



EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN'S COACHING

The Tiara Spotlight

Shining our light on inspiring women around the world.



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How did you end up here? What's your journey been like?

I have a lifelong passion for social justice and youth empowerment and have applied that passion, educationally and professionally. I earned my masters degree from NYU in public administration and have since worked in the nonprofit management field overseeing programs in the areas of afterschool services, youth employment, and juvenile delinquency prevention at Catholic Charities of Brooklyn & Queens and gender specific programming management and executive leadership for Step Up Women's Network. (Whew).

Why are you involved in your business?

My inspiration is drawn from the resiliency of the teen girls our organization serves and our ability to foster that resiliency. In the 7 years that I have been with Step Up Women's Network, I have been able to personally witness the thousands of women and girls' lives that have been transformed by our programs. One such girl is Yosselin, who escaped gang life to become the valedictorian of Kenyon College in Ohio. Girls like Yosselin graduate high school with the experience of an internship and a valuable list of references already on their resume, thanks to our programs. Last year we served over 500 girls. Of our seniors, 100% graduated from high school and went to college. Results like these and resilient women like Yosselin are why I am involved!

How do you recharge your batteries?

Sweating profusely in spinning class; seven minutes of meditation every morning; acupuncture; participating (and winning!!) in NFL football pools, much to the chagrin of the men in my family.

How do your clients benefit from your products/services?

Our nonprofit membership organization ignites women and girls to fulfill their potential. Our teen girls, from underserved communities, receive the instruction and support they need to build a foundation of confidence and succeed in college and in their careers. Our professional female members benefit from being a part of a powerful network of like-minded women dedicated to supporting each other through connections, collaborations and continuous development. Our community benefits from a deep investment in the next generation of girls.

As a woman leader, what are your strengths that help you and your team succeed?

Working for Step Up and being able to attend our professional development events that feature top female leaders affords me the opportunity to learn from the best. After every one of our



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Power Breakfasts and panels, I strive to discuss key take aways from the speaker(s) with my team and implement at least one new practice or philosophy as a leader. A few that stand out include: leverage your innate female qualities like intuition and collaboration, place a high importance on regularly and effectively giving and receiving feedback, take guidance from mentors and do the same for mentees, explore fear as a first step in returning to a place of trusting your own power, recognize that success takes time and is not a straight line, recognize that work/life balance ebbs and flows and you will never figure out a perfect formula, try to be honest because it's the quickest and easiest way to get things done, develop a clear culture and ensure that the people you hire are the ones who will help you succeed, not drag you down, and your Authenticity Is Your Strength – be yourself; everyone else is taken!!

Why are you a member of the Tiara Community?

I was first introduced to Tiara by Tiara's founding partner, Betsy Sobiech, who was a board member for our Step Up Chicago and national offices. My Chicago counterpart raved about the wonderful work that Tiara was doing with our women and girls in Chicago and what an amazing leader they had in Betsy. Luckily, we got a Tiara Chicago transplant in Alison Miller, who has carried the torch of volunteer leadership with Step Up LA's women, girls and even staff. I was able to participate in a Tiara workshop myself, which was incredibly inspiring and all of my staff have followed suit. There are obvious synergies between Tiara and Step Up's work, but it was the dynamic and authentic Tiara coaches that mesmerized and hooked me. I feel very fortunate to have met them and become a part of the Tiara community.