



HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MAY 15, 2016

Hubert H. Humphrey



OUR THANKS TO ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST
REBECCA ROPERS-HUILMAN
AND REGENT PEGGY LUCAS FOR THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN TODAY'S CEREMONY.





PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Dean Eric P. Schwartz

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dean Eric P. Schwartz

STUDENT SPEAKER

Tane Soeldner-Danger
Master of Public Policy

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Mee Moua

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Directors of Graduate Studies

Professor Ragui Assaad

Director Kevin Gerdes

Associate Dean Laura Bloomberg

Professor Anu Ramaswami

Associate Professor Ryan Allen

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Regent Peggy Lucas

WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Jeff Williams

CLOSING

Dean Eric P. Schwartz

RECESSIONAL

*Please stay seated until the faculty
and students have exited.*





INSPIRING LEADERS TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota is one of the country's top professional public policy and planning schools, widely recognized for its success in advancing the common good through a comprehensive, world-class program. Long noted for equipping students to play key roles in public life at the local, state, national, and global levels, the Humphrey School is respected for its role in shaping public policy, its focus on social justice and human rights, and its expertise in planning, leadership, and management.

The School offers six distinctive master's degrees, a doctoral degree, and five certificate programs, and faculty members are recognized for their deep engagement with students and commitment to public service and public affairs scholarship. Through our degree programs, faculty scholarship, and nine policy research and outreach centers, the Humphrey School is committed to strengthening democracy and civic life, building hope and opportunity in a changing world, and expanding our global reach and impact.

Founded in 1977 as a living legacy to Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, a statesman recognized internationally for his contributions to improving the well-being of humanity, the Humphrey School is now ranked number eight among some 270 public affairs schools around the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. Our nonprofit management program ranks second.





COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Commencement is the annual ceremony at which we celebrate completion of degrees. While the commencement ceremony is not required for actual degree conferral, it is an opportunity to celebrate candidates' accomplishments with Humphrey School faculty, staff, students, friends, and family members who have enthusiastically supported the work and efforts required to complete a master's degree program.

Graduates will not receive a diploma at today's commencement ceremony. Confirmation of degree completion takes place after official grades are posted, and diplomas will be mailed within the next several weeks.

ACADEMIC DRESS

The academic dress worn by faculty and candidates has its origins in the clerical robes worn by students and teachers in the earliest medieval universities. American colleges and universities adopted a code of academic dress in 1895 that regulated the style of the gowns and assigned colors to represent the different fields of learning. That code, which has since been updated and revised, is used by most U.S. colleges and universities.

The level of degree earned (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral) is reflected in the design of the gowns and hoods worn by the candidates.

Gowns: The bachelor's degree gown has pointed sleeves. The gown for the master's degree has oblong sleeves. The doctoral degree gown has longer bell-shaped sleeves which are adorned with three bands of velvet, and the front of the gown has velvet facing.

Hoods: The hood's coloring represents the type and subject of the degree earned, as well as the institution from which it is awarded.

The color of the outer edge of the hood reflects the candidate's field of study. In today's ceremony, candidates earning a Master of Development Practice, Master of Public Affairs, or Master of Public Policy wear hoods trimmed with white. Master of Urban and Regional Planning candidates wear hoods trimmed with lilac, and Master of Science in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy wear hoods trimmed with gold.

The backs of all the hoods are lined with maroon and gold, the official colors of the University of Minnesota.

REGENTS SEAL

The Board of Regents adopted the Regents Seal in 1939 as the corporate seal of the University of Minnesota. The Latin motto *omnibus artibus commune vinculum* means "a common bond for all the arts." The lamp represents the metaphysical sciences, the telescope the physical sciences, the plow the industrial arts, and the palette and brushes the fine arts.





MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

Master of Development Practice (MDP)

Abdiwahab Ali
Mekdelawit Astatke Bayu
John Chisholm
Felipe Dyna Barroso
Christina Field
Eliel Gebru
Amrita Vijay Jain
Faris Kasim
Kamaladevy Kathirgamu
Maria Victoria Punay
Trupti Sarode
Tai Stephan
Yodit Amsalu Tesfaye
Amanda Traaseth
Diego Villagra Mostaceros
Frieda von Qualen
Evans Yamoah

Master of Public Affairs (MPA)

