

The Bush Foundation – Native Nations Rebuilders

Cohort 1 – February 2010
(See a listing by [Native nation](#))

Dave Archambault II (Standing Rock Sioux)

Archambault is currently serving as tribal councilperson for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe located in Fort Yates, North Dakota. He has a master's degree in management from the University of Mary in Bismarck and a bachelor's degree in business administration from North Dakota State University. He has owned a small convenience store in his community since 2002. Archambault serves on various boards as an elected official. In 2008, he assisted with the formation of the Wind Energy Tribes United (WETU), which shares information with other tribes interested in developing commercial wind projects, including the exploration and development of renewable energy policies.

D. Eileen Briggs (Cheyenne River Sioux)

Briggs is the executive director of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Ventures. She has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts for human services/speech communications from the University of Minnesota-Morris, and also holds a master's degree in education/youth development leadership from the University of Minnesota. She currently serves as president of the board of directors for Ta-tè Topa (Four Winds) Energy, Inc., where she was appointed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council to lead the Tribe's development of wind energy, helping to develop a 125-megawatt commercial wind farm on Tribal land. Briggs also co-wrote and acted in a Native American breast cancer awareness video, which serves as a public service announcement and educational film written, directed and performed by Native women.

Scott J. Davis (Standing Rock Lakota Hunkpapa/Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

Davis is the executive director for the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission by appointment of Governor John Hoeven. In this position, he serves as liaison between North Dakota's state and tribal governments to address issues regarding education, business, economic development, transportation, wellness, veterans and youth. Prior to his appointment, he served in a number of capacities at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, including as development officer actively pursuing fundraising in the private sector to advance the College's programs and activities. Davis holds an AA degree from Haskell Indian Junior College and bachelors and master's degrees in management from the University of Mary.

Tami De Coteau, Ph.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

De Coteau is a clinical psychologist at Indian Health Services. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Dakota and also has a master's and doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her most important achievement has been developing and implementing the Standing Rock Psychology Internship Program, which she now directs. The program provides psychology interns with unique cross-cultural training that allows them to prepare for work on rural Native American reservations. In 2008, Indian Health Services named De Coteau "Health Professional of the Year."

Michelle C. Fredericks DuBray (Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation)

DuBray is the owner of Pinto Horse Woman Consulting. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Colorado-Boulder. DuBray has spent the majority of the last 20 years working for Native nonprofits. A highlight is her work with the InterTribal Bison Cooperative from 1992 to 1997, helping to lead tribal buffalo restorations efforts across the country; she was the Cooperative's administrative director and development director.

LeRoy Fairbanks III (Leech Lake Ojibwe)

Fairbanks is the manager of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Halfway House and a certified addictions counselor. He is responsible for counseling the all-male household, which includes crisis intervention. He is currently a volunteer assistant coach on the Cass Lake Bena High School boys' basketball team. Fairbanks was voted onto the Leech Lake Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in 2008 as the vice chairperson, serving a four-year term.

Tracey Fischer (Cheyenne River Sioux)

Fischer is the CEO/president of the First Nations Oweesta Corporation. She has AA and bachelor's degrees in business management and accounting from National American University, and also holds a juris doctorate in law from Yale. She served as law clerk to the Honorable Chief Justice Robert A. Miller (Ret.) of the South Dakota Supreme Court, the first Native American to serve in that role. Fischer was also recognized by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe as the first tribal member to graduate from Yale Law School.

Henry Flocken (White Earth Ojibwe)

Flocken is an assistant professor at Bemidji State University. He has a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, is an experienced licensed school principal and is currently finishing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Minnesota in organizational leadership policy and administration. His most recent achievement was becoming a 2006 Bush Leadership Fellow, through which Flocken undertook a deep and rich study of leadership styles, along with the history and leadership of his Ojibwe heritage.

Boyd Gourneau (Lower Brule Sioux)

Gourneau is the vice chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. He has served for over 18 years on the executive committee of the Lower Brule Farm Corp and 19 years on Tribal Council. While on Tribal Council, he has served as director of JTPA, TERO, HIP, Vocational Rehabilitation, Wildlife and the Diabetes Prevention Program. Gourneau has also served on the board of directors for Wakpa Sica Reconciliation from 2004 to the present, as well as Lower Brule Community College from 2007 to the present.

William L. Gourneau, Ed.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

Gourneau is the human resources director and previous dean of academic programs at Turtle Mountain Community College. He has bachelor's degrees in education and Indian studies, a master's degree in general studies and an education doctorate in educational leadership, all from the University of North Dakota (UND). While at UND, he served as an advisory board member for the RAIN (Recruitment/Retention of American Indian Nurses) Program. He also served as a board member for the Turtle Mountain Heritage Center and represented the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa as the Tribal board member for the Indians into Medicine Program at the University of North Dakota Medical School. In 2002, he received a Bush Leadership Fellow.

