

Patricia Gillum Sams

Patricia “Pat” Gillum Sams’ career has taken her on an interesting journey from management in the insurance industry to leading diversity initiatives at an electric, sewer and water company to community organizer. She spent 23 years with State Farm Insurance Companies in Auto and Health Claims as well as Human Resources. She earned numerous professional designations and licenses during her extensive insurance career.

After leaving State Farm in 2006 to be a stay at home mom to her two sons, Pat returned to the work force a few years later as a program manager supporting diversity grants at Florida State College at Jacksonville North Campus. She joined JEA in 2011 as manager of a newly created department, Emerging Workforce Strategies. She currently manages diversity initiatives and acts as a diversity change agent for the company organization where she manages projects and programs that promote employee engagement, foster a culture of inclusion and brands JEA in the community as an employer of choice.

Pat earned her Bachelor of Science in Communications with an emphasis on Broadcast from Florida State University. She has served on numerous boards and held countless leadership roles in organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jack & Jill of America, Inc. the Jacksonville Chapter of The Links, Inc. and The Continental Societies, Inc. She was a founding member of United Way Women in Local Leadership (WILL) and is a recent graduate of the 2021 Leadership Jacksonville Class. Pat was recognized by WJXT and the Graham Media Group at their inaugural Jacksonville Image Awards with the 2020 Trailblazer Award. The award recognized pioneers who inspire others to follow their path to greatness with innovative ideas that challenge the status quo. Pat was recently honored to be named as one of Jacksonville’s 2022 Women with Heart by Volunteers in Medicine.

Pat is the Founder/CEO of The Sistah Covenant, a platform for women of color to empower other women of color. Her podcast launched November 1, 2020; during these challenging times, from pandemic to protest, Pat felt it was important to create a trusted space to provide a platform for powerful and purposed women to connect and encourage authentic dialogue around relevant life topics such as politics, social unrest, finances, spiritual connections, relationships, health, wellness and professional advancement. As Pat began to put plans in motion for the next chapter of her life, she recently retired from JEA in September 2021, and formed The Legacy Group L-A-M, LLC, where she is the CEO/Executive Director of a consulting firm dedicated to corporate and organizational Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: branding, programing, sourcing, professional coaching, learning & development and community engagement. In addition, Pat had the vision to continue her impactful work and take her passion for mentoring young women to the next level, she created The Legacy League, Inc., where she is the Founder/CEO; a leadership development program designed to mentor and empower young professional women of color to positively impact their communities and the world.

Pat married her college sweetheart, Vincent. They have two sons, Austin who is a 2021 graduate of Hampton University and Myles who is a senior at Florida State University; they have been members of The Bethel Church for more than 30 years. ***Pat is a Community Influencer; she is passionate about connecting people with purpose, touching lives and making a difference.*** She has been actively involved in the Jacksonville community for over 35 years.