META-LEADER OF THE YEAR 2020

ALYSSA CARRIER, CFM
CEO, AC Disaster Consulting

The National Preparedness Leadership Initiative is proud to announce the recipient of its 2020 Meta-Leader of the Year Award, Alyssa Carrier, a member of NPLI Executive Education Program Cohort 16, 2017-2018.

Ms. Carrier is the founding Chief Executive Officer of AC Disaster Consulting, ACDC, which she established shortly after participation in the NPLI program. When Hurricane Michael hit Florida in October 2018, ACDC contracted with the City of Mexico Beach, 90% destroyed in the disaster. From 5 employees in January 2019, the company a year later had 12 employees and now has 84. The company is woman-owned and led with a commitment to diversity.

Alyssa is a sought-after management consultant, entrepreneur and civic leader who serves as a strategic advisor and counselor to leaders at Federal and State-level organizations. She is called on to lead projects and assemble teams to provide program expertise and compassionate guidance before, during and after a disaster.

Since founding the company two and half years ago, ACDC has seen incredible growth - 675% and rising – along with the formation of eight divisions serving multiple sectors in the emergency management realm. This is a true testament to her natural ability to engage and inspire – her leadership has been instrumental in hiring, retaining, and building a highly visible and respected young firm. She takes pride in hiring individuals who have worked and lived through disasters and thus, approach their work through the eyes of those affected by a disaster. Alyssa’s diverse industry experience has shown her that emergencies impact communities physically, emotionally, and financially. Her company’s core values - “Competent. Caring. Connected” - were established with the goal of helping whole communities prepare, recover, and rebuild a better, more resilient future in the wake of a disaster. Her ambition was to create an emergency management consulting firm built on diversity.

In nominating Alyssa, Jim Andrews, a prior NPLI Meta-Leader of the Year recipient, wrote, “Alyssa is proving herself to be an accomplished, confident and inspiring leader. The business growth speaks for itself, but I have been extremely impressed watching her grow a new company with very clear values. The feedback from her team is extremely positive and I believe that she displays true meta-leadership in the way she is rapidly growing the company. Growth alone is not enough, she is passionate about making a difference on many fronts. She pledged from day one to give back to the communities her firm serves. Since inception, Alyssa has voiced the importance of giving back to the community through existing organizations like Scott Schoenthal's Circle of Love, after losing a dear friend to Cancer and The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado, and has taken action in numerous ways to support these foundations. She has made a concerted effort to expand ACDC’s philanthropic reach by highlighting causes and/or
organizations that are important to her as well as to her employees. ACDC also supported the Pulse Foundation, and provided Christmas presents to families who had lost their job due to Covid-19. She has also just been appointed to be on the Board of The Colorado Healing Fund. Their mission is to assist local communities with the financial, emotional and physical needs of victims of mass tragedies that occur in the state of Colorado.”

Since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, Alyssa has served as a Project Manager & Strategic Advisor for the Florida Division of Emergency Management State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Coronavirus/COVID-19 Response. In this role, she has been instrumental in spearheading the COVID response and recovery for the State of Florida and the Governor’s Office through planning, logistics, operations and financial leadership. Under her guidance, ACDC staff have embedded as a dedicated on-scene and remote support team for co-response, non-congregate sheltering, and testing and vaccination operations.

Additionally, in the middle of the COIVD-19 response, multiple wildfires raged through Oregon in what is most likely the costliest disaster in the state’s history. In the days following the wildfire, Oregon officials asked Alyssa to advise the response and recovery team. Oregon had over $1 billion of damage and an estimated 5 million cubic yards of debris. The State appointed her as an advisor to the Debris Management Task Force. She now has a team of over 20 staff working with the state on their recovery.

Alyssa has provided a trusted link for connecting silos of Federal, State, local and business agencies and organizations, and has pushed for new approaches to problem-solving at each of these levels to bring a coordinated, collective approach to combat COVID. Her perpetual enthusiasm and natural ability to connect resources – both tangible and intangible – has helped drive collaborative, cross-functional decision-making at every level.

Alyssa’s persistence, natural ability to build and retain relationships, and inventive, outside-the-box thinking, has been a major driving force in the struggle to wrestle a national pandemic while simultaneously aiding with devastating concurrent disasters. For these reasons and more, the NPLI believes that Ms. Carrier exemplifies the character, work, and accomplishments appropriate to Meta-Leader of the Year.

On the personal front, Alyssa climbed Kilimanjaro in November 2018, went sky diving in Dubai in April 2019, ran a 50-mile race in the mountains in Steamboat Springs in 2019 (following knee surgery) and then got married in Iceland in Feb-2020.

To Alyssa from the NPLI: Congratulations!