in expanding engagement of minorities in the energy sector.

To learn more about this initiative [click here](#). I encourage you to join me as we continue the conversation and take action to get more of those in our communities involved in this industry.

As an organization we have always been committed to the idea that our communities must be partners in this industry – as consumers, employees, contractors and leaders to ensure success. We show our commitment as we continue to address the issues of careers and business opportunities in this industry.



[Click here](#) to view a video of the full MIE program.

Through our BEAM and scholarship programs we support students and encourage them to pursue energy careers. We understand that our nation's changing demographics demand that our industry sectors are not only diverse, but inclusive. As we share our knowledge and identify opportunities to work in our industry, we must also support our entrepreneurs and promote inclusion so that they may bring their talents and innovations to our industry.

In this BEAM Special Edition newsletter, you will read about the activities that chapters have hosted to educate and encourage students to consider the energy industry. I had the good fortune of participating in the Philadelphia Chapter's BEAM program, and the students there reminded me of something that our President recently said, "They are better than us".

I am excited about the prospects of this organization and more so, about our future.

Best,

Paula R. Jackson
President
American Association of Blacks in Energy



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A Message from Your Member Services Department

October was a very special month here at AABE.

Many chapters provided outstanding community outreach in celebration of **Black Energy Awareness Month**.

As we enter November, I am thankful for our AABE members and their support of the association. November also ushers in our renewal season. Remember, **any membership paid now is valid until the end of 2014**.

Memberships can be renewed online at www.aabe.org/membership2014.

Registration for the 2014 Conference in Houston will be open soon and the 2014 Scholarship Application will also be available soon.

Thank you for your support this year. From the staff here at AABE to you and your family,

Happy Thanksgiving!



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



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ATLANTA CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



Atlanta Chapter partners with Georgia Tech Society of Black Engineers to host BEAM Program at Georgia Tech

113 students and 12 teachers from five metro Atlanta high schools attended Atlanta Chapter's annual BEAM program held on Georgia Institute of Technology's campus, where members from AABE Atlanta and the **Georgia Tech Society of Black Engineers** interacted with the students throughout the day.

Attendees started their day with a Jeopardy Game hosted by GE Energy, which tested their energy knowledge. AABE Atlanta scholarship recipients and Georgia Tech engineering students Brooke Smith and Traci Thomason delivered a noteworthy luncheon message.

The remainder of the day encompassed exhibits from Georgia Tech Research Institute, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College Entrepreneurship Center, GE Energy, SIEMENS Energy, Ch2M Hill, Army ROTC, Southern Nuclear, Georgia Power and MARTA, along with electric, compressed natural gas and solar vehicles, sponsored by Georgia Power, AGL Resources and Georgia Tech Solar Jackets respectively.

Representatives from both AABE and NSBE were also on hand to address questions about scholarships, other education programs and energy career options.

Feedback indicates the students enjoyed the program and many now want to work in the energy field as a result of this event.

Kudos to BEAM chair Heidi Boykin and committee members Randall Thedford, Rodney Russell, Valerie Thomas, Anthony Outland, Donna Carter, Eric Arnold, Cherryl Harris and Valerie Searcy. Special thanks to program volunteers: Jo Holliman, Monique Hall and Jennifer Henson, and event sponsors Georgia Tech Society of Black Engineers, GE Energy, SIEMENS Energy, Experis, Devine Taste of Heaven, Diamond Investment Group, SCANA Energy, AGL Resources, Georgia Power, Southern Company and Georgia Natural Gas.



Cherryl Harris, AABE Atlanta President, addressing students attending the event.



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FLORIDA CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



AABE Florida Supports BEAM and 100 Black Men of America HOPE Scholars Program

AABE Florida participated in the Collegiate 100 and HOPE Scholar students program at the campus of Hillsborough Community College. AABE members shared information about careers in the utility sector to approximately 60 college students in attendance. The students were focused on STEM based careers and business.

The HOPE Scholars program is a targeted program designed to improve retention, graduation and the four year college transfer rate of African American and Hispanic males/females. The Collegiate 100 is an auxiliary organization of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. international brand. Collegiate 100 extends the 100's mission on college and university campuses across America.



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NEW YORK CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



AABE-NYMAC Teams with NSBE for SEEK Program

AABE-NYMAC and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) recently hosted the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) program at P.S. 5 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

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 worked in teams, using their knowledge to solve problems and create products while discovering the underlying math and science principles involved in these processes.



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PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



BEAM Program Finds Success in Portland

The BEAM Activity for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of AABE consisted of a new partnership between the chapter and a local public school in Portland, OR.

Bill Dickens, AABE's Pacific Northwest Chapter President, was joined by Afarah Board, Western Region Coordinator, on October 18, 2013 for the mid-afternoon event at Vernon School.

The purpose of the event was to make a special check presentation by the PNW Chapter to Principal Tina Acker to help in the development of STEM learning for her middle school students.

Mrs. Board provided an overview about the purpose of AABE, her role as Western Coordinator and the overall significance of communities of color becoming savvy energy consumers. Mr. Dickens outlined the reason for the selection of Vernon School and the future collaboration by having members of the local chapter volunteer time as mentors and role models to the students of Vernon, especially the young male students.

A check in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to the Principal of Vernon, Mrs. Tina Acker. Both she and her staff were enthusiastic and grateful about AABE's financial generosity and outreach to her school. Principal Acker provided AABE members with a tour of the school's campus and shared her vision concerning the preparation of her students for careers in science, mathematics and energy.

Special thanks are extended to Afarah and Cleophus Board for flying up from Los Angeles, CA to take part in the event, Jean Norwood (PNW Treasurer) for making the recommendation about the adoption of Vernon School and Mark Holman (PNW AABE Member) for being the first local chapter member to agree to serve as a Vernon volunteer. We look forward to this new and exciting partnership.