Anand Agrawal
Melissa Bear
Robert Bill
Elizabeth Brailsford
Jessica Brogger
Mary Browning
Amy Dellwo
Bonnie Flood
Pamela Foster
Natt Friday
Lorrie Janatopoulos
Don Jorovsky
E. Timotheus Kamaboakai
Anurag Kapil
Semantics King Jr
Marina Lagune-Reutler
Suzanne Lantto
Elizabeth Lauder
Colin McFadden
Patricia McNutt
Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash
Cledor Ndiaye
Michael Plotnick
Gail Renteria

Amber Shanahan
Kristina Solomon
Adam Suomala
Jason Terwey
Tohr Vorvick
Tene Wells
Shiyin Wu

Master of Public Policy (MPP)

Paruj Acharya
Margaret Airriess
Jenna Andriano
Eric Armacanqui
Christopher Barich
Michael Beach
Ann Benson
Barnabas Birkeland
Erin Blair
Darci Buttke
Mary Louise Cavin
Chi Wai Cheng
Paidamoyo Chikate
Will Christenson
Trevor Clayton
Emily Cobell
Charles Demler
Kaela Dickens
Ariana Didion
Erica Dietzel
Chuqing Dong
Laurel Draine
Dana Dumbacher
Tori Duoos
Thomas Durfee
Emily Edstrom
Brock Flint
Andrew Foell
Matthew Gieseke
Dani Rae Gorman
Andrei Hahn
Luke Hanson
Ana Heck
Brittany Heinz-Amborn
Timothy Herby
Aaliyah Hodge
Kimberly Hover
Laura Huiras Ziegler

Elizabeth Kahn
Ashir KaneRisman
Jamie Kenealy
Brandon Kenney
James Kinyanjui
Jenna Larson
Sangyoo Lee
Gregory Lewin
Delgermaa Lkhasuren
Chelsea Matson
Brooke Edwards McManigal
Garrison McMurtrey
Maribeth Menendez
Griffin Merry
Madeline Mitchell
Mallory Mitchell
Marta Monti
Timothy Moreland
Emily Mueller
Laurel Nightingale
Kendal Orgera
Caitlin Osborn
Yingru Ouyang
Kalli Perano
Victoria Perkins
Jocelyn Pickreign
Tian Qiu
Khandker Wahedur Rahman
Ravi Reddi
Daniel Sagisser
Laurena Schlottach-Ratcliff
Peter Schmitt
Tane Soeldner-Danger
Karen Spitzfaden
Justin Stofferahn
Claire Stoscheck
Benjamin Suker
Carrie Suplick Benton
Eric Switzer
Leona Thao
Aliaksandra Tyhrytskaya
Renee Van Siclen
Anika Walz
Haley Wotzka
Man Xu
Neal Youngmans
Yue Zhang
Lingran Zhou

**Master of Science in Science, Technology,
and Environmental Policy (MS-STEP)**

Rebecca Beets
Tashi Gurung
Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger
John Howard
Ashley Kraetsch
Divya Narasimhan
Charlene Sundermann

Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

Cameran Bailey
Han Bao
Whitman Barrett
Britt Berner
Erika Brown
Jonathan Cowgill
Wesley Durham
Alireza Ermagun
Parker Evans
Paul Frank
Joseph Hartmann
Laura Haynssen
Thomas Holmes
Omnia Ibrahim
Atticus Jaramillo
Emily Jorgensen
Dustin Kleingartner
Jacob Knight
David Kratz
Hilary Lovelace
Karina Martin
Xinjia Ouyang
Laurelyn Sandkamp
Karl Schuettler
Scott Schumacher
Scott Shaffer
Zachary Sippel
Xinyi Wu
Zachary Zweifler

CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Margaret Airriess, *Certificate in Early Childhood Policy*
Trupti Sarode, *Certificate in Early Childhood Policy*
Evans Yamoah, *Certificate in Early Childhood Policy*
Jason Terwey, *Certificate in Election Administration*
Mekdelawit Astatke Bayu, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Marie Boyd, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
MerLynne Byrne, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Elisha Feitlinger, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Christina Field, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Muhammad Karim, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Faris Kasim, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Jocelyn Pickreign, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Kjerstin Sanden, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Amanda Traaseth, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Christa Troup, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Frieda von Qualen, *Certificate in Nonprofit Management*
Mary Gross, *Certificate in Policy Issues on Work and Pay*
Robin Brooksbank, *Certificate in Public Affairs Leadership*





2016 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

MEE MOUA is the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, a leading national nonprofit organization that works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans and build and promote a fair and equitable society for all.

