

Bio: Janine Fondon



Janine Fondon is a writer, educator, and speaker, who brings her New York spirit, Caribbean lineage, and Massachusetts mindset (with Southern exposure) to the boardroom, living room, and classroom. Janine has used her communication skills to build bridges of inclusion in corporations and communities. Her work on diversity councils and leadership teams has focused on raising unheard voices and inspiring change through effective communication.

She has worked for several corporations (ABC-TV, CBS-TV, BankBoston) and co-founded her own company, UnityFirst.com, to share diversity-related news. As an MFA candidate at Bay Path University, where she is Chair of Undergraduate Communications, Janine inspires women and communities to make new history. She curated a museum exhibit, Voices of Resilience, once shown the Springfield Museums to highlight women, women of color, and changemakers worldwide and founded the On the Move Program to Advance Women, which celebrated its five years of engaging over 1,000 women.

In 2020, Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts presented the historic (since 1915) William Pynchon Medal to Janine for her distinguished service to the community. In 2021, she received the 2021 Difference Maker Award from BusinessWest. "I hope to inspire the next generation to continue learning about the past through history, raise their voices to make positive change in the present and create a future that sustains equity, justice and inclusion with bridges of peace and productivity."