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LAGCOE Appoints New Executive Director and Promotes Director of Operations and International Affairs

LAFAYETTE, LA (August 2, 2021) – With the 2021 Executive Summit powered by LAGCOE quickly approaching and the planning for the LAGCOE 2022 upcoming technical exposition starting, the LAGCOE Board of Directors appointed a new LAGCOE Executive Director, Sara Bourque, and promoted Fumy Rita to Director of Operations and International Affairs.

A Louisiana native, Sara graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. After graduation, she worked in Client Relations for a Private Investigation and Security company. She excelled in handling multimillion-dollar insurance clients before transitioning to the Communication and Professional Development Director for the REALTOR® Association of Acadiana. She has spent the past several years in this role handling all public relations, marketing, and events for the association as well as implementing a variety of high-level continuing education programs for members. She was also named President of the Communication Chapter for the UL Alumni Association and resides in Lafayette with her husband, Beau, and two daughters.

Fumy Rita was born in Moscow, Russia, raised in Lisbon, but has roots in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. She graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Master of Science in International Communications in 2020, and a Master of Arts in Francophone Studies in 2017. She joined LAGCOE in 2019 as a Programs Coordinators and helped implement the Energy Leadership Program, revamp the Young Professionals of LAGCOE, and strengthen LAGCOE’s educational efforts.

Both Sara and Fumy will help shape the organization who has embarked in a strategic journey to transform LAGCOE. “I am honored to have the opportunity to lead LAGCOE into the next phase of its esteemed history in the energy sector. I believe with the incredible staff and board of directors this organization is poised for an exciting future focused on innovation and progress.” said Sara Bourque. “I am looking forward to working with Sara on my new role. We have plans to continue expanding LAGCOE while internally rebuilding and externally transforming into a more sustainable and innovative organization which will help drive the economic growth not only of Lafayette, but of the whole energy industry,” said Fumy Rita.

With the stepping down of Angela Cring, who served as Executive Director from 2012 to 2020, the organization has had two Interim Executive Directors (IED), Corinne Sprague, the organization previous Events & Volunteer Coordinator, who served as IED from 2020 to 2021, and Fumy Rita, who served as IED from March until the end of July. Sara is the organization’s fifth Executive Director. Gravel Salmon was LAGCOE's first Executive Director followed by Sally Ware, who directed the organization from 1994 to 2012.

Excelerant, a Lafayette leadership development and human resources consulting company was tasked with publicizing the search for the Executive Director, vetting the applications, and interviewing candidates for the first round. The Board of Directors Search Committee conducted the second-round interviews.

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About LAGCOE

LAGCOE is a nonprofit energy industry organization focused on educational programs and a technical exposition & conference. LAGCOE's mission is to cultivate economic growth of the energy industry by facilitating domestic & global business development and fostering the energy workforce pipeline. LAGCOE's vision is to be a robust, sustainable community of energy companies and volunteers that promotes energy education and awareness, connects businesses with opportunities, and showcases the Gulf Coast's technical innovations to the world. Learn more at LAGCOE.com.

Sara Bourque Picture



Fumy Rita Picture

