Deborah A. Elam

Deborah (Augustine) Elam is President of the GE Foundation and Chief Diversity Officer for GE. She works at the Corporate Headquarters in Fairfield, CT, and leads efforts globally to bring GE employees closer to their communities while maintaining diversity and inclusiveness as an essential part of GE’s productivity, creativity, innovation and competitive advantage. Elam is a native of New Orleans, LA and an alumna of Ursuline Academy. She received a B.A. degree in sociology at Louisiana State University and a Masters of Public Administration at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA.

Her professional story started over 26 years ago when she worked at GE as an intern while in graduate school. Upon graduation, she joined GE’s Human Resources Leadership Program and had assignments at GE Global Exchange Services and GE Transportation. Upon completion of the training program, Elam was promoted to successively larger human resources roles in GE Consulting Services, GE Capital Mortgage Corp., GE Capital Insurance Services and GE Capital Markets Services. In June of 2000, Elam became Managing Director, Human Resources at GE Capital Commercial Finance and was promoted to Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer in September 2002. In February of 2006, GE’s Board of Directors appointed Elam an officer of the Company, making her one of the most senior women in the Company. Elam expanded her role to lead the GE Foundation in 2013.

The GE Foundation focuses on health, education, and disaster relief. The strategic philanthropic programs draw on GE’s culture of leadership, diversity and inclusiveness and are supported by the ideas, inspiration and generosity of GE employees, who have a strong commitment to their communities.

Elam holds leadership roles in GE’s African American Forum and the GE Women’s Network. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC) – an organization of the top African Americans in Corporate America and the National Black MBA Association.

Outside of work, Elam is on the Board of Advisors of Working Mother Media Multicultural Women’s Initiative and is a past Trustee at her alma mater, Ursuline Academy. She is a member of The Links, Incorporated, Fairfield County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Jack and Jill of America.

Deborah has received numerous awards and has been featured several times, on the cover of The Network Journal Magazine where, in 2005, she was named one of Twenty-five Influential Black Women in Business. She is a recipient of the prestigious EPIC (Enhancing Perceptions in Culture) Award given by The White House Project, the Brava Award given by the YWCA of...
Greenwich, CT to women who are achievers at work and also give back in their communities, and a recipient of the Women of Power Award given by the National Urban League to influential women in the civil rights, government, entertainment, journalism, sports and corporate sectors. Elam resides in Stamford, CT with her family.