



## Nominees: Women Making an Impact

Nominees include women who have contributed to our industry in a meaningful way.

These women have selflessly helped us progress in their careers, influenced us to be our best selves, and have made an impact in energy.



**Ashley Babcock**

Regional Vice President,  
Indiana and Ohio Gas

CenterPoint Energy

Ashley is Vice President, Indiana and Ohio Gas at CenterPoint Energy. In this role, she is responsible for all aspects of the company's natural gas distribution operations in Indiana and Ohio.

She has been with CenterPoint Energy for more than 13 years and has served in a variety of roles in Gas Engineering, Performance Management, Continuous Improvement, Dispatch and Scheduling, Damage Prevention and Meter Reading.

Ashley currently serves on the board and on several committees of Youth First, a Southern Indiana non-profit that exists to transform and strengthen the lives of young people and their families. She is involved in a variety of industry organizations, including the American Gas Association, Ohio Gas Association, Indiana Energy Association, Energetic Women, and actively involved with CenterPoint Energy's Women in Leadership employee resource group.

She earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Southern Indiana.



**Brandi Davis-Handy**  
Chief Customer Officer  
AES US Utilities  
(Indiana & Ohio)

Brandi Davis-Handy has more than 20 years of customer and stakeholder engagement, communications, and marketing experience. Today, Brandi serves as Chief Customer Officer for AES' utilities in Indiana and Ohio. Within this role, she leads a team focused on providing an exceptional customer experience and accelerating efforts on new solutions to help customers achieve their most important objectives of reliability, affordability, and sustainability. Prior to AES, she served as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Project Lead The Way and has also led communications teams at OneAmerica Financial Partners and the American Cancer Society.

Brandi is an active community leader in Central Indiana serving as Board President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, Board President of GangGang Culture, and board member for the Indiana Energy Association, 500 Festival, Indiana Sports Corporation, Women's Fund of Central Indiana, and Lynx Capital Corporation.

She is a graduate of the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series and Leadership Dayton. Brandi is also a founding member of the African American Legacy Fund of Indianapolis which is focused on raising awareness and advocating on issues affecting the African American community.

Brandi has been recognized as a 2022 Woman of Influence by the Indianapolis Business Journal, Center for Leadership Development Minority Achiever in Media and Communications in 2018 and was the recipient of the Breakthrough Woman in Leadership Development Award for 2018 from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Brandi received her B.A. in Mass Media Arts from Hampton University.



**Beibei Li (BeiLi)**  
Manager, Strategic Assessment  
MISO

Beibei Li manages the Strategic Assessment team for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), where she leads a dynamic group dedicated to evaluating the impacts of trends and drivers on the energy industry through a structured and systematic approach.

With over 15 years of comprehensive experience in the energy sector, Beibei possesses a multifaceted perspective honed through her roles in Real-time Operations, Energy Market Design, Economic Planning, and Corporate Strategy.

Beibei holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Beibei is deeply engaged in her community. She recognized the importance of caregiver identity and helped to co-found MISO's latest Employee Resource Group (ERG) dedicated to all caregivers.

In Beibei's narrative, she champions the interplay between humility and the pursuit of positive change. Her life's journey underscores the belief that true impact is a collective and collaborative effort, both in her career and her role as a caregiver advocate.



**Jessica Lucas**  
Executive Director,  
System Operations  
MISO

Jessica Lucas, executive director – system operations, joined MISO in 2015 and has responsibility for managing the reliability coordination functions and operations across the footprint. Before MISO, she worked in market operations and renewable power purchases at Xcel Energy.

Lucas is the executive sponsor for the Women's Resource Group at MISO. She holds a degree in degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arizona.



**Melanie Raney**  
Commercial Manager  
AES Indiana

Melanie currently serves as a Commercial Manager for AES Indiana. She is responsible for AES Indiana's All Source Generation Resource Requests for Proposals. She is thoroughly enjoying helping AES Indiana make the transition to a cleaner, more efficient, and cost-effective energy future for Central Indiana residents. Prior to this role, Melanie served as the Supply Chain Manager for US Utilities where she led a team accountable for strategic and tactical sourcing initiatives, procurement, Supplier Diversity, and contract management and administration.

