

AABE Power Africa Diaspora Forum: Building Strategic Partnerships

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AABE
Moving All Communities Forward
with 37 Years of Progressive Action

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AABE:
Celebrating 37 Years
of Excellence

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Corlene Williams honored
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Moving All Communities Forward with 37 Years of Progressive Action



Dear AABE Family,

The summer and early fall months have yielded great dividends for our national organization. New alliances have been created, collaborative partnerships built along with a refined focus on continuous improvement.

As we celebrate, our organization's 37-year history as a policy-based entity, we embrace and are continually encouraged to press on with our work as advocates in the energy industry. AABE consistently perches itself on the frontlines of public policy debates. We advocate for effective energy research and sustainable development, while representing minorities around the U.S. and the world. Our mission has not changed, our resolve is only stronger and broader.

This summer I was honored to receive an invitation to participate on a "Women in Energy" panel as part of the U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which was hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy. As the association continues its efforts to develop an international footprint, these dialogues help to strengthen our efforts and I am hopeful that in the near future we will see AABE chapters on the continent. With 600 million people in the sub-Saharan region of Africa without electricity, we have an opportunity to make a difference now by providing training and capacity building so that our brothers and sisters are a part of the energy economy.

Additionally, there are opportunities for our entrepreneurs to partner and grow their businesses. Be on the lookout for many new initiatives under the Institute on our [website](#), [AABE app](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook page](#).

We are also delighted to have had an opportunity to further the mission of educating communities through our Energize campaign. Working with Hispanics in Energy and the Department of Energy's Minorities in Energy Initiative, "[Energize: A Conversation about Workforce Readiness for Diverse Communities](#)" brought together industry, community leaders, and others to discuss opportunities in the industry. The Energize series began a dialogue which addressed the challenges, so that we can realize our goal of having more underrepresented minorities in this industry.

Our AABE chapters in Chicago, Philadelphia and Denver have been key parts of our team and important part of the success we saw in those cities. I am so thankful for their time and dedication to this effort. Our chapters in Charlotte and Detroit rounded out the last 2 stops on our 8-city tour. I thank you all for all that you have done and continue to do to support our wonderful organization. You can get more information about the Energize 8-city tour and the study on jobs for minorities and women at www.aabe-hieenergize.com.

Your active participation is what makes our association truly special and is greatly needed and valued.

All the best,



Paula R. Jackson
President
American Association of Blacks in Energy



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

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Hispanics In Energy



A Community Conversation about Energy, Opportunity, and Workforce Readiness

A Message from Your Member Services Department

As we celebrate the founding of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, I am reminded about our continuing impact on our community. Our goals center upon highlighting and encouraging our members, improving our processes and developing strong chapters and leaders. One role that each chapter thrives in is the development of strong academically minded students, through the AABE Scholarship process.

With the efforts of nearly 40 chapters strong, we are proud to report this year the Association has awarded nearly 100 scholarships totaling more than \$125,000. What a tremendous impact! This is a shining star moment and we celebrate the success of each chapter president, committee members and leader in the local chapters.

Continue weaving AABE into your daily business outreach efforts. You are making a difference!



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

AABE Scholarship: Academic Success is a Recipe for a Pipeline of Smart Students

Students around the world are preparing to go back to school, whether it is buying school supplies or picking out the perfect outfit for the first day. Other students are preparing for college, and looking for ways to pay for it.

Underrepresented minority students who plan to pursue a major in business or in physical sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) in preparation for a career in the energy sector will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship through the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)®.

AABE provides underrepresented minorities students with the opportunity to gain an academic scholarship. Through the national Scholarship Program, AABE seeks to help increase the number of minorities in energy related fields. This program allows AABE to address a critical pipeline of an educated workforce needed to outline challenges to our future economic vitality in the world market.

Each chapter selects and awards its own recipients. The top winner's application is forwarded to compete for a Regional Award of \$3,000. Additionally, a candidate who is judged on their demonstration of the most outstanding achievement and promise is given a "Rufus D. Gladney" Premier Award of \$5,000. Scholarship recipients are known as AABE scholars, and identified each spring by the organization's local chapter scholarship committee for local scholarships and by the National Scholarship Committee for national scholarships.

For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit aabe.org.

