

2015 ALUMNI FELLOW

Keith R. Karako '76 Bus



Keith R. Karako is the global head of trade finance for Citigroup, providing short term, cross-border financing for the bank's international and regional overseas clients. In addition, Karako heads Citi's Global Trade Deal approval process.

In 36 years with Citigroup, Karako's assignments have included asset-based and leverage finance, restructuring advisory and financing, portfolio management, and trade finance. For more than 10 years, Karako was the bank's senior lender to the North American steel industry. In his current role, Karako's group; provides domestic and cross-border financing to facilitate commercial trade. Karako has chaired the Commercial Finance Association, an industry trade group; represented a non-governmental organization to the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law; and was an advisor to the World Bank regarding secured lending for developing countries.

Karako's global experience has given him a deep appreciation of foreign cultures, especially the value of multi-cultural knowledge and the need for effective communication skills when conducting business. This led Karako to support academic programs in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State. He serves on the College's Development Council, currently as the vice chair; the Global Initiatives Task Force; and as guest lecturer and student mentor. He also serves on the University's Stewardship Committee and Endowment Standards and Gift Strategies Task Force. Karako has created a Trustee Scholarship and Graduate Endowment in Liberal Arts and has funded programs in Asian Studies and the International Center for the Study of Terrorism.

Karako is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association. He resides in both Ridgefield, Conn. and State College, Pa.