



Spotlight on Raymond W. Suarez, Evaluator for the EngAGEMENT Initiative

“Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make, not only our own happiness, but that of the world at large.”

Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)
India nationalist,
spiritual leader

GIA Annual Conference
Milwaukee, WI
The Pfister Hotel

EngAGEMENT Session
Wednesday, October 25
8:30A-1:00P
Taft-McKinley Room
7th Floor

Most of you reading this are probably familiar with Raymond Suarez. Many probably met him at GIA’s conference last year and/or you may have spoken with him by phone. But, do you understand Raymond’s role in the EngAGEMENT Initiative? Are you aware of his qualifications for the job? Do you know how he intends to evaluate the program? Do you wonder what information Raymond will need in order to conduct a thorough evaluation on which to base his detailed EngAGEMENT report due to The Atlantic Philanthropies?

Meet Raymond Suarez. Raymond has served as the President of Quality Management International, LLC (QMI) since 1992. A graduate of the Harvard Business School, Raymond is a general management consultant who specializes in strategy, venture planning, and organizational development. In addition, Raymond has earned the prestigious rank of Certified Management



Consultant, the consulting profession’s highest standard of competence, professionalism, and ethical conduct.

Before launching his own successful company, Raymond advanced professionally via an array of influential positions:

- Financial Analyst with the First National Bank of Boston
- Economics and Commercial Officer, U.S. Department of State, where he developed and promoted U.S. trade and investment with Nigeria

- Senior planner for New and International Business Development at CBS, Inc.
- Vice President of Broadcast Capital Fund, Inc.

So, how did Raymond Suarez’s career path lead him to GIA’s front door? It all began in the year 2000, when Raymond was consulting for the Andrus Foundation. At that time, John Feather was Director of the Andrus Foundation and President of GIA. It was Dr. Feather who recommended Raymond to work on a 5-year strategic plan for GIA. Raymond continues to consult on several projects with GIA, including EngAGEMENT.

Raymond’s primary role for the EngAGEMENT Initiative is as an external evaluator. In that position, Raymond is responsible for developing procedures and instruments to use in collecting information, analyzing data, comparing performance measures, and reporting findings.

Part two of this series will continue in November.

***“Do what you
can, with what
you have,
where you are.”
Theodore
Roosevelt
(1858-1919)***



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New GIA National Outreach Director



“This position represents an outstanding opportunity for me to launch a new career in philanthropy and yet continue to capitalize on my interest and experience in aging. I am looking forward to getting involved in the world of philanthropy. GIA is a remarkable organization that will provide the ideal setting for me to obtain knowledge within the supportive environment of a skilled, accomplished team. I believe this is going to be an incredible journey!”

Pamela S. Tyler, PhD, has been chosen to fill the position of National Outreach Director for the EngAGEMENT Initiative. Pamela obtained her Masters of Gerontological Studies (MGS) degree from Miami University of Ohio in 1991 and recently completed a doctorate degree in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky. Prior to moving to Lexington, Kentucky, in pursuit of her degree, Pamela was employed for seven years as a nursing home administrator with AdCare Health Systems, Springfield, OH.

For several decades, Pamela has worked with older adults in some capacity. Although her education and experience in aging is varied and extensive, Pam is a newcomer to philanthropy. She views this career change as an exciting new adventure in the field of aging. Pam is looking forward to her role with the EngAGEMENT Initiative. She also is anxious to meet the representatives from the six Regional Associations of Grantmakers attending GIA's Annual Conference in Milwaukee later this month. Look for her there!

The Aging Futures Project

The Aging Futures Project Strategic Plan is a publication that was funded by a grant from the Community Partnerships for Older Adults Initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The project centered on Broome County, New York, but this report may be of interest to those of you in other regions of the country, particularly if one of your focus areas is quality of life and maintaining independence for vulnerable elders.

According to a survey among elders, their caregivers, and community service providers, **ten priority concerns that influence elders' independence** were: caregiver support through transitions; managing chronic illness and staying socially connected; understanding and accessing services; home repair and modification; finding affordable and appropriate housing; legal and financial planning; maintaining health and wellness; mental health; and transportation.

If interested in learning how Broome County outlined a plan to respond to these issues, you can access a copy of this report at www.gobroomecounty.com/agingfutures/pdfs/AgingFuturesStrategicPlan2004.pdf

**Ten
Aging
Concerns**

**The EngAGEMENT Initiative, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, is a pilot program to introduce new funders to aging through a partnership
Between GIA and Regional Associations of Grantmakers**

**EngAGEMENT's National Outreach Director
Pamela S. Tyler, PhD — ptyler@GIAging.org**