

Dwight Gourneau to Serve on Bush Foundation Board

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For Immediate Release

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Saint Paul, Minnesota (March 3, 2004)— On March 2, 2004, the Bush Foundation Board of Directors elected Rochester, Minn. resident Dwight Gourneau to a three-year term to begin May 1, 2004. Gourneau, a 1990 Bush Leadership Fellow, is a consultant who works in the areas of information technology services, economic development and education. Retired after 27 years as an engineer and manager for the IBM Corporation in Rochester, Gourneau currently serves as Board chair of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Private College Council.

Gourneau, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa from North Dakota, has long been active in encouraging and assisting young American Indians to pursue education and careers in science, engineering, mathematics and business. He originally planned to use his 1990 Bush Fellowship to study total quality management principles, but after completing his master of science degree in manufacturing systems engineering, he realized his long-term goals had changed. He retired early from his job at IBM in 1992 to serve as deputy director for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), where he had been an active volunteer for many years. In 1994, AISES recognized Gourneau with the Ely S. Parker Award for his lifetime professional and service achievements.

Gourneau has also served on the Board of the American Association of Engineering Societies and the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering for the National Science Foundation.

From 1993 to 1997, he helped develop Uniband, Inc., a computer services company wholly owned by the Turtle Mountain Chippewa of North Dakota, by serving as executive vice president and leading the business development for the corporation. Today he is president of NAMTech, Inc., a consulting company specializing in information technology services, business development and project management.

In addition to bachelor degrees in electrical engineering and physics and a masters of science degree in manufacturing systems engineering, Gourneau received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Michigan in recognition of his public service.

Gourneau replaces retiring board member W. Richard West, the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Continuing members of the Bush Foundation Board include William Pierskalla (Chair), Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson, Ivy Bernhardson, Shirley Clark, Wilson Bradshaw, Dudley Cocke, Roxanne Givens Copeland, Steven Goldstein, Robert Jones, Diana Murphy, Catherine Piersol, Gordon Sprenger, Kathryn Tunheim and Ann Wynia.

The Bush Foundation is a private, independent grantmaker serving Minnesota and North and South Dakota with major programs in arts and humanities, education, human services and health, ecological health and fellowships to develop leaders, artists and physicians. Established 50 years ago by Archibald and Edyth Bush, its mission is to strengthen organizational, community and individual leadership. Across its grantmaking programs and in a variety of ways, the Foundation has a special interest in creating opportunities for people who may lack them.