



2023 Minnesota Young American Leaders Program Cohort Announcement

After a highly competitive selection process, we are pleased to announce the 2023 cohorts for the Minnesota Young American Leaders Program. Thank you to those of you who nominated so many talented young leaders. Our selection committees spent considerable time in an in-depth review and discussion of all applicants. We are so grateful and commend their diligent and tough deliberations to select the final cohorts. Together these rising leaders represent a unique force for expanding the power of cross-sectoral collaboration for our region and our state.

Please join us in congratulating these rising Minnesotan leaders and saluting their commitment to collaborate across differences for the shared prosperity of our region and state, and read on for more information about the Program:

2023 –Northeast MN - Duluth Cohort

Nick Bayuk, North Shore Bank

Ben Benoit, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Carson Gorecki, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Vicki Hagberg, Northland Foundation

Amber Lewis, Lead for America/Americorps/American Connection Corps/Northspan

ChaQuanna McEntyre, Family Rise Together

Jessalyn Sabin, Minnesota North College

Sumair Sheikh, LISC Duluth

2023 – Fargo - Moorhead Cohort

Josey Balenger, FM Science Museum

Laura Caroon, Trive

Michael Chan, Concordia

Sabrina Dawson Soulis, Talercriis

Katherine Grindberg, FMWF Chamber

Casey Sanders, City of West Fargo

Julia Schott, Cultural Diversity Resources

Jenny Sheets, Emerging Prairie

2023 – Mankato Cohort

Chris Dalton, City of New Ulm

Ashley Eimer, Mankato Area Foundation

Laura Koch, Profinium

Courtney Kramlinger, City of Mankato

Ayan Omar, St. Peter Econ. Dev. Auth./Region Nine Development Commission

Claire Richie, Taylor Corporation

Colin Scharf, Gold Mine Studios Audio/Visual and Event Production Studio

Christi Wilking, Mayo Clinic Health System

2023 – Minneapolis - Saint Paul Cohort

Shanaya Dungey, African American Leadership Forum

Sophia Ginis, Metro Transit

Lidiya Girma, Ramsey County

Diana Guglielmetti, Target Corp

Simone Hardeman-Jones, GreenLight Fund Twin Cities

Cierra Hardin, NuAxis Innovation

Lauren Hunter, UnitedHealth Group

Menaka Mohan, NEOO Partners

James Nagbe, Genesys Works Twin Cities

Samuel N. Ndely II, The Minneapolis Foundation

Amanda Novak, YMCA of the North

Courtney S. Ries, Meet Minneapolis

Khalique Rogers, Good Riddance LLC

Libby Starling, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Michelle Tran Maryns, We Sparkle Co.

Chao Yang, Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging/Minnesota Management and Budget

2023 – Rochester Cohort

Courtney Bergey Swanson, Community and Economic Development Associates

Lida Casper, Rochester Public Schools

Lauren Jensen, City of Rochester

Karen Martinez, Education Minnesota

Grace Pesch, United Way of Olmsted County

Julie Ruzek, Cradle 2 Career

Meaghan Sherden, Olmsted County Public Health Services

Kim Kevin Sin, University of Minnesota Rochester / The Village Agricultural Cooperative

2023 – St. Cloud Cohort

Shirwa Adan, Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization

Nicole Bukowski, Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law

Njeri Clement, St. Cloud Technical and Community College

Abdi Daisane, Blooming Kids Child Care Center

Ekram Elmoge, United Way of Central MN

Cassandra Miles, Great River Children's Museum

Bruce Powlish, Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union

John Waletzko, Bradbury Stamm Construction

About the Program

The Young American Leaders Program originated at Harvard Business School in 2015 with the aim of bringing city-based cohorts of rising leaders from business, government, and non-profit organizations together for three days to increase their knowledge of the state and trajectory of our national and regional economic development, provide tools for cross-sector collaboration, and grow networks of rising leaders who can lead together for public good in the future. In 2019, the Itasca Project partnered with the University of Minnesota's Center for Integrative Leadership as well as Harvard Business School to hold the first Minnesota Young American Leaders Program at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

For 2023, broad-based regional selection committees led by local partners and the Itasca Project considered applications from a wide range of rising leaders from across business, government, and non-profit organizations. Successful applicants were chosen based on their track record and potential trajectory in both their professional and civic engagement and were invited to attend.

Thank you to our regional selection committee partners:

- Northeast MN - Duluth: [Northland Foundation](#)
- Fargo - Moorhead: [Downtown Moorhead, Inc.](#)
- Mankato: [Greater Mankato Growth](#)
- Minneapolis - Saint Paul: [Itasca Project](#)
- Rochester: [Destination Medical Center](#)
- Saint Cloud: [Greater Saint Cloud Development Corporation](#)

The 2023 Minnesota Young American Leaders Program is scheduled for May 22-24, 2023, at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.