National Action Counsel for Minorities in Engineering: 2014 Policy Brief about African American Students and STEM

About NACME:



Research & Policy Brief

Volume 4 | Number 1 | April 2014

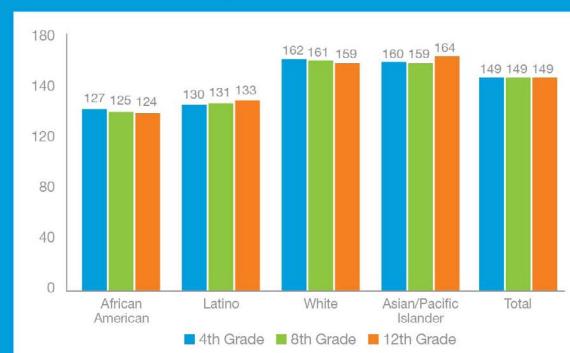
nacme.org

NACME ensures American competitiveness in a flat world by leading and supporting the national effort to expand U.S. capability through increasing the number of successful African American, American Indian, and Latino women and men in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.

Visit nacme.org to view the latest policy brief about African American Students readiness for a career in a STEM related field.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ENGINEERING

Figure 2.
Average Science Scale Scores of 4th, 8th, and 12th Grade Public School Students, 2009⁶



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Power Africa: Why AABE Cares What Happens



The facts are telling. The continent of Africa is in need of significant upgrades to its electrical system.

This underpins the needs for a fundamental shift in the way energy resources is viewed, managed and sustained.

According to reports by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), currently, 600 million people in the sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity, approximately 70% percent.

The opportunity is here to make a difference and AABE is poised to play an important role in being an advocate in the powering of Africa.

In June 2013, while on a visit to Cape Town, South Africa, U.S. President Barack Obama launched what is now called Power Africa Initiative. Power Africa is designed to fundamentally change the energy landscape on the 2nd largest continent, specifically in the African countries of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. The expansion will make electricity, currently an unreliable commodity, part of a long-term energy strategy and a reality for some 60 million people.

The initiative seeks to leverage public and private sector resources to help deploy all of Africa's renewable energy resources to include (wind, hydropower, geothermal and solar energy) making the vision of Power Africa a reality. The proposed business model incorporates extensive innovative partnerships, reformed regulatory guidelines and significant investment collaborations.

"One of AABE's strategic initiatives is to develop sustainable chartered chapters in Africa by the end of 2014," said Executive Director of AABE Institute Sam Smoots. "After 37 years advocating for minorities in energy, we seek to be a strong voice on policy and partnership opportunities as part of Power Africa Initiative."

Prior to the US – African Leaders Summit hosted in August by President Obama, the U.S. Government committed more than \$7 billion. That number is now up to \$20 billion in financial support and loan guarantees, with alliance with private sector energy developers, financing agencies, government agencies and world banks.

10 Power Africa Factoids Did you know?

1. "Power Africa" is a White House initiative to triple the number of people with access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa where more than 2/3 of the population is without electricity, and more than 85 percent of those living in rural areas lack access.

2. Power Africa is an innovative private sector-led initiative aimed at tripling electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 600 million people currently lack access to electricity.

3. Power Africa includes six-focus countries- Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya,

Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. The efforts also include partnering with Uganda and Mozambique on responsible oil and gas resource management.

4. The goal is to bring 30,000 MW of additional capacity to Africa and increasing electricity access by at least 60 million households and businesses. Power Africa is actively supporting transactions expected to generate an additional 5,000 MW.

5. Power Africa includes "Beyond the Grid" a sub-initiative, for fostering private investment in off-grid and small-scale energy solutions to expand access to remote areas across sub-Saharan Africa.

6. The U.S. has committed more than \$7 billion in financial support and loan guarantees through 2018 utilizing the capabilities of 12 government agencies.

7. Power Africa's financial partners pledged \$20 billion in project finance through direct loans, guarantee facilities, and equity investments.

8. The World Bank Group has committed \$5 billion in new technical and financial support, including loans and guarantees and the African Development Bank has committed \$3 billion.

9. The Government of Sweden has committed \$1 billion to advance Power Africa, including support

for transmission and distribution upgrades, and the development of energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

10. The International Energy Agency estimates that sub-Saharan Africa will require more than \$300 billion in investment to achieve universal electricity access by 2030.

Sources:
United States White House
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/08/05/fact-sheet-doing-business-africa-campaign>

US Agency for International Trade Development
<http://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica/annual-report>

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POWER AFRICA DIASPORA FORUM

"Strategies & Next Steps for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development in Africa"

- Building on the U.S. Africa Energy Ministerial

AABE Members joined us for an afternoon of enlightened discussion on the occasion of the U.S. – African Leaders Summit.



