



I-DIEM Announces New Senior Advisor and Program Coordinators to Support Programmatic Growth

TAMPA – APRIL 22, 2022 – The [Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management](#) (I-DIEM) welcomes Michael Antoine, Renee Bennyhoff, and Tennissia Gaines as the organization’s new Senior Advisor and Program Coordinators, respectively. In their respective roles, Antoine, Bennyhoff, and Gaines will work collectively to support significant growth in I-DIEM programs following the launch of I-DIEM’s BUILD Program, and expansion of the Institute’s Equity Response Teams, national HERricane Program, and Lt. General Julius Becton Jr. Scholarship Program.

A New Orleans native with over 20 years of comprehensive public safety experience in homeland security and emergency management, Michael Antoine will serve I-DIEM as a Senior Advisor in addition to his current role as the Director of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness for HCA Healthcare’s Tulane Health System. Antoine has previously served as Chief of Staff of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the City of New Orleans, Deputy Director of New Orleans Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security Liaison and Fire Captain for the New Orleans Fire Department where he has led design, development, and implementation of numerous programs throughout his decorated career. Antoine will be pivotal to the strategic development and implementation of programs from an advisory capacity both the executive and program staff in within his new role.

Renee Bennyhoff and Tennissia Gaines will serve as Program Coordinators in support of program implementation and growth. Bennyhoff has nearly a decade of experience working with nonprofits and advocacy groups serving marginalized populations including clean water initiatives through the Native American Rights Fund and the preservation of history and artifacts for the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. A California native, Bennyhoff received her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in history from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi with an emphasis on Native American Studies and will be supporting I-DIEM’s BUILD Program and organizational program support. Gaines, who will be supporting I-DIEM’s BUILD Program, HERricane Program, and Lt. General Julius Becton Jr. Scholarship Program, comes to I-DIEM with over 20 years of program management experience with expertise in social work, community outreach and engagement, stakeholder relations, human resources, and public assistance. Gaines received her Master of Science (M.S.) in Healthcare Administration and Risk Management from University of Central Florida and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Gerontology from Bethune Cookman University in Daytona, Florida.

“We are extremely excited for the continued growth and development of I-DIEM, and truly value the knowledge and experience that Mike, Renee, and Tennissia will provide not only to I-DIEM, but to the many individuals and communities that we seek to serve through our organizational vision and mission” says Chauncia Willis, I-DIEM Co-Founder and CEO. To learn more about I-DIEM’s newest staff, visit our [Leadership](#) page for full staff bios. For more information on the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management, visit our [website](#).

About the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management

The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management is a 501(c)3, global non-profit organization established to facilitate change by integrating equity into all aspects of emergency management. Our focus is on humanity, and our vision support the empowerment of marginalized communities within all phases of the disaster management cycle.

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