

Board and CEO Search Update

GREETINGS!

The MIWRC Board and Community Search Committee have been working on behalf of the community to add members to our Board and select our next CEO.

We are excited to announce that we are adding to our Board of Directors with two members with deep connections to our community and MIWRC - Deanna Beaulieu, a Community Navigator with the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Safety Department and Mo Mike, a patient Navigator at Native American Community Clinic. Thanks to all who expressed interest, we will be following up with more additions to the Board once our new CEO has had a chance to join the organization and get settled.

The Community Search Committee and MIWRC Board are excited to announce that Ruth Anna Buffalo will join MIWRC as our next CEO!

Out of the candidates who stepped forward, she was the enthusiastic selection of the Community members on the Search Committee, and after a conversation with the Board of Directors, the Board agreed that she is a great selection for the CEO position. Ruth will start her role on Monday, March 4th.

Ruth Buffalo is originally from Mandaree, North Dakota. She is a citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Chiricahua Apache.

In 2018 she was elected to serve a four-year term in North Dakota's House of Representatives, District 27. She has served on advisory councils focused on women's health, women's leadership development and local food systems. She is board President for the National Native Boarding School Healing Coalition and the former board president of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition. She has 25+ years of community advocacy work.

In 2019, she was named North Dakota Woman of the Year by North Dakota Women's Network and received the Arc of Justice Award from the ND Human Rights Coalition. Ruth has introduced new laws focused on Human Trafficking and MMIP prevention.

In 2022, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Concordia College. She is a 2019-2020 Women's Peacemaker Fellow, former Chair of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition and a 2017 recipient of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 under 40 leadership award.



Her consultant and independent contract work has included several nonprofit organizations and improving the quality of life for Native communities. Her work includes research and advocacy, community capacity-building and continued reconciliation efforts through education.

Ruth is excited about getting started and shared “My family and I are deeply honored to be called upon to serve the community as I step into the role of CEO for the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center. I am filled with gratitude to the board and the search committee’s vision and trust instilled in me to carry the service forward & build upon the foundation laid by visionary and innovative leaders before me. My life’s work has been committed to serving others for the future generations. I look forward to working alongside the board, the staff, and the community to continue building intergenerational hope, health, cultural prosperity, and education for American Indian Families. I am confident we can do many good things together while honoring our ancestors in being good relatives.”

Board member Joy Parker added: “The Board of Directors is very grateful to welcome Ruth as the next CEO of MIWRC. We are excited and honored to work with her as we continue to stabilize, restore trust, and grow MIWRC to serve our Community.”

Please join us in welcoming Ruth to MIWRC and our community! We will have a welcoming ceremony for our community, staff, and Board at MIWRC on Thursday, March 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Special thanks to our Community Search Committee for their work in selecting Ruth

- Sharon Day
- Charlene Day Castro
- Lisa Skjefte
- Linda Eagle Speaker
- Beverly Bushyhead
- Marique Moss
- Joy Parker
- Darin Engelby

Current Board of Directors

- Joy Parker, Abenaki
- Summer Blaze Aubrey, Blackfeet/Cherokee
- Deanna Beaulieu, White Earth, Leech Lake, Red Lake, Oneida
- Mo Mike, Beardy’s and Okemasis’ Cree Nation 96 & 97
- Charlie Ferrell
- Darin Engelby



MIWRC WELCOMES NEW CEO

RUTH ANNA BUFFALO WILL JOIN MIWRC AS THE NEXT CEO!

After a Community guided selection process, the Board of MIWRC is excited to announce that Ruth Anna Buffalo will be joining MIWRC as the next CEO.

Ruth was the enthusiastic selection of the Community members on the Search Committee, and after interviews with the Board of Directors, the Board agreed that she is a great selection for the CEO position. Ruth will start her role on Monday, March 4th.

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