The major themes that emerged from the June U.S. - Africa Energy Ministerial in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia included the need for a focus on transparency and rule of law in governance, the benefits of U.S. and multilateral financing tools, the role that a broad range of sustainable technologies could play in improving energy access, the expansion and deepening of the U.S. Government's Power Africa

initiative to add 10,000 megawatts of electricity and 20 million new connections in six select Sub-Saharan African countries.

The forum also considered the issues and opportunities associated with the Electrify Africa Act with the aim of developing strategic approaches to leverage the capabilities of AABE and its members to work with the public and private sectors in the U.S and Africa to help provide solutions for the challenges and opportunities of providing power to Africa.

The Power Africa Diaspora Forum was a working session to deliver recommendations and action items that can be implemented via public private partnerships and other models to achieve results.

The Forum included participation by African Ministers, Senior Executives of U.S. Utility companies and Entrepreneurs and U.S. government officials.

Discussion Topics:

- U.S. - Africa Energy Ministerial Report Highlights
- Best Practices in Governance
- Encouraging Private Investment
- Creating Technical Exchanges to Improve Energy Access
- Exploring Financing Methods & Expanding the Power Africa Initiative



[View the full photo gallery on Flickr at https://flic.kr/s/aHsk3c3pzw](https://flic.kr/s/aHsk3c3pzw)

SPECIAL FEATURE:
AABE News from

The Harlem Times



Read More about AABE and Power Africa in these articles from The Harlem Times:

AABE Power Africa - Ethiopia Story
<http://theharlemtimes.com/online-news/aabe-energy>

Story on Kevon Makell and the US West Africa Trade Mission
<http://theharlemtimes.com/business/opening-new-markets-world>

**Story on Steve Hightower:
AABE Entrepreneur - West Africa Trade Mission**
<http://theharlemtimes.com/business/opening-new-markets-world-2>

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- [!\[\]\(3135fc7f7b3c45dc2f78bbaef7b561ed_img.jpg\) Watch us on YouTube](#)

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Women in Energy Flex in Ethiopia



At the invitation of the U.S. Africa Energy Ministerial in Ethiopia, Paula Jackson, President and CEO, of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, participated on the "Women in Energy" panel, during the U.S. Africa Energy Ministerial meeting, at the African Union Headquarters in Ethiopia, June 4-6, 2014.

U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Patricia M. Haslach, moderated the panel of forward thinking women leaders, which included the Ministers of Energy from Senegal and Uganda, along with the Head of Energy & Water Resources for the African Union, formerly the Minister of Egypt.



Special guests who also attended the panel session included Ethiopian Minister of Energy, the President & CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power, Minister of Energy for Equatorial Guinea and the U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz.

The meeting was geared toward helping to identify training and technical assistance opportunities for AABE in Africa.

Cross collaboration in Angola now Official with Alliance Agreement

The signed collaborative agreement with U.S. Angola Chamber of Commerce (USACC) and the American Association of Blacks in Energy is now official. The formal memorandum was signed during the Power Africa Diaspora Forum, in August, focusing on 4 key areas: business synergy, capacity building, and technical support and energy security.

The mutual agreement with the USACC, will assist in forging a foundation of business linkages during the upcoming Trade Mission to Angola, set for October 2014. The agreement further states that both entities will pursue opportunities beneficial to the members in both organizations.

Collaboration efforts will also include reverse trade missions from Angola to the U.S. participation in AABE's national conference, the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston and other energy specific activities.

AABE Member Thomas Graham Moderates Panel at the EEI Convention

AABE Member and Pepco Holdings Inc.'s **Thomas Graham** moderated a panel at the **EEI Convention** in June. The topic was Building a Competitive Workforce for Tomorrow. The focus of the discussion was how electric companies are employing new hiring and training practices, to hire a more diverse workforce and build a culture of continuous improvement. Graham was representing the Center for Energy Workforce Development in his capacity as chairman.



In addition to discussing how the future workforce will look and function differently from the traditional workers, he also provided very insightful and candid comments related to the necessity of developing a diverse pipeline for C-suite opportunities.

[View the convention booklet at <http://goo.gl/yH8Asl>.](http://goo.gl/yH8Asl)

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Corlene Williams Receives 2014 Chairman's Cup



2014 Chairman's Cup recipient **Corlene Williams** never dreamed she would be considered for one of AABE's highest honors.

