

Karinda L. Washington
Chief of Staff, Office of Partnership and Engagement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Karinda L. Washington currently serves as Chief of Staff for the Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) within the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Prior to this position, Ms. Washington served as an External Affairs Specialist in DHS's Private Sector Office. In these positions, she manages the operational complexities of OPE, the DHS Loaned Executive Program and Exemplar training with industry pilot program, and advises DHS components on public-private partnerships.

Ms. Washington established the DHS Loaned Executive Program in 2011 as a best practice—advising leadership throughout the interagency on how to implement the program within their respective departments. The Loaned Executive Program provides an opportunity for private sector subject matter experts from varying industries to serve in a unique capacity on temporary rotation or sabbatical to DHS. As a result of the Loaned Executive Program's overwhelming success, Ms. Washington led the effort to establish Exemplar—a training with industry program that will allow federal employees to be detailed to private sector entities for training purposes using the Government Employees Training Act of 1958. Due to the success of these programs she received the DHS Innovator of the Year award.

Prior to joining DHS, Ms. Washington served 10 years and held multiple positions for Michigan Legal Services in Detroit, Michigan. The organization provides free legal assistance to deserving families facing mortgage and property tax foreclosure. During her tenure, she provided public relations guidance to the Property Tax Foreclosure Prevention Project, meeting with local public officials and attracting financial support to keep over 10,000 families in their homes.

Ms. Washington is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in English: Written Communication and Wayne State University where she received a master's degree in Communication: Public Relations and Organizational Communication. In her spare time she is a volunteer enthusiast, currently serving as a communications strategist for RESTORE Northeast Detroit #CreateNED—a grassroots organization dedicated to rebuilding Detroit's north eastside where she was raised.