At Advancing Justice | AAJC, Moua leads efforts to advocate for policies and programs that enable Asian American and other vulnerable communities to reach their full potential and address unfair and discriminatory structures and institutions that systematically deny Asian Americans and other vulnerable communities their civil and human rights. Before moving to Washington, DC, Moua served as a three-term Minnesota State Senator and was the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The first Hmong American to serve in the Minnesota Legislature, she was also the first Hmong American elected to serve in any state legislature in the United States.

Moua currently serves on a number of Boards and Advisory Committees, such as the Board of Directors for the Leadership Conference in Civil and Human Rights, the Advisory Board for the National Council on Asian Pacific Americans, the National Advisory Committee to the Census Bureau, the Public Committee for the Independent Sector, the Consumer Advisory Panel for AT&T, and the Diversity Advisory Council for Comcast/NBC Universal.

Born in Laos, Moua immigrated to the U.S. in 1978. She attended Brown University as an undergraduate, earned a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas-Austin, and a law degree from the University of Minnesota.

Moua has been named twice on the Washingtonian's "Most Powerful Women in Washington" list, including the most recent list in 2015.





ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PLANNERS AWARD*

Recognizes an outstanding planning student

RICHARD S. BOLAN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING FELLOWSHIP*

Encourages and supports student in timely completion of
MURP program

EDWARD A. BURDICK LEGISLATIVE AWARD

For exemplifying bipartisanship in public policy, honoring
former Minnesota Rep. Burdick

GARY M. DECRAMER PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

In memory of Gary DeCramer, former MPA program director,
awarded for exemplary leadership

DIVERSITY PAPER AWARD

For paper on policy issues affecting diverse populations
in U.S. or globally

ROBERT EINSWEILER AWARD

For planning project or paper, demonstrating intellectual
insight in consideration of political environment

FREEMAN STASSEN AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Demonstrated achievement in the field of global affairs

GROSS FAMILY MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP AWARDS (2)

Individual and team papers focused on management,
leadership, or public service delivery

HUBERT PROJECT AWARD

Excellence in a course project resulting in creation of
multimedia presentation

JERNBERG AWARD FOR STUDENT LIFE

Contribution to improvement of student life by student,
faculty, or staff, honoring James Jernberg, professor emeritus

LUKERMANN AWARD*

Exceptional service by a planning student, in memory of
Barbara Lukermann, senior fellow emerita

MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAPER AWARDS (2)

Best papers, including one for awareness of personal leadership growth and capacity

LLOYD B. SHORT AWARD FOR BEST MASTER'S PAPER (2)

Importance of topic and quality of analysis, honoring late Professor Lloyd Short

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD*

Demonstrated significant leadership at the Humphrey School (peer selected)

CLASS OF 1999 PAUL AND SHEILA WELLSTONE AWARD FOR PUBLIC ACTION AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Embodying the spirit, passion, and dedication of the late U.S. Senator and his wife

INSTRUCTIONAL AWARDS

INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR*

Professor Deborah Levison

CORE COURSE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR*

Associate Professor Kathy Quick

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR*

Steven Lutes



*A reception on the patio between
the Ted Mann Concert Hall and Ferguson
Hall follows the ceremony.*

**Previously presented*



HUMPHREY SCHOOL ALUMNI

We focus on connecting our students with meaningful work that matches their passions and areas of study, so that they leave the Humphrey School with the skills and knowledge to solve real-world challenges here at home and around the globe. The accomplished men and women conferred with their degrees today join an esteemed group of Humphrey School alumni who are working to advance the common good throughout Minnesota, the country, and the world.

The vast majority of our graduates are employed in their chosen careers, with more than 90% of recent graduates finding work in their specific field of interest. Our alumni serve in a wide range of positions in all levels of government, at nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, and in the private sector. In these roles, they are shaping policy at every level: in Minnesota, 400 alumni hold positions in state and local government; nearly 300 live and work in Washington, DC; and some 275 alumni are employed in foreign countries.

OF 4,200 ALUMNI:

- 38% government employment
- 25% nonprofit employment
- 26% private sector
- 11% academic staff

Our alumni remain deeply engaged with the Humphrey School, forming an active alumni network with a strong presence in Minnesota, Washington, DC, Chicago, and elsewhere. They are particularly active in our mentoring program, which is one of the oldest and most distinguished such programs in the country.





**"WHAT YOU DO, WHAT EACH OF US DOES,
HAS AN EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY,
THE STATE, THE NATION, AND THE WORLD."**

—HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, 1968



Hubert H. Humphrey

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs inspires,
educates, and supports innovative leaders to advance
the common good in a diverse world.



HUMPHREY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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