

About Karen Kaler

Karen F. Kaler is a University Associate at the University of Minnesota. As the President's spouse she coordinates a wide variety of social and educational events, both at Eastcliff, the Presidential residence, and elsewhere.

She is heavily engaged in undergraduate life, including serving regularly on an Undergraduate Awards Selection committee. Ms. Kaler also speaks regularly during the summer to the parents of new students as they arrive at the University for orientation. She joined with two other researchers in an extensive study of the roles of the spouses of higher education leaders, and presented the results at national meetings.

Ms. Kaler is focused on improving the environment for women on campus. She initiated an effort to produce maroon and gold hijabs for Muslim women to be sold at the University's bookstore. This successful program won the University's Eugene Allen Award for Innovative International Initiatives. She has arranged a series of lectures (Women, Wine and Wise Words) at Eastcliff that provides an opportunity for female faculty members to present their research to friends and supporters of the University.

Ms. Kaler volunteers weekly at the University's Masonic Children's Hospital. She is also a critically important part of the University of Minnesota Foundation's development and fundraising work, and serves on many planning and event organizing committees.

Ms. Kaler received her bachelor's degree in Communication Design from the University of Tennessee, where she also took graduate course work.

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