

Bush Foundation Selects 22 Leadership Fellows for 2003

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St. Paul, Minnesota—Fifteen Twin Cities area residents are among the 22 individuals in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin to receive Bush Fellowships for 2003. The fellowships support full-time study in academic or self-designed educational programs. The 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 infectious disease, complimentary healing therapies, Dakota language and culture, international human rights, and refugee women's health. The new fellows also include two Minnesota legislators, Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher of Minneapolis and Representative John W. Dorn of Mankato. Both will study public administration at Harvard University.

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—MINNEAPOLIS AND SUBURBS

Margaret E. Anderson Kelliher, Minneapolis. Representative Anderson Kelliher plans to obtain a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She will use the education to "stretch her skills as a legislator. I will be able to add critical tools to my ability to be both a legislative and community leader, not just to benefit my constituents, but also others beyond my immediate community."

Song L. Anderson, Champlin. Anderson is a mental health therapist at the Hmong/Asian Counseling Services. She plans to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology at Argosy University. Anderson was born in Laos and was the first Hmong girl to attend the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse. She has taken on a leadership role in her community and will focus on issues of polygamy and violence among the Hmong immigrants. "I want to do more to help the community and become a resource for both Hmong and non-Hmong."

Roxanne J. Gould, Minneapolis. Gould is the Director of the American Indian Learning Resource Center at the University of Minnesota. She plans to complete a doctorate in educational leadership at the University. She will also continue her study of education among the Maori people of New Zealand as a model for the education of Indigenous people in North America. "I want to gain the necessary credentials and skills to influence Indigenous education and community development."

Harlan W. LaFontaine, Hopkins. LaFontaine is studying the Dakota language and is a member of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. He plans further study of the Dakota language, culture and spirituality through a self-directed study program. He will study and travel with the leading expert on healing and medicinal plants and a Dakota linguist and spirituality teacher. "I am in the process of reclaiming language and knowledge that we are in fear of losing. I know this work is what I was called to do."

David J. Mather, Minneapolis. Mather is an archeologist who plans to complete a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies at the University of Minnesota. He has directed archeological digs on the Mille Lacs Reservation where he discovered a village site dating to 1500AD that included hundreds of bear skulls. Mather practices culturally-sensitive archeology and it has earned him a respectful relationship with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. He currently serves as the archeologist within the Mille Lacs Tribal Historic Preservation Office. "I want to raise public awareness of archeology information and influence public policy as it affects cultural resources."

Michelle Micklewright, Brooklyn Park. Micklewright is a chaplain with 20 years of experience ministering to elderly people and inner-city urban communities. She plans to study complimentary healing therapies at Lutheran Seminary, the Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality and the Carondelet Center and integrate them into chaplaincy and spiritual care. Micklewright will apply her learnings at nursing homes and other long-term care settings. "I know we can be healers of one another, and that healing can take many forms. Chaplaincy, as an integral part of the health care process has not gained system-wide acceptance."

Ogbiji Victor Okom, Brooklyn Park. Okom is a high school language arts teacher at the New Harrison Education Center in Brooklyn Park who plans to complete a doctorate in educational leadership and administrative licensure at the University of St. Thomas. Born in Nigeria, he wants to become a high school principal, "to provide the kind of leadership that will bridge the gap between the new African immigrants, the African Americans and the European Americans."

Carol L. Pavlish, Prior Lake. Pavlish is an Associate Professor of Nursing at the College of St. Catherine. She plans to complete a Ph.D. in the Department of Work, Community and Family at the University of Minnesota. "I see how health disparities negatively impact new members of our community. I am committed to eliminating those disparities in a way that is respectful and sensitive to those individuals I am trying to help," said Pavlish, who will use what she learns in her work with people from many cultures.

Ramona S. Scarpace, Plymouth. Scarpace is the Director of the Program Assessment and Integrity Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She plans to attend the Executive Leadership Program at the Center for Creative Leadership in North Carolina. She wants to study leadership techniques to mentor others and to better serve her community. "The need for leadership is great. Budget challenges, population diversity, and infrastructure issues call for committed, innovative and motivated leadership."

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—ST. PAUL

Kari D. Buron, St. Paul. Buron is an Autism Resource Specialist at Otter Lake Elementary School in the White Bear School District. She plans to study Asperger Syndrome and social cognition through a self-directed study program that would include work with international leaders in the field. "This fellowship plan would create the possibility for me to study with the leading experts in the world and to dedicate my time and energy to develop specific strategies to use in the public school setting."

