

## **2023 North Florida District Small Business Advocate of the Year**

Mr. Ken Middleton, AVP - Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Officer, Jacksonville Transportation Authority

*JTA's CEO supported Middleton's efforts in creating and implementing a Small Business Leadership Academy for contractors in Northeast Florida. Each session was presented by subject matter experts, including transportation industry professionals and transit technicians. Throughout the course, over 125 people and 85 businesses participated and were trained or mentored to successfully compete for contracts. The academy was designed to better prepare professional, technical and construction consultants and contractors on critical processes and business development required by the JTA.*

*Middleton understands the benefits of partnerships and collaboration, and as a result, has partnered with local minority and small business support agencies to supplement his programs.*



### **Partnering Agencies Include:**

1. *Jacksonville Urban League;*
2. *CareerSource of Northeast Florida;*
3. *Small Business Development Center at The University of North Florida*
4. *Beaver Street Enterprise Center;*
5. *Jacksonville Job Corps Center*