



Minnesota School Board Directors of Color & Indigenous Fellowship 2023 Lighthouse Awards and Marny Xiong Legacy Award

Annual Award Program Context

The Lighthouse Awards were established by the Minnesota School Board Directors of Color and Indigenous Fellowship (MNSBDOCI) in 2019. The Awards are named to reflect the research project conducted by the Iowa School Boards Association (ISBA). That work asked and answered the critical question “do school boards matter”?

The Lighthouse Awards aim to highlight great work of school board directors and superintendents in the state of Minnesota who are Indigenous or persons of color. These individuals demonstrate belief that their work matters, and directly impacts the communities and students they serve.

The criteria for nominees is tied to positive attributes highlighted in the Lighthouse study:

[CommunicationsCompassLight \(ncsbtraining.org\)](https://www.ncsbtraining.org).

The Marny Xiong Legacy Award was established by the Minnesota School Board Directors of Color and Indigenous Fellowship in 2020 to honor the contributions of late fellow school board director [Marny Xiong](#). At the time of her unfortunate passing in June 2020 due to COVID, Marny was serving as the board chair of St. Paul Public Schools. She had dedicated years of service for the betterment of all children, particularly those who were underserved and underrepresented.

The Marny Xiong Legacy Award aims to highlight school board directors who have spent years making a lasting impact on the lives of district children, teachers and administrators, and have been a fierce advocate for marginalized communities

Partnership with MSBA. New for 2023, the MNSBDOCI Awards Program will be integrated into Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)’s Awards Luncheon scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, January 12, 2023. The fellowship will continue to be responsible for the selection process and management of the Lighthouse and Xiong awards. MSBA will highlight this partnership in its various publications and communication leading up to the leadership conference.

Note: The MSBA Awards Luncheon is a paid event that requires separate and advanced registration. Look for luncheon registration on the MSBA Leadership Conference webpage or contact your district administrator.

Submit nominations at <https://forms.gle/dCjAk4h4ZpiNfSHBA>

For questions, please email mnschoolbddoc@gmail.com.

Award Descriptions

Lighthouse Superintendent Award

Eligibility:

- Must be licensed as a superintendent or an assistant superintendent in the State of Minnesota
- Must be currently employed with a school district in good standing and a member of the Minnesota School Boards Association
- Must be a person of color or Indigenous

Selection Criteria:

- Is perceived in their own district and in the greater community as a champion for public education
- Must have demonstrated tangible efforts to advance cultural competence and equitable practices
- Has consistently made efforts to improve academic outcomes for student
- Must model a commitment for continuous learning for him/herself and their governing school board

Lighthouse School Board Director Award

Eligibility:

- Must hold an election certificate with a school district in good standing and a member of the Minnesota School Boards Association
- Must complete the state of Minnesota required training within their first term
- Must be a person of color or Indigenous

Selection Criteria:

- Must be a demonstrated champion for all students and in particular for Indigenous and other students of Color
- Regarded as a proven, effective, and inclusive leader in their district and in Minnesota

Marny Xiong Legacy Award

Eligibility:

- Must have held (or previously held) an election certificate with a school district in good standing and a member of the Minnesota School Boards Association for at least one term
- Must be a person of color or Indigenous

Selection Criteria:

- Demonstrated high performing leadership
- Stand out performance in public education advocacy
- Demonstrated a lasting impact on the lives of district children, teachers, and administration as well as being an advocate for marginalized communities

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