

Samuel Gabriel - Liberia Gabriel is the co-founder and executive director of Genesis Youth Foundation, where he works to empower underserved youth and young adults, engage them in opportunities to become effective leaders, and provide a unified voice for African voices. During the COVID-19 crisis, Sam has been instrumental in making sure families had food, services and accurate information. The Des Moines Register named him one of the top 15 people to watch in 2019. Gabriel is a refugee from Liberia and lived in refugee camps in Guinea and the Ivory Coast before coming to the US.

Tijana Kudumovic – Bosnia Kudumovic, a long-time John Deere employee, is a founding member of the World and I (*Working on Recognizing Leadership, Diversity, and Inclusion*) resource group. Tijana is known as a force of change and healing: she has raised funds for research and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis, volunteered with Startup Kids, serves on the board of CultureALL and as a Court Appointed Service Agent for the Child Advocacy Board. Kudumovic escaped Bosnia during the Civil War and lived with her family in Croatia and Germany before coming to the U.S.

Abigail Sui - India Abigail Sui is one of the founding staff members of EMBARC, a grassroots nonprofit founded by and for refugees. She helped to conceptualize, launch, and manage the Parent Navigator Program. Under Abigail's leadership, the program has taught over 400 parents, enrolled over 300 preschoolers and kindergartners, and provided over 1,000 social services in the past five years. The community considers her a gate-opener. Sui left her family and home at age 16 when her Chin community was persecuted for their religion and ethnicity. Her path to the US included stays in India and Malaysia

James Suong – Cambodia Suong serves with the Iowa Army National Guard. His nominators call him a standard-bearer for bringing together people of varying cultures. Through his volunteer efforts, he has influenced public policy and programs for refugees and the Asian Pacific Islander community in Iowa. He serves on the Commission of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs at the Department of Human Rights by a gubernatorial appointment. Suong came to the U.S. with his mother as refugees from the Khmer region of Cambodia.

Emerging Leader: Mohamed Sharif – Somalia Sharif has worked with several community non-profits to help groom future technology talent, spending countless hours outside his full-time studies and two part-time positions at DMACC, inspiring middle and high school students. His nominators praised Mohamed's commitment to helping others, passion to promote education & IT, and service to his community. Mohamed has been the catalyst for numerous students to enroll in college. Mohamed is a refugee from Somalia. He came to the U.S. after stays in multiple refugee camps in Kenya.