

I first met Paullette through the American Chamber of Commerce of Dakar (AmCham) in 2008 where she presented a program on Corporate Etiquette, a first for Senegal and AmCham. Soon after, she established the Junior Ambassador Teen Leadership Program (JATLP), a phenomenal training program targeting youth. Paullette served as director and trainer. This was also the first ever course in Senegal for teens.

Additionally, I attended a number of events that Paullette took on as an events planner. All events were well organized and just plain fun because of the activities she designed. Paullette is very dynamic as a speaker, and thorough and attentive to details. All programs she organized or planned were a success. One of my favorite programs is JATLP where teens were thoroughly trained in the four areas of protocol : Social, Corporate, Diplomatic and Cultural, and were required to execute their knowledge of each in the presence of the highest levels of authority such as Ambassadors, U.S. and Foreign Secretaries, Dignitaries and Corporate Executives. At the end of the training, Paullette invited the dignitaries from the diplomatic and corporate community to test the knowledge acquired by the youth.

As a former Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of State for African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State (1994-1997) and Chief of Party for a USAID program in Senegal, I served as a judge to determine if the teens should receive their graduation certificates. It was so enjoyable and I was impressed with the seriousness that the youth took in their studies with Paullette. Her program gave the kids a chance to appreciate the role of diplomacy and protocol and standards of leadership so that they had a better understanding of the concept and complexity of tasks that their parents and others take on in the international arena. The hands on training was as sophisticated as that offered by State for new Foreign Service personnel. I would have been grateful for that training when I started as a DAS.

The Junior Ambassador Teen Leadership Program planned numerous events for the U.S. Embassy and USAID. In 2009 and 2010, the Program hosted the first two Teen Christmas Parties for the U.S. Foreign Service and Foreign Service Nationals (FSN) community teens, as an educational cultural exchange. The Program also hosted two "Welcome to Dakar" events, one was strictly for teens recently associated with the U.S. Embassy and later hosted an event for new incoming U.S. Embassy and USAID families. All events were attended and supported by the American Ambassador. Finally, the Junior Ambassadors hosted the first Teen IFTAAR, which is the breaking of the Ramadan Fast.

I enjoyed working with Paullette and attending events she organized because she is very professional and an outstanding leader who sees the potential of youth. I welcome the opportunity to work with her anytime. I would use her for any events I needed to have organized in the future as well.

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