



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



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Ethics Officer

JEA,

President, AABE Florida

Walette, could you please describe your role at JEA and share what inspired you to pursue a career in the energy industry? How does your role align with your passion for this field?

At JEA, I serve as the Ethics Officer, where I develop and execute strategies to foster an ethical culture, improve the work environment, and ensure compliance with city, state, and federal regulations. My role involves collaborating with executives and managers to integrate ethical business practices and JEA's values into daily operations. What inspired me to pursue a career in the energy industry is its fundamental impact on people's lives and communities. I am deeply passionate about ensuring that public utilities like JEA operate with integrity and accountability, building trust and confidence in our services. My role allows me to align my personal commitment to ethics and public service with my professional expertise in human resources, compliance, and strategic planning.

As you know, Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum seeks to promote opportunities within the energy industry to inspire the next generation of workforce talent. Does JEA have internships, apprenticeships, and/or college to career programs?

Yes, JEA is committed to developing the next generation of talent in the energy sector. We offer a variety of programs, including internships, apprenticeships, and college-to-career pathways. These initiatives are designed to provide hands-on experience, mentorship, and skill development to prepare participants for meaningful careers in the energy industry. Additionally, JEA partners with local educational institutions like Edward Waters University, University of North Florida, and Jacksonville University to implement strategic workforce development programs.

You have an MBA, a background in human resources, and in communications. That combination must have created various opportunities in your own career trajectory. Was this a purposeful approach to your career and is this a strategy you would recommend for students?

Absolutely, my career path was a purposeful strategy to build a strong foundation in leadership, communication, and strategic thinking. Earning my MBA and gaining experience in human resources and communications provided me with the skills to lead complex initiatives, resolve conflicts, and drive cultural transformation within organizations. I would recommend this approach to students because it equips them with a versatile skill set that can be applied across industries. I also encourage them to seek roles that align with their passions and values, as this alignment is key to building a fulfilling and impactful career.



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As this year's President of American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) Florida, tell us about the organization and how energy employees can become more involved.

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is a national organization dedicated to ensuring the inclusion of African Americans and other minorities in the energy sector. As President of the Florida chapter, I focus on promoting education, professional development, and networking opportunities for our members. We also work to inspire students to pursue STEM careers through scholarships and mentorship programs. Energy employees can become more involved by joining our membership, participating in local events, and contributing to initiatives within the industry. AABE provides a platform for professionals to connect, share knowledge, and advocate for a more inclusive and innovative energy future.