For this longtime member, serving as the former Southeast Regional Director was an integral part of serving the organization she loves.

"I was a conduit for the chapters that I served," Williams said. "I was just doing what I should have done."

Williams' dedication to her AABE family has meant not only building stronger chapters, but creating a network of individuals she feels she can count on.

Williams was honored with the Chairman's Cup during AABE's 2014 national conference in Houston for her steadfast leadership and commitment to keeping the chapters she served strong.

Dan Packer and his new role as CEO of American Ethane



AABE is pleased to announce that past Board Chairman Daniel Packer was recently named CEO of **American Ethane** in Louisiana.

According to the company's website, the energy veteran was named to the position for his stellar management experience and the wealth of knowledge he brings to this exciting new role.

He began his career in the U.S. Navy where he was trained in nuclear power systems. Dan served in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War. As a civilian, this industry powerhouse held positions at Yankee Atomic Power in Connecticut, and Entergy Waterford and Entergy New Orleans.

After obtaining his MBA from Tulane University in 1998, Packer was named CEO of Entergy New Orleans. As a result of his successful efforts to build a career rooted in august leadership, he was named one of the most powerful African American executives in the U.S. by Black Enterprise magazine. In 2001, he became the first African American chairman of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. AABE proudly salutes Dan Packer as he enters this next phase in his illustrious career.



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The AABE Job Board Move On Up

Latest Energy Industry and Scholarship News

ALL AFRICA:**Africa: U.S. Officials Outline Implications of Energy, Climate Policies**

Climate change and global energy insecurity pose profound challenges for U.S. foreign policy, U.S. officials told a Senate panel July 22. Representatives from the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Defense Department testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, International Environmental Protection and Peace Corps about the national security implications of energy and climate policies. [Learn More](#)

THE MOTLEY FOOL:**Is Coal the Next Clean Energy?**

Scientists tell us that carbon dioxide (CO2) is bad and that it is the primary cause of climate change. While there is much controversy regarding the science and reality of climate change, the fact remains that governments are mandating changes to the energy market to reduce CO2 and mitigate the effects of climate change.

[Learn more](#)

THE HILL:**Natural gas boom hasn't made US energy secure, warns IEA chief**

The United States has not reached a state of energy security despite the natural gas boom that is sweeping the nation, the new head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said recently. [Learn More](#)

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN:**U.S. Gets Lackluster Energy Efficiency Rating**

Germany is the global leader in energy efficiency, and the U.S., with its ingrained car culture, is among the least energy efficient of the world's largest economies. That's the conclusion of a new report released by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, which ranks the world's 16 largest economies based on 31 different measurements. [Learn More](#)

CHARLOTTE NEWS AND OBSERVER:**Giving UNC campuses renewable energy options**

UNC campuses and affiliates, including UNC Hospitals, spend nearly \$225 million a year on energy and water – more than 60 percent of the total utility spending for all state agencies. We are committed to reducing this major expenditure and know that small changes can have significant cumulative effects. [Learn More](#)

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.

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Members and Chapters on the Move

AABE Atlanta member receives Georgia Power's Spirit of Safety Award

By Delitha Morrow Coles
Atlanta Chapter

We all know how important safety is to the energy industry. Most of us participate in mandatory safety training at our respective companies rarely believing we'll actually have to use it. That was the case for Deanna Moultrie of the AABE Atlanta chapter, until one day last summer when she happened upon a pregnant woman whose vehicle had been in a car accident. Needless to say, her years of safety training kicked in.



Atlanta's notorious traffic had snarled and caused a serious accident on the road, backing up traffic. Moultrie was on her way home but pulled alongside the accident to protect the woman and her damaged vehicle from oncoming traffic. Moultrie was the first one on the scene.

"It was like I instantly knew what to do," said Moultrie. "After all those years of safety training, something just kicked in to let me know to block her from potential oncoming traffic that may not have seen her."

As it turns out, the woman was in the early stages of labor, and her airbag had deployed. The pregnant woman got out of the car. According to Moultrie, it was clear she was in pain. Moultrie continued to keep the woman calm by talking to her and encouraging her. At that point, other people started to come by to see what they could do to help. Moultrie had the foresight to direct one passerby to check on the other drivers and grab an umbrella and blanket from her vehicle to protect the woman.

