



Biography

In 2005, after being selected out of over a million applicants, Tara Dowdell had the distinction of competing for a job with real estate mogul Donald Trump on the third season of the hit reality show "The Apprentice." This accomplishment typifies her career, which is marked by her ability to "defy the odds."

Emboldened by this experience, Ms. Dowdell resolved to follow her lifelong dream of starting her own business. In early 2006, she started The Tara Dowdell Group, LLC, a marketing consulting firm specializing in positioning businesses and organizations to compete more effectively for government and private sector resources. Through an integrated strategy consisting of relationship building, strategic planning and public relations, Ms. Dowdell assists her clients in growing their businesses.

In addition to her consulting services, Ms. Dowdell is a prolific public speaker. She has spoken before several prestigious organizations and institutions such as the National Urban League, the Federal Executive Board Women In Government Committee, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Emerging Leaders Program, the State University of New York and Douglas College. She also teaches a very popular class for the Learning Annex. The class, which enjoys a 98% satisfaction rating, focuses on effective strategies for accessing government resources such as grants, low interest loans and free services. Additionally, she serves as a consultant to New York Yankees star, Derek Jeter's youth leadership program "Jeter's Leaders." In this capacity, she works with the students in the program on enhancing their presentation and interviewing skills.

Ms. Dowdell has an extensive background in government having previously served as a Senior Manager of Government and Community Relations for the Port Commerce Department, the international shipping arm of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Always a trailblazer, she was the first African American to serve in this capacity. In this position, she was responsible for managing the government and public relations strategy for a multi-billion-dollar port redevelopment program.

Prior to joining the Port Authority, Ms. Dowdell served as Director of Appointments in the Office of the New Jersey Governor. She was appointed to this position in 2002, at age 25, making her the youngest person and the first African American to serve in this high level capacity. In her role as Director of Appointments to then Governor James E. McGreevey, Ms. Dowdell was primarily responsible for overseeing the selection, nomination and appointment of individuals to over 550 statewide boards and commissions from the Real Estate Commission to the State Parole Board.

Ms. Dowdell has a wealth of political experience. She has worked on numerous political campaigns in various capacities. Most notably, she worked on the historic 2000 Presidential campaign in the State of Florida. Additionally, she served as the Director of

New Jersey Women Vote, a two month issue advocacy campaign for Emily's List, one of the largest fundraising PAC's in the country. She began her career in government working for Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

Aside from her work in State Government, Ms. Dowdell is very active in her community. She is a trustee on the board of the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey and volunteers with several community organizations. Her community involvement and activism have been recognized by the New York Times, the NAACP, and the Political Action Committee, BALLOT, to name a few. Additionally, Ms. Dowdell has been featured in several newspapers and magazines including Black Enterprise Magazine, TV Guide, the New Jersey Star Ledger, Garden State Woman Magazine, the Amsterdam News and the Home New Tribune.

Ms. Dowdell is a graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in Government and a concentration in Minority Group Politics.