



BEAM high school students

Georgia Power hosts BEAM Conference for high school students

By Christopher Moore

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012 - Georgia Power recently hosted more than 100 Atlanta area high school students as a part of AABE Atlanta's (American Association of Blacks in Energy) BEAM Conference.

BEAM (Black Energy Awareness Month) provides students an interactive opportunity to broaden their knowledge of emerging technology, educational opportunities and careers within energy.

"The energy education and career information students receive during this program introduces them to numerous opportunities within the energy industry that they generally haven't been exposed to," said Cheryl Harris, a project manager in Diversity and Inclusion, and 2012 AABE president.

"In addition, students experience the corporate environment as well as up-close and personal interaction with energy professionals," Harris continued. "Conversely, Georgia Power benefits from exposure to this potential applicant pool of students already interested in STEM fields."

Georgia Power employees from Transmission, Generation, Distribution and the Klondike Training facility, along with representatives from GE Energy, Clark Atlanta University, SIEMENS and AGL Resources shared the importance of taking STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses and how these choices have benefited and enhanced their lives and career opportunities.

Melvin Williams, senior vice president of AGL Resources, was the keynote speaker and reminded the students that what they do today will matter tomorrow.

"There are some things in life that you are going to have to work for. There are some things in life that you must take the time to get. It's called perseverance. In order to achieve great things, it's one of the characteristics you must have," Williams said.

Students said the field trip had given them much to think about. "We heard a lot of powerful speeches that motivated us to want to do good things in life, pursue our dreams and hopefully become a part of the energy field," said Kia Surrell, a student at Therrell High School.



Eric Arnold, segment manager, discusses electric vehicles.
Photos: Georgia Power/Christopher Moore.