



Sondra Samuels, President & CEO

Sondra Samuels is the President & CEO of the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), a collaborative of over 40 partner non-profits and schools. Along with parents, students, partners and staff, Sondra is leading a revolutionary culture shift in North Minneapolis that is focused on ending multigenerational poverty through education and family stability. The NAZ Collaborative is working toward a single goal—to prepare low-income North Minneapolis children to graduate from high school college and career-ready. NAZ has scaled up in support of over 1,000 parents and 2,300 students as they turn the social service model on its head and lead the creation of a college-bound culture throughout the community.

Ms. Samuels is a 19-year resident of North Minneapolis and a national leader committed to results-based leadership and accountability. She, her staff and their partners, work tirelessly to ensure the integration of effective cradle-to-career solutions across the NAZ collaborative; to scale and sustain results across the community, and to achieve the systems and policy changes needed for low income families and children of color to truly share in the prosperity of the Twin Cities Region. Under her leadership, NAZ was named a federal Promise Neighborhood, and has become a nationally recognized model for community and systems change.

Sondra serves on the Leadership team of Generation Next, (a Strive Initiative); the boards of Minnesota Private College Council, the Center for the Study of Social Policy; and served on the 2018 Super Bowl Host Committee Advisory Board. She was also appointed by Governor Dayton to serve on the Hennepin County Fourth Judicial Selection Commission.

Joe Hobot, Ed.D
President and CEO
American Indian OIC (AIOIC)
www.aioic.org

Dr. Hobot is a descendant of the Hunkpapa Band of the Lakota Nation from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation – where his Grandfather and Mother are both enrolled members. He was born and raised in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master's Degree from the University of St. Thomas, and a Doctorate of Education from Hamline University.

Dr. Hobot has worked at American Indian OIC since 2006. Prior to being named President and Chief Executive Officer, he held the positions of Lead Teacher and Director of Education. In those roles, he was responsible for the effective oversight and progress of the agency's alternative high school, its Adult Basic Education/GED program, and its accredited career college. Additionally, Dr. Hobot serves as an adjunct faculty member of the Falmouth Institute – providing national onsite trainings throughout Indian Country for tribal leadership and tribal administrators, and is also serving as a consultant with the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC) based in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Hobot was recently appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to serve on the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership's Board of Directors. He also serves as a director on the boards of the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI), the Native American Community Clinic (NACC), and the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Additionally, Dr. Hobot is also a founding member of Equity Works Minnesota. In 2015 he was the recipient of the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce's Bear Award and in 2016 was selected as a 40 Under 40 honoree by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. Most recently, Dr. Hobot became a fellow through the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and in the fall of 2017 published a book in partnership with the NUIFC entitled *Resurgence: Restructuring Urban American Indian Education*.



« All Fellows

Pheng Thao
Fellowships

2018

Pheng Thao



Year: 2018

Program: [Bush Fellowship](#)

Pheng Thao wants men in his community to be active partners in ending domestic violence and sexual assault. He believes it is possible to create spaces where those who have committed and experienced harm can heal and ultimately thrive. He seeks to shift Hmong men's attitudes, beliefs and behaviors about gender, patriarchy and violence. To lead this change, he will strengthen his facilitation and communications skills and widen and deepen his understanding of the history and evolution of masculinity and manhood in Hmong culture. He will also use his Bush Fellowship to explore how matrilineal communities have dismantled patriarchal attitudes and to develop new ideas and images of Hmong maleness.

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