Mary A. Jacquart, St. Paul. Jacquart is the System Director for Educational Grant programs for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. She plans to study leadership, develop leadership skills, and investigate issues related to federal policy and higher education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and from other sources. "What I will gain is comprehensive perspective, some practical ideas, tools and examples from current theory and guidance from experienced role models to make me a successful leader. New leadership within higher education includes the essential element of collaboration."

Anil T. Mangla, Woodbury. Mangla is a research scientist with MedTox Laboratories. He plans to earn a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota and study the global affect of infectious diseases through an internship in the World Health Organization. He was born and raised in South Africa and has dedicated his work to the study and prevention of HIV/AIDS, particularly among people who have spent time in African refugee camps. "In the past few years the challenges of public health have

increased. With increased knowledge, I can help address the challenges we face.”

Alice L. Negratti, St. Paul. Negratti is the Deputy Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans. She plans to complete a doctorate in psychology at the University of St. Thomas. Her focus will be meeting the mental health needs of older adults and their families. “Caring for older adults is rewarding, painful and complex. I know my calling is to work with older adults to help them maintain dignified and meaningful lives.

Linda J. Smaller, St. Paul. Smaller is a school psychologist at Lincoln School in White Bear Lake. She plans to earn a licensure as a director of special education programs and a certificate in dispute resolution from Hamline University. Her goal is to be a director of a special education program. “I have based my work on standing up for those who are treated unfairly. Children have always been part of my life and my work has mainly focused on their well being. I am ready to take on a more formal leadership role where I can have greater impact.”

Bea A. VueBenson, St. Paul. VueBenson is a community outreach pastor for Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. She plans to pursue a masters degree in counseling and psychotherapy at the Alfred Adler Institute. VueBenson immigrated to the United States from Laos as a child and wants to work as a licensed marriage and family therapist with the Hmong community. She is the first and only Hmong ordained female minister in the nation. “The Bush Foundation’s investment in my leadership is an investment towards the creation of a healthy and flourishing community in which no one is left behind but all people are cared for in all the ways that we are human—mentally, physically and spiritually.”

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS—OUTSIDE THE TWIN CITIES

John W. Dorn, Mankato, Minnesota. Representative Dorn is a high school English teacher. He plans to earn a master’s degree in public administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. “I want to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to help rural and urban schools succeed.”

Mary Ann Dressel, Duluth. Dressel is a counselor with the employee assistance program at St. Mary’s Duluth Clinic/Miller Dwan Medical Center. She will pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology at Argosy University. “My goal is to help Native American children and adults get the mental health

services they need to discover and use their talents.”

LuAnn Kolumbus, Saron, Wisconsin. Kolumbus is an independent consultant. She will earn a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota Duluth. My life's work involves helping others create better lives for themselves. I want to work on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in social work or counseling.”

Martin Kooistra, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Kooistra is Content and Knowledge Manager U.S. for Habitat for Humanity University. He will study community development and housing policy at the Joint Center for Housing Studies and the Initiative on Social Enterprise at Harvard University. “I hope to serve Habitat for Humanity communities by developing innovative solutions to local housing issues.”

Julie A. Mathiesen, Sturgis, South Dakota. Mathiesen is an art teacher at Sturgis High School. She will pursue a doctorate in educational technology at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education. “As a teacher I have affected the lives of hundreds of my students. I want to work to help make South Dakota a better place to live and work.”

Mary Schneider, Fargo, North Dakota. Schneider is the Executive Director of Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota. She will obtain a LL.M. degree in international human rights from the Irish Centre for Rights at National University, Ireland in Galway. “I have seen firsthand the consequences to children deprived of appropriate education, disabled people deprived of medical care, adults deprived of shelter and elderly people deprived of the health care that will keep them out of institutions. I may not be able to solve the problem, but I can impact it with information and examples designed to compel change.”

Mary B. Sorenson, Warren, Minnesota. Sorenson is the Director of Northwest Minnesota 21st Century Community Learning Centers' Northwest Service Cooperative. She will pursue an administrative specialist degree at Minnesota State University Moorhead. “I can be a leader who strengthens our educational system and brings people together in understanding that we must work together as a region to remain strong.”

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.