



**PGA REACH
Rachel Melendez Mabee/PGA WORKS Specialist**

Rachel Melendez Mabee brings more than 15 years of experience in responsible for oversight and overall execution of PGA REACH's diversity and inclusion program, PGA WORKS. In addition to serving as an integral part of internal and external communication efforts for all PGA REACH activities, Mabee's main role is to help lead the charge for PGA WORKS. The program's mission is to establish a deep bench of diverse talent prepared to ascend to key employment industries in the game and business of golf.

Mabee was born and raised in Puerto Rico, and her early love and skill for golf was instilled in her by her one and only teacher: her late father. From a young age, Mabee aspired to play professional golf, and if she didn't make it on the LPGA TOUR, she knew she would work on the business side of the game.

Mabee was an accomplished junior golfer and went on to play at the collegiate level at Penn State and the University of Georgia. After college, Mabee worked at a boutique public relations firm until she got the itch to be back in golf. She joined the First Tee of East Lake in Atlanta working on the development of junior girls golf programming. During her time at the First Tee, Mabee and her colleague qualified for Golf Channel's Big Break, a reality TV competition against other aspiring golf professionals. Following her appearance on the Big Break, Mabee continued to try her hand at playing professionally at a variety of local events.

In 2010, Mabee made a career switch from the First Tee of East to working on the 2011 and 2013 PGA Championships and in August 2017, she found her true calling working for PGA REACH serving as an ambassador to drive diversity and inclusion within the industry and grow the game.

Personally, and professionally, the golf industry is ingrained in Mabee's life. Her husband is a PGA member and Head Golf Professional at the Country Club of Pittsfield. Golf is their business and a sport they enjoy playing together. She feels lucky to help make a difference in young professional's lives through the game of golf.