

December 2009 - IFMA Sacramento Member Spotlight Michele Laing - CFM

A graduate of Cornell University Michele Laing began her career in Facilities with a formal education by gaining a B.S. in Facilities Management. Since then she has built 15 years of experience in the field by holding multiple positions as a Project Manager, Space Planner, Planning Manager, Real Estate Manager, and Design & Construction Manager. Michele's past and current experience is a great example of the versatility of the Facility industry.

In fact, with the changing economic market conditions over the last few years, she has learned the need to reinvent herself in order to be competitive in the current job market. "I [have] used management skills which I learned while in facilities (budgets, project management, tactical/strategic planning, vendor management, etc.) and adapted them to successfully manage other aspects of business, not just facilities."

She has proven this to be true in her current position with **Response 1** as a Senior Resource Manager/Housing Coordinator. Her responsibilities include recruiting traveling nurses for her clients, as well as managing all aspects of their housing/transportation while they are on assignment. "I enjoy that each day is not the same and I never know what type of challenges I will face each day." Since most of her career has been in managing high tech facilities (labs, data centers, office space, etc.), her current challenge is in becoming familiar with the health care industry. ". . .The opportunity to use my management skills outside of the Facilities arena has helped me expand my knowledge base and will help me tremendously in my future facilities endeavors." Altogether this has allowed her to work closer to her goal of gaining experience managing a diverse portfolio of facilities and becoming capable of understanding all facets of the facilities industry.

Michele's thoughts on IFMA Sacramento: She has enjoyed the time she has spent with IFMA Sacramento and feels that it offers a wonderful opportunity to network with other Facilities Professionals.

Michele's advice for someone new in the industry: "Network, network, network!! Get outside your comfort zone and go out and meet other people in the industry. It is not always WHAT you know, but WHO you know."



Little known facts about Michele: "I love sports...On December 5th, I will participate in the North Face Endurance Challenge which will be held in San Francisco and I will complete a 50k trail race."

Favorite Quote: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit"
– Aristotle.