

**Lee Pao Xiong**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota**  
[xiong@csp.edu](mailto:xiong@csp.edu)  
**651-641-8870**

Lee Pao Xiong is currently the founding Director of the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul and professor of American Government/Political Science and Hmong Studies.

Throughout his distinguished career, Xiong served as the Director of Housing Policy and Development for the City of Minneapolis, President and CEO of The Urban Coalition, Executive Director of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotan, Hmong American Partnership and the Hmong Youth Association of Minnesota. Previously, he has also served on the staff of Minnesota State Senator Joe Bertram and United States Senator Carl Levin of Michigan in Washington, DC.

From 1997 to 2003, Lee Pao represented the City of St. Paul, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights on the Metropolitan Council, a regional planning agency in Minnesota, as an appointee of Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura. As a Councilmember, he chaired the Livable Committee, which approves comprehensive plans for over 170 cities, provides funding for affordable housing as well as Section 8 housing for low-income communities. He also co-chaired the Central Corridor Coordinating Committees, which oversaw the planning process for the light-rail line that was built on University Avenue, connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 2000, President William Jefferson Clinton appointed Lee Pao Xiong to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to advise the president and federal agencies on issues relating to the 10 plus million Asian Americans in the United States, making him the first Hmong presidential appointee in the nation.

He is the founder of the Asian Economic Development Association (Formerly known as Asian Development Corporation), co-founder of Hmong College Prep Academy, Community School of Excellence, the Dragon Boat Festival (formerly known as the Asian American Festival), and the Hmong Resource Fair.

Lee Pao has won numerous awards for his services to the community over the years. These awards included the Hmong Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award in 2003, the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotan's Asian-Pacific Leadership Award in 2001, the National Association for the Education and Advancement of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese's Outstanding Services Award in 2000, the Lao-Hmong American Coalition's Leadership Award in 2000, the St. Paul Companies' Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods award in 1997 and he was inducted into the Como Park Senior High School Hall of Fame in 1999.

He was also the recipient of numerous fellowships. They included the James P. Shannon Leadership Fellowship, The Bush Leadership Fellowship, the McKnight Fellowship, and the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation's Fellowship.

He is widely sought after as a leadership, management, and diversity speaker and trainer by many government agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations. The media have sought out his expertise on Hmong social, culture, and political issues throughout the world. He is also considered by the various law enforcement agencies as an Asian gang expert and by the academic community an expert in Hmong culture, language and history.

Lee Pao received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and his Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Hamline University. He has completed his Doctorate in Public Administration coursework at Hamline University and is ABD.