

Kimone Gooden hails from Portmore, Jamaica where she attended Immaculate Conception high school; before emigrating to the United States to attend Stanford University. She currently resides in Northern California where she works in Silicon Valley.



Kimone has served as Chair of Stanford's Caribbean Student Association, President of the Jamaica Association of Northern California, and on the Nor Cal Caribbean Heritage Month committee. She has been involved in numerous projects supporting Jamaica and the Caribbean, most notably orchestrating the donation of a Mammogram machine to the Cornwall Regional hospital in Montego Bay and supporting the donation and installation of key medical technology infrastructure projects in Haiti after the earthquake. She is most recently the Co-Founder of Wholesome Jamaica, a social enterprise committed to food security by supporting Jamaican agro-business'. It is the first and only online retailer of exclusively Product of Jamaica foods.

In addition to her commitment to Jamaica and the Caribbean, she serves on the board of Future Women Leaders, a Bay Area non-profit committed to developing emerging women leaders. Also as Citizen Teacher for Citizen Schools, an organization focused on closing the achievement gap in low income middle schools by expanding the learning day; And has mentored professional immigrants through Upwardly Global, a non profit that provides workforce integration support for under-employed professional Immigrants.

In 2014 she was awarded Obama's Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Kimone:

I am deeply committed to the economic and social development of Jamaica and the Region. Current Census figures show that there are more Jamaicans living outside of Jamaica than in Jamaica. Remittances and Tourism combined contribute to more than half of the Jamaican economy. As members of the Diaspora we have an extraordinary collective opportunity to positively and significantly impact Jamaica's development. We are a highly committed and deeply invested pool of infinite resources, experience and knowledge, that is unfortunately largely untapped.

In this position, I would commit to doing three things:

1. Create a pipeline that directly connects Committed Jamaicans overseas with the specific resource needs (beyond financial) of organizations in Jamaica. And profile the great work of the many Jamaicans doing extraordinary things for Jamaica every day.
2. Partner with the government to remove the many barriers and policies that inhibit ventures led by the Diaspora from flourishing or even sometimes starting. And create opportunities for Jamaicans overseas who wish to offer their expertise or participate, to do so.
3. Expand the awareness and reach of the Diaspora Movement with local Diaspora Ambassadors that will invite and enroll as many Jamaicans' as possible to join the movement.

It would be my honor to serve.