

Tonya Gayle Bio

Tonya Gayle is Director of the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Career Program. She joined SEO in May, 2002 and serves on the management team for the 22 member staff. Tonya cultivates relationships with corporate and foundation partners, and manages relationships with key national college contacts. She directs recruitment in targeted initiatives such as Black Outreach, Virtual Webinars, e-marketing, and SEO-U. In addition Tonya monitors the selection process for over 3600 applicants and programming for 400 interns each year.

Prior to joining SEO, Tonya was Director of Undergraduate Admissions at School of Visual Arts. Before that, she worked as the Director of Outreach for Regents College where she pioneered a program focusing on populations historically underrepresented in higher education. Her work at Regents College included academic advisement, recruitment, and relationship management with corporate, community, military, and educational leaders. Tonya also worked at the Brooklyn Arts Council (BACA) where she partnered with media professionals and educators to recruit and train high school students throughout Brooklyn to participate in video production workshops.

Tonya holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from Wesleyan University. She is a native of Brooklyn. Her personal interests include mentoring and the role of Associate Producer for the film *The Perfect Life*, a documentary focused on urban youth growing up in Harlem.