

EI recognizes Georgia Power's supplier diversity efforts



Georgia Power's supplier diversity team from left to right: Glenda Stinson, Monique Carter, Barbette Hill, Vickie Irwin, Crystal Butler, Crystal King and Deborah Mackins.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016 – The Edison Electric Institute recently named Georgia Power the winner of the industry's 2016 Supplier Diversity Innovation Award for outstanding innovative approaches to supplier diversity development and diverse business enterprises.

The Innovation Award is given annually to the company that displays a model worthy of emulation by other companies. For this year's award, EEl acknowledged Georgia Power's effectiveness in showcasing quality development and mentoring of diverse suppliers, comprehensive outreach through use of technology to identify, develop and connect with small and diverse businesses and prime supplier accountability.

"EEl applauds Georgia Power for its innovative supplier diversity initiatives that have enabled the company to significantly exceed its goals," said Tom Kuhn, EEl president.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this year's Innovation Award," said Georgia Power Chairman, President, and CEO Paul Bowers. "Our focus on developing opportunities and maintaining strong relationships with diverse suppliers is part of our broader, longstanding commitment to accessing the best products and services for our customers and supporting economic inclusion in the communities we serve."

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Supplier Diversity efforts *continued*

In addition to the EEI Innovation Award, Georgia Power has earned two additional recognitions this year – the Greater Women’s Business Council 2016 Top Corporation Award and the Georgia Small Business Development Center Award.

The Greater Women’s Business Council recognized Georgia Power’s supplier diversity, supply chain management and procurement initiatives as a best in class innovator, as well as the company’s commitment and passion for engaging, inspiring and empowering women-owned businesses in awarding the company the 2016 Top Corporation Award.

Rachael Humphrey, president of Metro Records Management Inc., presented the award to Georgia Power in recognition of the value Georgia Power has provided to directly enhance its company.

“Georgia Power has always been ahead of the game as an awarding-winning company that helps small businesses change and reinvent themselves,” said Humphrey. “We depend on Georgia Power to help others be the best that they can be.”

As the statewide sponsor and host of the Georgia State University Grow Smart™ program, Georgia Power received the Georgia Small Business Development Center Award in recognition of the generous support it has provided and continues to provide to entrepreneurs in Georgia over the last 12 years.

“Since Georgia Power became involved in 2003, the Georgia SBDC has delivered FastTrac® and GrowSmart training programs with an emphasis on recruiting women- and minority-owned businesses,” said Eric Bonaparte, associate state director at SBDC.

As a result, more than 100 classes serving over 1,800 owners and senior managers of growing businesses have been conducted. One of the success stories includes Catherine Downey, the founder and CEO of a former GrowSmart company (Catmedia), who in May was named the 2016 Georgia Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration for her successes in growing her 1997 one-person operation to 33 employees generating \$17 million in revenue.

“Our team has a vision to be an empowered, innovative team that leads with integrity and serves as a respected resource to small and diverse businesses,” said Vickie Irwin, supplier diversity manager for Georgia Power. “We continue to raise the bar for how we advance the company’s supplier diversity efforts, because of the value it brings to our supply chain, customers and communities.”

Learn more about [Georgia Power Supplier Diversity](#).