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For additional information contact:

C. Scott Cooper, Director of Engagement & Communication
scooper@bushfoundation.org
651.379.2219

BUSH FOUNDATION SELECTS 28 NATIVE NATIONS REBUILDERS

(Saint Paul, MN – February 16, 2010)—Emerging Native leaders representing 14 tribes comprise the first cohort of **Native Nations Rebuilders**, a program launched by the Bush Foundation in late 2009.

The group of 28 emerging and experienced leaders met in Shakopee, MN, last week for the first of four seminars in 2010. One participant in the gathering said, “This is the right thing at the right time.” Over two years, the Rebuilders will participate in seminars to strengthen their leadership skills and nation-building knowledge so they may be instrumental in moving their nations, in cooperation with elected leadership, toward realization of their tribes’ unique goals.

The Rebuilders program is a response to the elected leaders of the [23 Native nations](#) the Foundation serves, who said that partnering with other emerging and existing Native leaders will be crucial to the success of their nations over the long term.

“It’s a potentially powerful combination for elected tribal leaders to have the support of others in their nations who not only share their commitment to nation-building but have also committed to deepening their leadership skills,” said Jaime Pinkham (Nez Perce), Bush Foundation vice president and Native nations team leader. “While the Foundation is still learning about Native self-determination, thanks to our long-standing fellowship programs, we know something about how to support emerging and existing leaders in strengthening their skills. We’re excited about the caliber of this first group of leaders who stepped forward to be Rebuilders.”

The Rebuilders include 14 women and 14 men, ranging in age from 26 to 65, and have careers in such diverse fields as tribal and state government service, tribal college administration, law, nonprofit management, natural resource management, and health care. Four of the Rebuilders are Bush Leadership Fellows. The Rebuilders’ names, tribal affiliations and bios are available at www.bushfoundation.org.

Rebuilders make a significant commitment. They agree to participate consistently in ongoing activities throughout the two-year period, to actively share knowledge with peers and with their respective nations’ governments, and to develop and implement nation-building action plans.

The Rebuilder trainings are led by national experts on Native self-determination from the [Native Nations Institute](#) and the [Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development](#). Both organizations are dedicated to using various economic and nation-building methods to assist Native nations in realizing their political, economic and community development objectives.

In 2011, this cohort of Rebuilders will implement the action plans created in the 2010 trainings and engage in practical nation-building efforts within their communities. As the program evolves, each cohort of Rebuilders will also serve as mentors for subsequent Rebuilder cohorts.

Applications will reopen in August 2010 for the second cohort of Rebuilders. The Foundation plans to form nine cohorts of Rebuilders between 2010 and 2018.

The Foundation's support of Native self-determination in the 23 tribes that share the geography of Minnesota and the Dakotas is one of its [Goals for a Decade](#). The 23 nations are:

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Cheyenne River Sioux	Rosebud Sioux
Crow Creek Sioux	Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Flandreau Santee Sioux	Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Spirit Lake Nation
Grand Portage Band of Chippewa	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Three Affiliated Tribes – Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation
Lower Brule Sioux	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Lower Sioux Community	Upper Sioux Community
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	White Earth Band of Ojibwe
Oglala Sioux	Yankton Sioux
Prairie Island Indian Community	

*The **Bush Foundation** was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. The Foundation strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, and in the 23 Native nations that share the same geography, by investing in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in these three states.*

Since 2008, the Bush Foundation has been pursuing its Goals for a Decade—to develop courageous leaders and engage entire communities in solving problems, to support the self-determination of Native nations and to increase educational achievement. (For more information about Goals for a Decade, visit www.bushfoundation.org.)

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