

**GLWA Procurement Team Earns  
National Award for Excellence**



We are proud to announce that our Procurement Team, led by Director of Procurement, Sonya Collins, and including a dedicated team of talented professionals, has received the prestigious **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award** from the **National Procurement Institute**, a first in GLWA history!

The AEP Award is given to organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in public procurement through innovation, professionalism, and continuous improvement. This national recognition validates the strategic work happening behind the scenes to ensure our procurement processes remain forward-thinking, transparent, and collaborative.

“Earning the AEP is a tremendous honor, not just for me, but for our entire team,” said Sonya. “It’s a testament to our Procurement Team’s dedication to upholding the high standards of the public procurement profession and is an inspiration to continue striving to improve in the coming year.”

This accomplishment wasn’t a result of a single moment, but years of consistent leadership and rigorous process design. From the development of internal procurement policies to the launch of the Vendor Performance Assessment Program, the Procurement Team has embraced both innovation and feedback to refine and strengthen every part of our process. This included surveying our internal teams and vendor community, setting measurable performance goals, and ensuring every decision is grounded in fiscal responsibility and service to our member partner communities.

“As a relatively young department, we had to build our policies and procedures from scratch,” Sonya explained. “But that challenge became our greatest strength. It gave us the opportunity to create a foundation rooted in best practices and long-term growth.”

Looking ahead, the Procurement Team remains focused on evolving to ensure GLWA’s Member Partner communities receive the highest quality services and value through responsible and effective procurement strategies.

Please join us in congratulating the entire Procurement Team on this outstanding achievement! It’s a reminder that excellence isn’t a single moment, but a result of many intentional choices.

One Water, One Team!

[www.glwater.org](http://www.glwater.org)

Stay Connected with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA):

