



MINNESOTA'S NEWEST AMERICANS:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

SPEAKERS

SUSAN BROWER

Susan Brower is the Minnesota State Demographer and directs the MN State Demographic Center. Susan became the State Demographer in February 2012. In that capacity, she travels the state talking with Minnesotans about the new social and economic realities that are brought about by recent demographic shifts. Susan's work applies an understanding of demographic trends to changes in a range of areas including the state's economy and workforce, education, health, immigration and rural population changes.



Susan joined the State Demographic Center after working as a researcher on the Minnesota Compass project at Wilder Research in St. Paul. Prior to that, she worked at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Susan earned her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Michigan, specializing in demography and family sociology. She also holds a master's degree in public policy from Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.



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LAURA BORDELON

Laura Bordelon is senior vice president for advocacy at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, a position she has held since November 2011. In her role, she leads the organization's public policy, grassroots and political engagement strategies.

She directed the Minnesota Chamber's education, telecommunications and energy policy from 2000-2004. She was a policy director for Governor Tim Pawlenty from 2004 to 2005 and then was named director of legislative and cabinet affairs in 2006. She most recently was director of corporate state government affairs for Medtronic Inc.

She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota. Her community involvement includes being a board member of the Minnesota Government Relations Council and the Minnesota Zoo.





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ANDRÉS SALINAS

Andrés is originally from a Zapotecan (indigenous) community in Oaxaca, Mexico. He graduated from the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca with a degree in accounting. He has been a public servant for over 15 years in the areas of economic growth and small business development in Mexico.



As Lending Program Director, his job is to ensure that members of the Latino entrepreneur community can have access to more financing opportunities that allow them to start or to expand their businesses. At the same time, Andrés has the responsibility to maintain a healthy loan portfolio to ensure the availability of these resources for future generations of immigrants with an entrepreneurial spirit.

In his ninth years as a resident in the State of Minnesota, Andrés has enjoyed Twins games and the Minnesota State Fair. He also has found living in the multicultural community of the Twin Cities to be a very enriching experience.



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YENG M. YANG, MD, MBA, FAAP

Medical School: University of Minnesota

Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency training: Medical College of Wisconsin

Healthcare MBA: University of St. Thomas Opus College of business

Board certification: Internal Medicine & Pediatrics



Dr. Yang currently practices primary care at HealthPartners, the largest consumer-governed, non-profit health care organization in the nation with an integrated health plan and care delivery in Minnesota. She is the Co-Chair of the Health Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Cabinet for HealthPartners which provides medical leadership and oversight of activities to drive health equity, inclusion and anti-racism across the organization. She also serves as a regional medical director in primary care.

She has been in practice for 22 years and has expertise in patient-centered medical home, quality improvement and innovation as well as health equity. She believes trusted patient-clinician relationships and experiences built around mutual respect, understanding and curiosity are the foundation to achieving good clinical outcomes. She is active in the community with several organizations that provide youth leadership development, health and well-being as well as youth mentoring.



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PAHOUA HOFFMAN

Pahoua Hoffman is the Senior Vice President, Government & Community Relations for HealthPartners. In this capacity, she and her team partner with local, state, and national organizations and government agencies to improve community health and well-being while ensuring access to high quality, affordable care and coverage. To make certain HealthPartners programs and services are community-informed, she also works with HealthPartners' eight hospital foundations and leads the organization's community

engagement initiatives and advocacy efforts on behalf of HealthPartners' patients and members, which benefit the broader community.

As a former refugee and immigrant to the United States, she shares HealthPartners' commitment to providing culturally sensitive care and advancing health equity. Her 20+ years of experience working with under-served communities and empowering community members to act as their own agents of change have not only led to increased community capacity, but have also resulted in policy and systems change.

Pahoua's previous leadership roles include serving as SVP of Community Impact at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, Executive Director of the Citizens League, and Manager of Legislative Affairs at Twin Cities PBS. Her current board service includes Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the Constellation Fund, Girl Friday Theatre Productions, and the Advisory Board of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of St. Thomas.





NEKESSA OPOTI

Nekessa is one of the co-founders of the Black Immigrant Collective (BIC) and the communications director at the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). She is a former journalist, editor, producer, writer, communications strategist, and immigrant justice organizer.



For over fifteen years, she worked as a journalist and print/web news editor, and publisher. Her work promotes a grassroots articulation of often unheard voices. Her work challenges: racism, particularly anti-Black racism; class and workers rights; migration and displacement; access to public education; state surveillance, gender, sexuality, identity, and belonging from a queer Black femme immigrant lens. She is also a member of the Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project.



HNUCHEE VANG

Hnuchee Vang is the director of policy and advocacy at the Coalition of Asian-American Leaders (CAAL) and brings years of legislative advocacy and policy work at the Minnesota State Legislature to her position.