

Kenitra Keeney currently works at Washington State University (WSU), as a General Manager with Dining Services. Her immediate responsibilities include the supervision of 150 student employees, 13 professional staff, and three administrative professional managers. She is responsible for overseeing a \$2M budget and serves approximately 1.5K customers daily. She has organized and collaborated with cultural RSOs to host events such as Dia de los Muertos, Lunar New Year, and Diwali. In addition to working and serving students, she also co-founded two programs, the Crimson and Gold Conversations and Connect with Kay. The first program consists of black professional women who educate and connect with faculty, staff, and students about the professional development needs of black women at primary white institutes. The second program provides foster youth and homeless student populations, typically first generation, an opportunity to work through the obstacles and the unknowns of the matriculation process, including post-graduation employment preparation. In addition to her primary responsibilities and programing, she serves on the Police Advisory Board, Administrative Professional Advisory Council, and Black Faculty and Staff Association.

Kenitra has worked at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, where she assisted with summer conferencing and onboarding, creating diverse menu offerings, and the diversification of the student employment staff. Kenitra has also worked at Ohio State University and the University of Dayton. Prior to joining higher education, she served as a Captain in the United States Air Force as a Security Forces officer.

Academically, she attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, an HBCU, majoring in Criminal Justice. As an undergraduate she helped co-found "Parents in Crisis" through the Florida A&M Juvenile Justice Association. This program collected and connected legal aid and resources for parents with incarcerated youth. She earned her M.A. in Management from Antioch McGregor and is currently working on a Doctorate in Education.

Kenitra spent most of her childhood years growing up in New Mexico and longs to return to the Land of Enchantment where she can give back to the community. Additionally, the University of New Mexico has shown a strong commitment to meeting the needs of the student population arriving by 2050 which is unique in academia. As a black, woman, first-generation, foster youth, and veteran she looks forward to contributing to the Lobos' village and vision.