"The company talks about 'Target Zero' injuries, but you never know when you might need to use it," said Moultrie. "I felt confident that I knew what to do. It's like riding a bicycle; it comes back to you."

Her coworkers conspired to submit her application for the award. One of them approached her saying he'd heard about the rescue and asked if Moultrie would tell him all about it. As she did so, Moultrie's next door cubicle mate took notes. Her application was submitted, and the rest is history.

Moultrie was one of 42 recipients of the award, which was presented at a special luncheon at Georgia Power headquarters. Her parents traveled from Connecticut to share in her honor. The Spirit of Safety award is presented annually to recognize Georgia Power's Target Zero safety commitment, and it recognizes employees who act in an emergency to save someone's life or prevent injury.

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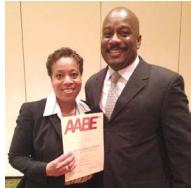
PSEG Shares Special Moment: 2014 Special Olympics Games & Law Enforcement Torch Run

On June 12th the 2014 Special Olympics Games & Law Enforcement Torch Run stopped at the PSEG general office to share a special moment with employees, members of the American Association of Blacks in Energy New Jersey Chapter, as well as other PSEG ERG members.

Representing AABE NJ Chapter is our own Leticia Spencer, Secretary (front left). PSEG employees and ERG members welcomed athletes and law enforcement members to thank them for their participation and courage during the Special Olympic Games. The atmosphere was full of admiration and uplift while cheering on the athletes. AABE is proud to represent members of the community that are faced with Challenges but beat them despite opposition.



AABE East Tennessee Chapter Receives its Charter



During the June Board meeting in Chattanooga, TN, the East Tennessee chapter received its charter. East Tennessee is the newest chapter with 18 members representing 4 companies.

The new chapter president, Linda G. Wiley is a Senior Manager of Diversity & Inclusion at the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"We look forward to growing and contributing to the great body of work conducted by the many chapters of AABE." Congratulations to all of our new members in East Tennessee.

Members AABE Stories Wanted – We Want to Feature YOU

If you have been an AABE Member for any length of time, you might have heard rousing stories of how the member was introduced to the organization. It could have been via an email introduction, perusal of the AABE website, attendance at a local meeting or national conference. These stories are woven into our tapestry and are often funny, heartwarming and memorable.

As we introduce "My AABE Story," we would like to hear your story. Tell us how AABE has helped you professional and personally or how it came to your attention.

To share your interesting story, please send in 2-3 short paragraphs along with a snapshot that could be featured on the website or on in the newsletter.

All stories can be sent to lwilson@aabe.org or info@skyeconnect.com and might be edited for clarity and length.

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Results of the AABE & National Utility Diversity Survey:

We Heard You – What Did the Survey Said?

In an effort to foster the continued growth of our organization, AABE in partnership with the **National Utilities Diversity Council** commissioned your feedback on a member-based survey last month. The correspondence was designed to gauge leadership readiness, address barriers to success, and provide effective solutions to career development and hiring practices.

Through actively engaging our members, AABE will continue its results-oriented approach to creating invaluable opportunities for those we serve. Consequently, we are happy to report a high rate of return and a better understanding of how we can better serve you. We sincerely thank you for your participation.

Below are six critical takeaways from our interaction with you. These and all other results are being aggregated to provide effective program to aid you including corporate culture analysis, workforce readiness planning, career assessments strategies and results-based programming.



of respondents didn't know how their organization defined executive readiness.



of corporate respondents stated that the biggest mistake candidates make is not connecting their experience at the company to the position/opportunity.



of respondents thought they could benefit from improved presentation and other communication skills development.



of employee respondents are interested in short term project assignments overseas as part of management training.



of respondents said exposure to the right person in leadership and being tapped for solid growth assignment were keys to success in the workplace.



stated they had been turned down or had an unfavorable experience with a mentor or business contact.

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Upcoming AABE Events

- October 30, 2014 South Carolina Chapter: 10/30 Celebration Officers and Executive Committee Board Meeting
- November 7, 2014 AABE Michigan Chapter November Meeting
- November 11, 2014 South Carolina Chapter's General Membership Meeting
- November 12, 2014 General Membership Meeting – TBD
- November 19, 2014 AABE Atlanta Career Ready Expo
- November 20, 2014 South Carolina Chapter's Holiday Party
- December 6, 2014 AABE Atlanta Winter Storm Restoration/Year in Review
- December 11, 2014