



JAIME A. PINKHAM NAMED TO LEAD BUSH FOUNDATION'S NATIVE NATION-BUILDING TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo available

(Saint Paul, MN - Jan. 26, 2009)—The Bush Foundation announces that Mr. **Jaime A. Pinkham** (a member of the Nez Perce Tribe) will lead its efforts to **support the self-determination of the 23 Native nations** located in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota in **rebuilding their institutions of nationhood**. Supporting Native nation self-determination is one of three areas of emphasis that make up the Foundation's *Goals for a Decade*.

As Vice President and Native Nation-Building Team Leader, Pinkham will collaborate with current and emerging leaders of each of the 23 federally recognized Native nations to pursue their own agenda for nation-building.

“Partnering respectfully with 23 culturally distinct, sovereign Native nations requires that the Foundation’s liaison to such a collaboration be someone with an understanding of and respect for the unique cultures among tribes, as well as the ability to serve tribal leaders as they undertake building or rebuilding their structures of nationhood,” said Bush Foundation President Peter C. Hutchinson. “Jaime is a respected and experienced Native leader, and we are fortunate he has chosen to join us in this important work.”

Pinkham was twice elected, in 1996 and 1999, to the governing body of the Nez Perce Tribe, where he served as treasurer and on subcommittees focusing on financial and natural resource issues. In addition to tribal council experience, he has worked extensively with multi-tribal efforts and in nation-building.

Manley Begay, director of the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy at the University of Arizona, said, “Jaime has worked directly with tribal leaders from many Native nations and engaged personally with building those nations. He comes to the Bush Foundation with excellent skills and a tremendous amount of leadership experience that fits well with the Foundation’s long-term nation-building initiative.” Pinkham, who was instrumental in the acquisition of tribal ancestral homelands in northeast Oregon, is nationally known for work on natural resource issues and has testified before the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.

“The best solutions for Indian Country come from Indian Country,” Pinkham said. “Each tribe is setting their own pace for self-determination, and it is a bold move for the Bush Foundation to be willing to collaborate with 23 tribes in Native nation-building. Some of the tribal leaders who

provided the motivation for today's self-determination movement came from these very tribal nations, and it will be a humbling experience to work with them. I know the Bush Foundation, my team and I will learn much from their leadership and communities.”

Much of Pinkham's career to date has been focused on helping tribes in the Pacific Northwest manage their valued land and its natural resources. In his most current position with the Portland, OR-based Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Pinkham has primarily led outreach and education efforts to the U.S. Congress and executive branches of government, as well as supported tribal watershed restoration regionally. The Commission represents the four Columbia River treaty tribes: Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama.

Other positions have included directing the tribal lands program for the Trust for Public Land, managing fisheries and natural resources for his own Nez Perce Tribe and working as a forester for state and federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest.

Kathy Tunheim, chair of the Bush Foundation's Board of Directors, said, “The Board and staff know there is much for us to learn about the cultures and governmental structures of the 23 Native nations. We're honored to have Jaime Pinkham as our teacher and believe his leadership will help us be a respectful partner with those nations.”

Pinkham currently serves on various boards including the governing council of The Wilderness Society; the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy through the Udall Center at the University of Arizona; Potlatch Corporation's Citizens Advisory Committee in Idaho; and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Pinkham's past national leadership positions have included chair of the board of directors for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, president of the Inter-Tribal Timber Council and chair of the Tribal Lands Advisory Council for the Trust for Public Land. He received the Earle Wilcox National Award from the Inter-Tribal Timber Council and the Chief Sealth Award from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, both recognizing his service to tribal communities in natural resources. He also volunteers his time to various tribal and natural resource causes, and sings with the Nez Perce Nation Drum.

Pinkham holds an AA in forest technology from Peninsula College (Port Angeles, WA) and a BS in forest management from Oregon State University. He also completed the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Foundation leadership program, which examined social, political, economic and cultural issues across the state, nation and world. Pinkham will begin work March 16.

About Goals for a Decade

Announced in July 2008, [Goals for a Decade](#) focuses on achieving ambitious outcomes in three areas:

- **Develop Courageous Leaders and Engage Entire Communities in Solving Problems** – with a goal that by 2018, 75 percent of people in all demographic groups in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota say their community is effective at solving problems and improving their quality of life.
- **Support the Self-Determination of Native Nations** – with a goal that by 2018, all 23 Native nations in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are exercising self-determination and actively rebuilding the infrastructure of nationhood.

- **Increase Educational Achievement** – with a goal that by 2018 the percentage of students in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, from pre-kindergarten through college who are on track to earn a degree after high school, increases by 50 percent and disparities among diverse student groups are eliminated.

As leader of the Native Nations Team, Pinkham will be responsible for achieving the second of these goals. (To learn about the development of this goal and the approach his team will take, see the summary included at the end of this release.)

The **Bush Foundation** was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. The Foundation strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota by investing in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in these three states.

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SUMMARY
Support the Self-Determination of Native Nations
(Team to be led by Mr. Jaime A. Pinkham)

Goal: *By 2018, all 23 Native nations in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are exercising self-determination and actively rebuilding the infrastructure of nationhood.*

Why We Chose This Goal

Twenty-three sovereign Native nations exist in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. These culturally distinct nations have rich histories and deep strengths. They also face unique challenges. Research coming from Native nations is clear. When it comes to solving core issues, nation-building is the only thing proven to work.

For Native nations, progress is greatest wherever self-determination comes first. Leaders of these nations will be the ones to lead the change. The solutions will come from within. We want to collaborate with Native nations as the sovereign and distinct governments that they are, supporting emerging and current leaders in using their authority to establish or rebuild institutions of nationhood that work for them.

Our Approach

The ways to achieve this goal need to be discovered. They cannot be imposed. For that reason, our strategies focus solely on collaboration, as Native leaders seek to rebuild the structures of nationhood. While specific initiatives will emerge, we have one priority to start—launch a Native Nation-Building Collaborative.

This collaborative will be a Native-led effort. It will create the forum by which the discovery process can occur. We will follow the lead of respected Native leaders as we partner with them to achieve this goal. The Collaborative will also define priorities and begin engaging individual tribal leaders in next steps.

Partnerships

Based on the input from the Native Nation-Building Collaborative, other tribal leaders, partner organizations and trusted resources may be engaged to help provide the research and tools required.

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