

Karene A Putney

President

Etiquette Etiquette Foundation

Karene A. Putney serves as President of the Etiquette Etiquette Foundation, where she leads efforts to prepare youth and emerging adults for college, internships, employment, and professional life. Her work focuses on helping young people develop the confidence and practical skills to enter unfamiliar settings, communicate effectively, and pursue opportunities with a stronger sense of readiness.

Originally from Black River, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, Karene immigrated to the United States as a child. Her experience navigating a new culture informs her belief that young people benefit from clear guidance about professional expectations and meaningful opportunities to practice what they learn. She places youth voice at the center of the Foundation's approach, beginning with listening and building programs that respond to young people's goals.

Karene is a graduate of The Protocol School of Washington and founded Etiquette Etiquette®, a separate professional training business, in 2019. Her professional experience includes instruction in business etiquette, executive presence, dining etiquette, and intercultural awareness. She brings that background to the Foundation's work with youth ages 15–24 in Washington, DC, and Prince George's County, Maryland.

Through the development of the Opportunity Readiness Academy™, Karene is building a pathway that connects professional communication and conduct with career exploration and real-world practice. She also leads planning for the Foundation's Diplomatic Spring Ball™, envisioned as a capstone experience where young people can apply their learning in a formal setting. Her work includes developing relationships with educators, employers, community organizations, and professionals who can broaden students' exposure to future possibilities.

Karene's background in victim services and case management further shapes her emphasis on dignity, attentive listening, and respectful engagement. As a mother and community advocate, she is committed to helping young people feel heard, recognize their strengths, and prepare to participate confidently in the opportunities ahead of them.