

Bush Foundation Selects 20 Leadership Fellows for 2004

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St. Paul, Minnesota (May 14, 2004)—Fifteen Twin Cities-area residents are among the 20 individuals in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota to receive Bush Fellowships for 2004. The fellowships support full-time study in academic or self-designed educational programs. The program's goal is to help individuals at mid-career prepare for greater leadership responsibilities and enhanced contributions to their communities.

The fellowships announced by the Bush Foundation today will support study in a wide range of fields, including international development, youth theatre, Native American language and culture preservation, green infrastructure for urban areas, children's health care, homelessness, nonprofit community television and public service. The fellows include one Minnesota Legislator, Senator Sheila M. Kiscaden of Rochester, who will study at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England.

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—MINNEAPOLIS AND SUBURBS

Vickie L. Allen, Eden Prairie—Allen plans to obtain a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In the future, she intends to "act as a catalyst to stimulate career planning, economic prosperity and service projects for girls age 8 to 17 while playing a key role in policy formation for girls in economically challenged environments in Minnesota." Allen serves as the membership director for the Girl Scout Council of the St. Croix Valley.

Kathryn J. Haddad, Minneapolis—Haddad works as an English teacher in the Bloomington public school system and is also a playwright and founder of Mizna, one of the premier Arab American cultural organizations in the country. She plans to obtain a master's

degree in public affairs at the University of Minnesota. She envisions becoming a leader and political advocate in the national and local Arab American community. "I have worked and will continue to work to create a realistic understanding of the Arab community."

Catherine A. ten Broeke, Minneapolis—ten Broeke is the principal assistant to Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman. Her fellowship goal is to "influence public policy as an elected or appointed government official to end homelessness." She will obtain a master's degree in public affairs at the University of Minnesota and conduct interviews and site visits with people working to end homelessness. Her education plan includes an internship at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Tsultim K. Tsaogong, Minneapolis—Tsaogong will obtain a specialist's degree in educational leadership and an administrative licensure at the University of St. Thomas, after which it is his goal to become the principal of a public high school. A Tibetan born and raised in India, Tsaogong is associate principal at Abraham Lincoln High School in Minneapolis where 99 percent of students are new immigrants and refugees whose native language is not English. "I want to help make the educational experience better for all students but especially new Americans."

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—ST. PAUL

Mark A. Bellcourt, Saint Paul—Bellcourt is an advisor to students in the General College at the University of Minnesota. He plans to complete an Ed.D. in higher education policy and administration from the Leadership Academy at the University of Minnesota so he may pursue a higher education leadership role within the Native American community. "I want to help others overcome their own obstacles and achieve their educational goals."

Brendan G. Fairbanks, Saint Paul— Fairbanks will pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Minnesota. He is actively involved in the Ojibwe Language Society and as a hoop dancer and singer in a pow-wow drum group. He wants to "combat the issues of language death and language stabilization by serving as a language/linguistics consultant to American Indian communities and tribal entities." Fairbanks is program director of Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center, an emergency shelter for Native American youth.

Jeffrey N. François, Saint Paul— François is the managing director

of marketing and community research of Musictech College. In preparation for a career as an elected or appointed government official, he will obtain a master's degree in public administration at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. "Over the past decade, I have become a vehement advocate for the importance of active citizenship in sustaining a thriving democracy."

Mary R. Hauck, North Oaks— With a goal of improving health care delivery for children, Hauck plans to study innovative care models at children's health institutions and gain leadership skills through a self-directed study program. "This fellowship will give me experience and greater credibility to influence and improve care delivery for children in Minnesota." She is the current system director for children's health services with the Fairview Health System.

Seitu Kenneth Jones, Saint Paul— Jones is a freelance visual artist who has created several public artworks in the Twin Cities area. He will obtain a master's degree in liberal studies with an emphasis on horticulture sciences at the University of Minnesota. With this new knowledge he plans to create green sanctuaries for inner-city neighborhoods. "I want to increase my knowledge of combining art and nature so I can truly leave my community more beautiful than I found it." Jones was a Bush Artist Fellow in 1992.

Katheren M. Koehn, Saint Paul— A nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Koehn will obtain a master's degree in liberal studies at Hamline University. As part of her study program, she will write a book about the mass resignation of RNs in the Twin Cities in 1966 to achieve a national salary goal. Koehn plans to develop new models for nursing leadership and run for the presidency of the American Nurses Association. "Nursing cannot evolve until we develop transformational leaders at all levels."

Cecilia R. Martinez, Inver Grove Heights— Martinez's goal is to advocate for sovereign rights and social welfare of tribes and marginalized families and children. "The ideas and traditions of native people...can serve to guide our imagination and vision for the possibilities of a better life for our families and children." She will study indigenous laws, culture and language through a self-designed study program. Martinez was a professor and chair of the ethnic studies department at Metropolitan State University.