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SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI / SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



Southeastern Missouri/Southern Illinois Chapter hosts Tour of the Prairie State Energy Campus

Members of the Southeastern Missouri/Southern Illinois chapter recently hosted 24 students on a tour the [Prairie State Energy Campus \(PSEC\)](#) in Marissa, Illinois.

The tour of the Prairie State Energy Campus was designed to help local AABE members become more knowledgeable in terms of power generation, coal, sustainable, and renewable energy.

The generating station went online in 2012 as one of the lowest emissions coal plants in the U.S. It produces one-fifth the levels of carbon dioxide as typical coal-fired plants. It utilizes coal from an adjacent coal mine and members will be able to tour both the coal mine and power plant. PSEC is a high tech, ultra efficient, renewable energy project, creating a sustainable and secure energy future.

PSEC generates 1600 MWs of electricity, produces 6 million tons of coal annually, and is partially owned by AABE member company [Peabody Energy](#).



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Latest Energy Industry and Scholarship News

2013 Election Big Success For Colorado's Fracking Foes

Voters in Fort Collins, Boulder and Lafayette all approved measures that will either ban or pause the practice of hydraulic fracturing. Initial results show Broomfield voters narrowly voted against a proposed moratorium. [Learn more](#)

South Africa 'needs more locals playing the field' in renewable energy

The South Africa Department of Energy has embarked on an aggressive campaign to increase the number of independent power producers in the country through its renewable energy procurement programme. The third round of procurements for the programme has just ended. [Learn more](#)

FORBES: What The U.S. Can Learn From Germany's Green Energy Debacle

Three bills introduced recently would require that 25 percent of the country's power come from renewable energy sources by 2025. Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico said of his bill, "The global clean energy race is increasingly competitive, and our bill is the best way to help America take the lead and build a thriving clean energy economy...and create jobs." But a look at Germany, the second largest western economy, and its deliberate attempt to make its energy greener is instructive. [Learn More](#)

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Shultz and Smith: Making the Most of the U.S. Energy Boom

Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Frederick J. Smith recently posted an Op-Ed discussing a renewed focus on energy security. [Learn More \(Blog Post - May Require WSJ Subscription to View\)](#)

THE ATLANTIC: The Accidental Discovery That Revolutionized American Energy

One day in 1997, while supervising a well in north Texas, a group of geologists made a small mistake that would help change the future of fracking. [Learn More](#)

CNN: Environmental leaders: Steering us toward disaster?

For 25 years the leadership of the environmental movement has told us that the solution to the climate crisis will be found almost entirely through the deployment of wind and solar power, accompanied by dramatic increases in energy efficiency. [Learn More](#)

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Members and Chapters on the Move

Mississippi-Gulf Coast Chapter Getting Involved Across Its Community

Members of the MS Chapter recently participated in Renewable Energy Day hosted by the Mississippi Development Authority, Energy Division.

Over 850 middle and high school students participated in the event. The members provided details on fields of study in order to apply for the AABE scholarship.

The chapter also recently held its 1st Annual Golf Tournament on September 24 in Lake Caroline, Madison MS. The golf committee consisted of Louis Wright, chairperson, Napoleon Johnson and Andre Foster.

Thanks to over half of the members from the MS Chapter who volunteered to assist with the golf tournament it was a huge success.

Entergy MS, MS Power Company, Irby Construction and Quanta Services, Raymond James/Johnny Esters and LTM Enterprises were top sponsors for the event.



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The AABE Job Board Move On Up



Upcoming AABE Events

- November 14, 2013 AABE Virginia Chapter General Body Meeting
- November 14, 2013 Atlanta Chapter November Meeting
- November 18, 2013 Myers Briggs Type Indicator - Workshop
- November 22, 2013 AABE Baltimore Chapter Meet and Greet - [Register Here](#)
- November 26, 2013 Meet and Greet with the Michigan Public Service Commission
- December 6-7, 2013 AABE National Board Meeting

Tell Us Something Good

Send us your news or let us know about your latest activity, event or special notice you would like to share with AABE members.

e-mail us at news@aabe.org and we'll be in contact to help get your posting inserted in our next newsletter.

Entrepreneurs' Corner

AABE Member Michael Brown: A Trailblazer for Minority Contractors



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID MAIALETTI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER

The Philadelphia Inquirer recently interviewed Michael Brown, founder of Environmental Construction Services near Philadelphia, about how building his company into a multi-million dollar company.

Find out how he transformed his inspiration into one of the largest minority owned mechanical engineering firms in the east.

[Learn more](#)

Learn More about SBA Resources for Entrepreneurs

Startup America is a national initiative managed by the Small Business Administration. The core goals of Startup America are to increase the number and scale of new high-growth firms that are creating economic growth, innovation, and quality jobs; celebrate and honor entrepreneurship as a core American value and source of competitive advantage; and inspire and empower an ever-greater diversity of communities and individuals to build great American companies.

START UP AMERICA
EMPOWERING AMERICA'S ENTREPRENEURS

Overall, Startup America, through a full range of public and private initiatives, is aimed at:

- Expanding access to capital for high-growth startups throughout the country;
- Expanding entrepreneurship education and mentorship programs that empower more Americans not just to get a job, but to create jobs;
- Strengthening commercialization of the about \$148 billion in annual federally-funded research and development, which can generate innovative startups and entirely new industries;
- Identifying and remove unnecessary barriers to high-growth startups; and
- Expanding collaborations between large companies and startups.

[Learn more about Startup America](#) and turn your inspiration into success.

Tell Us Something Good

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