Richard W. Iron Cloud (Oglala Sioux)

Iron Cloud is the acting director for the Sweet Grass Project of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology and human services from Fort Lewis College (Durango, CO), and a master's degree in Lakota leadership and management from Oglala Lakota College (Kyle, SD). He is currently serving on a working group to establish a peace-making court on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Iron Cloud feels this will strengthen the nation by establishing a system that will deal with conflict in his community.

Kevin Killer (Oglala Sioux)

Killer is the executive director for the Native Youth Leadership Alliance, as well as a representative serving in the South Dakota Legislature. He is currently pursuing his degree in business administration and social sciences at Oglala Lakota College (Kyle, SD). Killer decided to run for office at the age of 29 so he could encourage young people to take a role in the future of their communities by becoming decision makers. He feels that empowering young people to take an active role in government will strengthen future generations.

Stacey M. LaCompte (Standing Rock Sioux)

LaCompte is the executive director of the Waka Sica Historical Society/Reconciliation Place, an organization that strives to improve race relations, tribal judicial support and economic conditions for various tribes of the Great Sioux Nation. She was a co-founding member of the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance in which she is still active. Ms. LaCompte dedicated her life in caring and educating others by working with the Teton Ambulance Service on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation for 16 years.

Les LaFountain (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

LaFountain, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, has 18 years of teaching experiences in K-12 and at the collegiate level. He has taught a wide range of courses from puppet making, to constitution and code development. In addition to teaching, he has worked for the U.S. Senate and served in the North Dakota Senate and on the Turtle Mountain Band Chippewa Tribal Council. His professional goals are to promote high-quality education and encourage civic responsibility. LaFountain earned a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University and a master's degree from the University of North Dakota.

Leroy "JR" LaPlante Jr. (Cheyenne River Sioux)

LaPlante is an AmeriCorps legal fellow for Access to Justice, Inc. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Carson-Newman College (Jefferson City, TN) and a juris doctorate in law from the University of South Dakota (Vermillion). One of his most important honors was when he was named ambassador for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in 2002. It was bestowed upon him by a formal tribal chairman, and the honor has kept him grounded and aware that all he does is for the betterment and representation of his people on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation, which includes his ancestors and future generations.

Daniel Lemm (Lower Sioux)

Lemm is the accounting and office manager for Native Americans in Philanthropy. He has a bachelor's degree in finance from Iowa State University (Ames) and is working on furthering his degree in accounting through Metropolitan State University (St. Paul, MN). He loves working for his community and considers it his greatest achievement. He believes it has given him the opportunity to give back to the people, as well as learning about himself.

Tina R. Merdanian (Oglala Sioux)

Merdanian is the director of institutional relations at the Red Cloud Indian School. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and an associate's degree in accounting, both from Oglala Lakota College (Kyle, SD). Merdanian currently shares her time in the capacity of lead consultant of marketing and development for Native Discovery, a partnership with the development organizations of South Dakota's three largest reservations—Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge and Rosebud—as they work together to stimulate the largely untapped culturally based tourism economy.

Patricia “Patty” Petite, Ed.D. (Fond du Lac Chippewa)

Petite has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota. She has also received her educational doctorate in policy and administration in higher education with a 2004 Bush Leadership Fellowship. She has worked for the Fond du Lac Reservation for over 26 years as a social worker, Head Start director and with the Fond du Lac Tribal College. Currently she is reviewing her options for the future while doing some consulting work.

Samuel R. Strong (Red Lake Chippewa)

Strong is the director of economic development and planning for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. He has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY). Strong currently serves on the board of directors for the Red Lake Nation Boys and Girls Club, as well as an advisor to the Red Lake Nation Youth Council. He received an award for academic excellence from the Cornell Minority Students Association for his GPA during his four years at Cornell University.

Kimberly Tilsen-Brave Heart (Oglala Lakota Sioux)

Tilsen-Brave Heart is the director of the SAGE Collaborative (Strengthening and Growing Entrepreneurs) and entrepreneurship specialist at Rural Community Innovations. She has extensive experience in working with Native entrepreneurs to start successful businesses on the Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River Indian Reservations. Tilsen-Brave Heart has spent the past five years developing a hands-on training utilizing financial literacy, workforce development and entrepreneurship education. She is the co-founder of the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance, as well as president of the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Rebuilders Listed by Native Nation

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[Tracey Fischer](#)

[Leroy LaPlante Jr.](#)

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior

Chippewa

[Patricia Petite, Ed.D.](#)

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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Lower Brule Sioux

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Lower Sioux Community

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Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

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Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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Three Affiliated Tribes—Mandan,

Hidatsa, Arikara

[Michelle C. Fredericks DuBray](#)

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

[Tami De Coteau, Ph.D.](#)

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