



Top Young Professionals

**Under
37**



Nominee: LeAnna Toups-Bennett, CGMP

Membership Category: Government Planner

Employer: Louisiana Department of Education

Chapter: Louisiana

Member Since: 2016

According to Kayla Counts, CGMP, CMP

Who/What influenced you to become involved in the government meeting industry? *I've always had a passion for logistics and planning. I enjoy the behind the scene nitty gritty that makes an event successful, the planning and preparation that takes months and is completed step by step. I had a supervisor once tell me to be a duck – calm on the surface but working frantically for forward progress behind the scene (under the water).*

Share an accomplishment that you are very proud of... *Each summer we host the Teacher Leader Summit. This inspiring event, held annually, brings together educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the upcoming school year. Our event has been successful and grown so tremendously – this year we saw a 60% growth over last year.*

How would you prepare for the future success of the government meeting industry? *The future success of the government meeting industry is in the hands of my generation. As our mentors began the next phases of their lives into retirement, we must diligently push forward. We need to take ownership in this industry while honoring the paths of those before us. Continued networking and relationship building in this industry is critical. It is so easy for my generation to become comfortable behind a screen. We need to step outside of our comfort zones and connect with people in-person. SGMP is a great professional home to facilitate continuance of success in government meeting industry. It is up to us to push each other educationally, professionally, and socially.*

Nominated by Susan Shaffette, CGMP

SGMP Leadership Positions:

1. Chapter Education Program Chair
2. NEC Gilmer Trustee Scholarship Recipient

Community Service:

1. Mighty Moms of Livingston Parish
2. Theatre Baton Rouge (Front of the House)