Deborah J. Pembleton, Eagan—During her career with 3M, Pembleton taught in Taiwan and has had an interest in Southeast Asia

ever since. She sees “a need for there to be more leaders who understand other cultures in addition to their own” and hopes to make opportunities to study abroad accessible to all students, especially those of color. Pembleton will pursue a Ph.D. in comparative and international development education at the University of Minnesota. As part of her fellowship plan, she will study and conduct research for six months at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

Sharon L. Pfeifer, Saint Paul—In a self-directed program, Pfeifer will examine Green Infrastructure efforts and their supportive incentives, policies and funding mechanisms. Her goal is to provide regional leadership to maintain vital natural and working lands and waters for future generations. She says the fellowship will help her achieve a personal and professional goal—“to conserve for posterity the many benefits provided by natural habitat, including clean water and air.” Currently a regional planner in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pfeifer was instrumental in establishing the Metro Greenways Program.

Minh T. Ta, Saint Paul—Ta’s goal is to become a more effective advocate on children’s and family issues. To that end, he will obtain a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. “I have always sought to improve the lives of individuals and groups that are the most marginalized in our society and have the least voice in the policy-making process.” Ta is the director of public policy for the Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota. He is a Chinese American born in Vietnam.

Va-Megn Thoj, Saint Paul—Thoj will obtain a master’s degree in public affairs at the University of Minnesota in preparation for establishing a nonprofit community television center in Saint Paul and gaining leadership and management skills for community activism. “My desire to foster civic engagement and extend democratic rule, even as far as my birthplace of Laos, will be greatly advanced by the knowledge I will glean.” Thoj is the owner, producer and director of Frogtown Media Productions, which is dedicated to producing meaningful and educational film projects.

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—OUTSIDE THE TWIN CITIES

Laurel E. Bradley, Northfield, Minnesota—Bradley will study museum management methods by attending the Getty Museum

Leadership Institute and conducting site visits and research toward her goal of becoming the director of a college art museum. "College art museums often function as small-scale public museums; I seek to pull the art museum off the margins of the educational enterprise (in the 'enrichment' category) and into the center." Bradley is the current director of exhibitions and curator of Carlton College's college art collection.

Sheila M. Kiscaden, Rochester, Minnesota— Kiscaden will obtain a master's degree in participation, development and social change from the Institute of Development at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. She envisions using the skills she gains through her fellowship in a career in international development, something she says is her "calling." In addition to serving as a Minnesota State Senator, Kiscaden is an organizational development consultant and a team leader with Global Volunteers.

Terri J. Martin-Parisien, Belcourt, North Dakota— A social worker at the Ojibwa Indian School, Martin-Parisien will obtain a master's degree in public policy at the University of Minnesota. She plans to create, influence and implement public policy that reflects Native American culture and tradition. "Native Americans are at a turning point. Our expectations are growing, but we need more resources to maintain that growth. I am ready to be a resource to my people and help create a better life." Martin-Parisien is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Amy L. Miner, Yankton, South Dakota—Miner will obtain an M.F.A. degree in youth theatre at the University of Hawaii toward her goal of helping young people use theatre as a way to find a valid and meaningful voice. She believes "theatre can be an invaluable tool for young people to develop not only creative performance skills, but also vital skills like independence, discipline, self-awareness and teamwork." Currently, Miner is a high school English teacher and director of her school's theatrical productions.

Patricia K. Petite, Cloquet, Minnesota—Petite says, "My goal is to leave a legacy of education to my children and beyond." To that end, she will complete an Ed.D. in higher education policy and administration from the Leadership Academy at the University of Minnesota. Her goal is to become a leader in higher education and help improve the educational experiences for Native American children. Petite, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, is the director of Head Start for the Fond du Lac

Reservation.

About the Bush Leadership Fellows Program

Bush Leadership Fellowships provide from two to 18 months of support for learning experiences in a broad range of fields, including public service, education, government, health, business, engineering, architecture, science, law, journalism, and social work.

Selection criteria include applicants' personal qualities, past work experiences, career goals, and the potential impact of their fellowships on their communities. Demonstrated leadership and evidence of leadership potential are essential qualities.

Eligible applicants are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are at least 28 years old and employed at the time of the application due date. Applicants are required to have at least five years of full-time work experience and to have lived at least one continuous year immediately prior to the due date in either Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, or one of the following 26 counties in northwestern Wisconsin: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, La Crosse, Lincoln, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vilas, and Washburn.

There is no upper age limit for application to the Bush Leadership Fellows program.