



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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SisSTEMs event gives diversity and inclusion a face



Commissioner Kari K. Steele explains her journey from student to chemist to Commissioner.



Director of Human Resources Beverly Sanders discusses the various science, technology, engineering and math related careers at the MWRD.

A trio of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) leaders participated on a professional women's panel during the "SisSTEMs" event hosted by the Egretta Foundation and AWBC Magazine at John Marshall Law School on March 21. The "SisSTEMs" event offered an array of presentations that focused on issues designed to address the career and business interests of African American Women.

Diversity Administrator Regina Berry, Director of Human Resources Beverly Sanders, and Commissioner Kari K. Steele participated in the Supplier Diversity Business and Careers panel that was moderated by AWBC Magazine owner Yvonne Killebrew.

Commissioner Steele explained her education, professional experiences and journey to becoming a Commissioner and pointed out the benefits to employing a diverse workforce.

"The District is committed to hiring employees whose

education and experiences reflect the diversity of the communities that we serve," said Commissioner Steele. "Our outreach efforts to engage youth in math and science curriculums begins at the kindergarten level with visits to the classrooms and continues with college age students."

Sanders explained the various science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related career opportunities at the MWRD. "The District is an organization that is reliant upon people who have strong backgrounds in these fields. We offer wonderful career opportunities and strongly encourage young women to pursue these professions."

Berry discussed her professional experience and described her role in working to ensure contracts are allocated fairly.

Sessions addressed career identification and preparedness, career options, starting new businesses, and expanding existing businesses. The *(continued)*

SisSTEMs event gives diversity and inclusion a face *(continued)*

presenters were all experienced professionals and community leaders sharing their recipes for success and also the truths regarding difficulties and roadblocks encountered by African American women as they strive for success.

Other participating organizations included IBM, AeroStar, AeroTek, Argonne National Laboratories, Metra, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State of Illinois, CTA, Microsoft, and ABC TV.



(L-R): Regina Berry, AWBC Magazine owner Yvonne Killebrew, MWRD Commissioner Steele, MWRD Director of Human Resources Beverly Sanders and MWRD Compliance Officer Alicia Prentiss Humphries.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.