

**Melissa D. Mason, Ph.D.**

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**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**UNITE HERE, New York, NY /**

**October 2022 - Present**

**UNITE HERE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FUND (UHESF), Washington, DC**

**Program Director**

- Oversees the day-to-day operation of the union's education and support fund including grant awards
- Coordinates affiliate training centers for pursue funding opportunities
- Synthesizes best practices among training centers
- Coordinates the union's LEAD Project, working with an outside educational consulting firm to provide supplemental training to rank-and-file union leaders
- Manages and executes a variety of training and recruitment projects for the union

**NEW HAVEN WORKS, New Haven, CT**

**June 2015 - September/2022**

**Executive Director**

- Report to the Board of Directors, and is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives by building, maintaining, and establishing relationships with board members, community partners, collaborating organizations, and leaders in business, industry, and government
- Oversee all program development and administration, directs the management of all staff and policies and procedures, and directly supervises senior staff
- Provide leadership in developing and executing programmatic, organizational and financial plans with the Board of Directors and staff
- Maintain official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations
- Publicize the activities of the organization, its programs and goals
- Meet and maintain relationships and collaborations with leaders in the non-profit, labor, business, local government, and workforce communities, as well as consultants and government agencies

**UNITE HERE AT YALE, New Haven, CT**

**March 2012 – June 2015**

**Strategic Researcher**

- Provided leadership and strategic vision to union leadership on public policy and campaign strategy
- Researched and led campaigns and special projects
- Trained and led rank-and-file members in union campaign research
- Trained rank-and-file members to be effective union spokespeople
- Planned and implemented effective press strategies to complement campaigns
- Developed and enforced the local unions' document retention policy

**UNITE HERE International Union, Washington, D.C. & Philadelphia, PA**

**July 2008 – February 2012**

**Organizer**

- Led a team of organizers in an internal union election campaign for Philadelphia public school cafeteria workers
- Recruited and trained rank-and-file leaders in Philadelphia's gaming and university food service industries to organize and strengthen the union in their workplaces
- Recruited and trained rank-and-file leaders in a campaign to win union recognition at the Gaylord Convention Center in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area

**BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

**Dixwell Community Q-House Advisory Committee, New Haven, CT**  
Chair, Operations Committee

**January 2020 - Present**

**Connecticut Education and Training Commission, Weathersfield, CT**  
Service Delivery and Design Committee

**November 2016 –  
December 2018**

**New Haven Charter Revision Commission, New Haven, CT**  
**EDUCATION**

**January 2013 – November  
2013**

**YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven, CT**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and African American Studies

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, MD (*cum laude*)**  
Bachelor of Arts in Honors Government and Politics, Minor in Sociology