

Tracie Stafford

Coach and Facilitator



Tracie Stafford has been in the marketing field for over 25 years, holding positions from senior manager and communications officer to president and CEO. She has the unique ability to design and deliver campaign strategies that not only attract attention from the desired market but generate results.

Clients have included entities such as the California Association for Local Economic Development, The California Downtown Association, Ronald MacDonald House Charities, The Magic Johnson Foundation, The Urban League, United Ways of California and Author, Actor and Playwright Brian Copeland, who now holds the record for the longest running one man show in San Francisco history.

Based in California, Tracie has devoted countless hours chairing boards such as The Sacramento Small Business Board and The National Association for Women business owners, among others. She also served on a number of boards including The Birthing Project International and The Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, and was appointed by the Governor to the California Small Business Board.

Tracie resides happily with her husband and three of her four children in Elk Grove, California. Her fourth child, a daughter, is a mass communications specialist in the United States Navy. A fun fact: Tracie also competes Internationally in Mrs. Pageantry for married women, having most recently held the title of Mrs. California Globe 2015 and placed 1st runner up at Mrs. USA Globe 2016.

Raegan A. Carter

Facilitator, Emerge Louisiana Board of Directors



Raegan A. Carter recently started her own public health, public policy, and public affairs think tank, The Brainstorm Agency, LLC. Raegan provides consulting services to non-profit organizations on grant writing and strategic planning as well as other technical assistance. The Brainstorm Agency, LLC also provides public health research, advocacy training, advocacy initiatives, lobbying, and political consulting.

Raegan is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work. She is also a graduate of Tulane University where she obtained both a Master of Social Work degree and a Master of Public Health degree. Raegan has worked on the federal, state, and local levels with adolescent and women's health programs and serves on multiple statewide coalitions. She has extensive knowledge and experience working with public policy and advocacy related to public health and in particular adolescent and women's health, rights, and justice. Recently, Raegan was the voice of the coalition that persuaded East Baton Rouge Parish elected officials to adopt the recent indoor smoking ban. Indoor air pollution has already gone down 98.8%.

As an adjunct professor Raegan enjoys teaching and training and also has extensive knowledge and experience implementing and conducting professional development and trainings in public health related issues. She has also worked on political campaigns that led to successful elections of candidates. Raegan is passionate about adolescent and women's health as well as social and racial justice issues and is particularly interested in health disparities impacting communities of color and working to engage faith leaders in public health advocacy. Raegan is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.

Melanie Oubre

Facilitator, Emerge Louisiana Executive Director



Melanie Oubre joined the Emerge staff in October 2017 as the founding Executive Director of Emerge Louisiana. In her role as Executive Director, Melanie recruits, trains and supports Democratic women who plan to run for office. She directs the day-to-day operations of the organization and carries out Emerge Louisiana's strategic goals.

Melanie brings over nine years of experience in non-profits and political campaigns to the organization. She has a track record of working to elect women candidates and pushing progressive policies in the Deep South.

Born and raised in Southeast Louisiana, Melanie understands the challenges and opportunities of being a Democratic woman in a state still controlled by the good ole' boys club. Today, women comprise just 15 percent of the Louisiana State Legislature. Louisiana has not elected a woman state-wide or sent a woman to Washington, D.C. in a decade.

After Melanie graduated from LSU, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for four years managing grassroots campaigns for an immigration-focused non-profit. Louisiana kept calling her home and in 2016 Melanie took a job with Caroline Fayard's 2016 Campaign as the Deputy Finance Director. More recently, she served as the Development Director for New Leaders Council (NLC), a non-profit devoted to equipping young progressives with the tools they need to enact real change in their communities.

Melanie holds a B.A. in Political Communication from Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication and is currently working toward her Master's Degree in Non-Profit Leadership at the University of New Orleans. She grew up in Metairie, Louisiana and attended Archbishop Chapelle High School.

Melanie serves as Second Vice Chair on the Jefferson Parish Democratic Executive Committee and is an active member of the Louisiana Democratic Party, the Independent Women's Organization of New Orleans (IWO), The League of Women Voters of Louisiana and the Junior League of New Orleans.