TROY HAUGEN he/him/his

Troy Haugen is the Director of Career & College Readiness at Lakes Country Service Cooperative. His work includes administering the federal Perkins grant for 26 school districts and coordinating the Otter Tail Family Service Collaborative.

LIZ KUOPPALA she/her/hers

Liz Kuoppala works as Executive Director of MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership. Her previous experience includes systems change work at the local, state and federal levels. She lives in rural Erhard with her wife, chickens, goats, dogs and cats.

VICTORIA MCWANE-CREEK she/her/hers

Victoria McWane-Creek is committed to serving and developing her community. She serves M State as the Director of Housing and Residential Life, the city of Fergus Falls as the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, the Board of Mahube-Otwa Community Action as treasurer, and her two adult offspring in their postsecondary pursuits.

KAREN PIFHER she/her/hers

Karen Pifher leads Becker County Energize, people working together to create a healthier community, and serves as the West Community Health Manager for Essentia Health. Pifher was 2017 Women’s 360 Woman of the Year, and she spends much of her time focusing on rural health equity.

PRAIRIE ROSE SEMINOLE they/them/their

Prairie Rose Seminole, a citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota and a descendent of the Sahnish/Aniaka, Northern Cheyenne and Lakota Nations, has been involved for 20 years in state politics and in issues related to health care, racial and gender justice and marriage equality. She is currently the American Indian Alaska Native Program Director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Thank you to the Rural Racial Equity Summit planning committee: Staci Allmaras, Chandler Esslinger, Troy Haugen, Victoria McWane-Creek, Deb Sjostrom, Sarah Thacker, Mike Trudeau

LEARNING IS KEY

The planning committee encourages use of the Body Parts Debrief below for reflection as you experience the day.

EYE: What are you seeing differently because of this?

EAR: What’s something someone else said that is sticking out or sticking with you?

HEART: What emotional response did you have to this?

STOMACH: What about this takes guts?

BRAIN: What’s a thought or question you have about this?

HAND: What’s something you’d like to do differently because of this?

SMILE: Where do you find hope in this?

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Staci Allmaras, Chandler Esslinger, Troy Haugen, Victoria McWane-Creek, Deb Sjostrom, Sarah Thacker, Mike Trudeau

“Building our beloved community
and this will require a qualitative change in our souls
as well as a quantitative change in our lives”

Dr. Martin Luther King

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RURAL RACIAL EQUITY SUMMIT
“BUILDING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JANUARY 20, 2020

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FERGUS FALLS
PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

KANDACE CREEL FALCON, PH.D., she/they/them

Kandace Creel Falcon, Ph.D., is an independent, queer, Xicanx feminist scholar, writer and visual artist. She lives in the Erhard hills with her wife, Liz, dogs, chickens, goats and cats. They co-own and facilitate healing retreats for artists and activists at the ChicFinn Cottage.

Michele Anderson

Michele Anderson is the Rural Program Director for Springboard for the Arts, a community and economic development organization for artists based in St. Paul and Fergus Falls.

MAGIE BAUMGARTNER she/her/hers

Magie Baumgartner uses her degree in critical race theory and training in bodywork, transformational mediation, psychological first aid and trauma/resilience to facilitate culture-building around anti-oppressive ideologies.

RACHEL DAME she/her/hers

Rachel Dame is the 2020 Census Project Manager at the Minnesota State Demographic Center. Rachel’s passion for the census developed in graduate school when she worked extensively to connect census data with policy decisions in Minnesota. Rachel currently manages the Complete Count Committee Trainings, DOT, Libraries, K-12 and Higher Education portfolios for the 2020 Census.

CURTISS DEYOUNG he/him/his

The Rev. Curtiss DeYoung is CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches, a statewide network of 25 Christian denominations that works to create unity built on justice.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

KEITH ELLISON

Attorney General, State of Minnesota

In his role as Minnesota Attorney General, Keith Ellison has committed himself to representing the rights of the disenfranchised and under-represented. Sworn into office in January 2019, he was the first African-American and the first Muslim to be elected to statewide office in Minnesota. He previously served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2003 to 2007 and in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2019.

Prior to serving in elected office, Ellison worked in private practice as a litigator specializing in civil rights, employment and criminal law and served for six years as executive director of the non-profit Legal Rights Center. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School.

RUTH BUFFALO

State Representative, North Dakota

Ruth Buffalo of Fargo, a citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation, was elected to the North Dakota House in 2018. She is a public health professional and educator and a volunteer for several local, statewide and national boards that focus on improving the quality of life for all people. A former chair of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, she is a recipient of National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development’s 40 under 40 leadership award.

KASIM ADBUR RAZZAQ

Social Architect, Razzaq Counseling

Kasim Adbr Razzaq is a native of the historic Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul and has served the Twin Cities and surrounding areas for more than 15 years through his work in social services and education. Razzaq is passionate about social justice and institution building and is a sought-after speaker, author, business owner and psychotherapist. He utilizes his formal education, natural gifts and life experiences to improve the lives of people and organizations.