

CEO Speaker Series

THURSDAY, September 3, 2015

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

ARTitorium on Broadway, 271 West Broadway, Idaho Falls

A FREE event sponsored by Melaleuca, Inc.

An Afternoon With

Jackie Flowers

General Manager Idaho Falls Power



In 2015, as the City of Idaho Falls looks forward to its sesquicentennial celebration, one historic investment stands out as a cornerstone to shaping our city – the leadership and vision of pursuing a municipal electric system. The citizens of Idaho Falls have benefited from visionary leadership dating back more than a century back to 1900, when the city’s early leaders became pioneers in local energy development. Our city leaders not only made Idaho Falls the first city in Idaho to own and operate its own electric utility, but also the first city anywhere to generate electricity through a hydropower facility on the Snake River.

These early investments succeeded because they were based on sound ideas. City leaders sacrificed to make what was then a significant financial commitment and the city’s utility workers put forth the hard work and dedication to see it through. Building the city’s electric grid over the past century has contributed to the management complexities of our city compared to others in the state. Yet, our electric utility and its infrastructure have served the city well and paved the way for our community to grow and prosper.

Because much of the core infrastructure in our system is more than 50 years old, we understand the need to reinvest in the system. Reinvesting allows us to transition to the kind of infrastructure needed to support future energy opportunities. Significant upgrades to our critical infrastructure continued this past year and will continue in future years. As we upgrade and enhance these assets, we do so with the core planning principles of resilience and security informing every improvement. Just as with early leaders who pioneered our city’s electric system, our commitment to investing in the future will ensure modern, reliable, secure and efficient service to this great community for the next century.



Michelle Holt CEO
Greater Idaho Falls
Chamber of Commerce

One-On-One with Jackie Flowers

“The Chamber is held in high regard in our community. It is an organization with credibility focused on the needs of business. They have been a great partner with Idaho Falls Power”

In preparation for our upcoming CEO Speaker Series Event - An Afternoon with Jackie Flowers, I sat down with Jackie to find out a little more about the first female CEO of Idaho Falls Power.

For the past nine years, Jackie Flowers has served as CEO for Idaho Falls Power, the largest municipal utility in Idaho, and at 115 years is one of the oldest public power utilities in the United States. Idaho Falls Power started in 1900 with its first generator producing hydroelectric power from a canal that was used to power the city streetlights on nights without a full moon. Idaho Falls Power boasts some of the lowest utility rates in the country; less than half the national average for residential power. They are unique in that more than 95 percent of their energy comes from clean energy sources, most predominantly hydroelectric power. For such a small operation, IFP is respected by other larger utilities for its record of innovation. Most notable to local residents is the significant commercial and residential rate decreases they will see later this year when the municipal bond from 1982 that built our hydroelectric dam will be paid in full.

When Jackie Flowers was hired to take over as CEO of Idaho Falls Power, she had several challenges to face. She was the first female to hold that position with the company. Although she was a licensed civil engineer with past infrastructure experience with dams, and in municipal public works, she had not ever managed an electrical utility. Jackie shared with me the story of her first day as she prepared to meet her staff for the first time. Then Mayor Jared Fuhrman handed her the massive set of keys to all of the facilities and said to her “You know you are going to have to earn their respect. How are you going to walk in there and introduce yourself?” Jackie replied confidently “Doughnuts will be involved.”

Nine years later, Jackie has not only earned the respect of her staff, but also her community. Jackie has distinguished herself in her industry, currently serving on the board of directors for Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), which is made up of utilities from 8 western states, as well as on several other industry organizations. Jackie regularly speaks on energy issues and has been asked numerous times to speak about her position as one of very few female utility executives in the country. Recently, Jackie’s daughter was thumbing through the UAMPS annual report and said “Rock on, Mom!” when she noted that Jackie was the only woman amongst the two pages of board members. When I asked Jackie about challenges she may have faced being a female in such a male dominated industry, she replied “It isn’t really something that I have given much thought to in the past. In engineering school the ratio was about 4 to 1 male to female. There have only been a couple of times in my career where the fact that I am a woman has really stood out.” On those rare occasions when her gender has been pointed out, Jackie said stops, confused and then thinks “Oh, yeah. I am a woman.” As a female in any male dominated field, Jackie stated “You have to know your stuff and present in a way that people take you seriously; show you are capable and credible.”

Jackie’s time with Idaho Falls Power has been filled with challenges and changes. “The energy industry is filled with diversity, change and new technology. In order to keep up you have to be open to change. You move. You take risks and you grow.” When I asked Jackie what professional accomplishment she was most proud of she had to really think about it. Finally she replied “Proving myself here in this workforce, in this community. Building relationships.”

I can’t wait for you to hear from Jackie and to ask her your questions. I hope you join us for our CEO Speaker Series – An Afternoon with Jackie Flowers on Thursday, September 3rd.

CEO Speaker Series Presented By:

