



MINNESOTA YOUNG AMERICAN LEADERS PROGRAM

After a highly competitive selection process, we are pleased to announce the 2020 Twin Cities cohorts for the Young American Leaders Programs. While some of these rising leaders will be attending the Program at the University of Minnesota and some at Harvard Business School, together they represent a unique force for expanding the power of cross-sectoral collaboration for our region and our state.

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 2020, a broad-based selection committee led by the Itasca Project and chaired by Duchesne Drew, Community Network vice president at the Bush Foundation and incoming President, Minnesota Public Radio, considered applications from a wide range of rising leaders from across business, government and non-profit organizations. Applicants were asked to explain why, in their current public interest work, they thought it could be more useful for them to develop their contacts across Minnesota or across other states. Successful applicants were chosen based on their track record and potential trajectory in both their professional and civic engagement and were invited to attend the Program in either Boston or the Twin Cities based on their answer to this question.

Following the selection process, Harvard Business School announced that it will defer the 2020 Young American Leaders Program in Boston until June 2021. The 2020 Minnesota Young American Leaders Program is scheduled for October 7-9 at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Please join us in congratulating these rising Minnesotan leaders and saluting their commitment to collaborate across boundaries for the shared prosperity of our region.



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Twin Cities Cohort Attending Program at UMN: October 2020

Adebisi Wilson, Innocent Technologies
Andrea Vaubel, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Anisha Murphy, Community Reinvestment Fund
Ben Shardlow, Downtown Council
Brian Suter, Westwood Community Church
Casey Schultz, beta.mn
Clyde Wilson Pickett, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Erin Bailey, State of Minnesota
Habon Abdulle, Women Organizing Women
Jill Renslow, Mall of America
Joseph Rios, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Justin Doyle, Target
Kathy Hedin, Ramsey County Public Health Department
Marcus Schmit, Minnesota Department of Corrections
Mary Rick, City of Saint Paul
Matt Lewis, GREATER MSP
Matthew Wohlman, Land O'Lakes
Michelle Arulfo, Allina Health
Mikisha Nation, Teach for America
Rachel Hughey, Merchant & Gould
Rochelle Johnson, HealthPartners
Ron Garber, Medtronic

Twin Cities Cohort Attending Program at HBS: June 2021

Abdirahmin Kahin, Afro Deli
Adine Momoh, Stinson LLP
Anil Hurkadli, Thrivent
Chris Schmitter, Office of Governor Walz
Melisa Lopez Franzen, Minnesota Senate
Acooa Ellis, Greater Twin Cities United Way
Angelica Klebsch, CLUES
Anne Gotte, Ecolab
Lars Leafblad, Ballinger | Leafblad
Natalie Volin Lehr, Carlson Companies