Prior to serving at the AES Corporation, she worked at AEP's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant as a Nuclear Engineer, Procurement Engineer, and Senior Nuclear Project Manager. Melanie received her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Brigham Young – Idaho and is working on her MBA now in the Evening MBA program at the Kelley School of Business. Additionally, Melanie serves as Vice Chair of the Central Indiana Women's Business Center and is a committee member on the Supplier Diversity & Development Committee of the Indiana Energy Association. Melanie and her husband live in Fishers with their two boys. Melanie loves to learn, cook, practice yoga, play sports and board games with her boys and golf.



**Whitney Robbins**

Associate Talent  
Pipelines Partner

MISO

Whitney Robbins is the Associate Talent Pipelines Partner at Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Originally pursuing her lifelong passion for art, she received two degrees from Indiana University – Bloomington in 2014; a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History. After joining the professional workforce post-graduation, Whitney discovered an unexpected interest in people leadership and talent development which led to an eight-year career in retail management; she earned a Store Manager position and her own building by the age of 29.

Whitney always knew that retail was not her forever career and sought a new opportunity to better focus on her love of mentorship and developing others - in May of 2021 she joined MISO in the Energy Industry as the Internship Program Coordinator. She is a strong advocate for authenticity in the workplace and helps coach young adults how to leverage their individual skillsets to be successful – even when they look like a non-traditional candidate on paper. In 2022, Whitney became a part of MISO’s newly formed Diversity & Inclusion team and more recently joined the board of the Women’s Employee Resource Group as Director of Community Engagement to continue expanding her experience across the organization. Today you can find Whitney traveling to career fairs across the Midwest, educating college students and professors about careers in the energy industry, or working with her 40 summer interns to prepare for their next steps after graduation.

Whitney and her husband Thomas live in Noblesville, Indiana with their two dogs. In her spare time, she enjoys painting portraits, spending afternoons in her vegetable garden, and hiking in local parks. She is currently expecting her first child in early January!



**Leah Smith**

Vice President, External Affairs

ACES

Leah Smith is Vice President of External Affairs at ACES in Carmel, Indiana. Leah joined ACES in March 2000 as an Administrative Assistant supporting the marketing team. Leah transitioned to Manager of External Affairs in 2013 and has led and developed that team for more than 10 years. The External Affairs team performs several functions, including ensuring the company’s work product distributed to its clients is high quality and professional, maintaining ACES’ public website and social media accounts, developing ACES’ annual report, developing the company’s newsletters and press releases, among other functions. Leah also leads ACES’ strategic planning function and works with the company’s leadership team to identify topics and issues to be addressed at the Board of Directors’ quarterly meetings, as well as the Board’s various Committees.



**Bette J. White**

Substation Design Engineer

AES Indiana

Bette began her career in the Power Industry over 40 years ago as a Co-op Student at Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL), now AES, while completing her Engineering degree. Upon graduation she joined IPL as the second female engineer and watched the industry grow from electro-mechanical relays with pilot wire and microwave communications, mainframe computers, central office-based telephones, and coal-based generation to the computerized relaying and SCADA systems, self-healing fiber optic rings, VoIP, laptops in trucks, computers in our hands in the form smart devices, and renewable generation. She worked with others to engineer the implementation of many of these new technologies. Additionally, she saw the deregulation of the power industry and the creation of independent transmission system operators such as MISO. After helping IPL through Y2k, she joined MISO and was part of the team that brought it into live operations. She later returned to AES Indiana. Over the years she's worked in Distribution Engineering, NERC Compliance, IT, Telecommunications, and is currently in Substation and Protection Engineering.

Because of the mentorship Bette received from many great people in the industry and the upbringing from a strong, professional mother, Bette guided many summer students through their tenure at the company. She has successfully led projects and corporate teams and has always played an active role in safety groups. She was instrumental in the formation of the Women's Networking Group at AES, and currently helps lead the sponsorship of AES's support of Girls on the Run 5k Events to ensure there is a strong pool of women to take the lead as some of us age into retirement. Bette is always on point for spreading the word about the great opportunities for all talents in the power industry, but particularly for women with technical aspirations. She is a power engineer on the clock and after hours, always ready to discuss the industry, educate a young person on the opportunities our industry affords, or encourage another colleague by discussing all aspects of the challenges we face in this ever changing and exiting field.