

Samuel Yigzaw

Minneapolis, MN

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Education

Ph.D., Education

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN — *April 1998*

Major Emphasis: Curriculum Studies

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Kerry Freedman Norberg

M.Ed., Education

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN — *June 1994*

Major Emphasis: Instructional Systems & Technology

Advisor: Dr. Judith Lambrecht

B.A., Geography

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia — *October 1985*

Advisor: Dr. Mekete Belachew

Licensure

- Minnesota District Superintendent License (Folder #336710)
- Minnesota K–12 Principal License (Folder #336710)
- Minnesota Teaching License, Social Studies 5–12 (Folder #336710)

Professional Experience

Executive Leadership

Executive Director

Higher Ground Academy — *2018 to Present*

Principal

Higher Ground Academy — *2003 to 2018*

Director of Curriculum & Assessment

Higher Ground Academy — *1999 to 2003*

Teaching Experience

Higher Ground Academy — 2008 to 2023

- Advanced Placement Human Geography (2008–2012)
- Human Geography (2012–2023)

St. Joseph School, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — 1982 to 1990

- Geography

University of Minnesota — 1998 to 2002

Adjunct Faculty, Department of Curriculum & Instruction

St. Mary's University, Twin Cities, Minnesota — 2007 to 2018

Associate Professor of Education

Courses taught: Assessment & Evaluation, Research Methodology, Ethics & Law in Education

Consulting Experience

Harcourt Brace / The Psychological Corporation — 2000 to 2005

Member, Bias Review Board for Assessment Materials

Advising & Mentorship

- Advised more than 60 graduate students completing master's theses at St. Mary's University
- Mentor for charter school leaders through the Center for School Change
- Mentored principal interns from the University of Minnesota, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and Saint Cloud State University
- Mentor for new school leaders at Higher Ground Academy

Presentations & Publications

- Yigzaw, S. & Nathan, J. (2013). *St. Cloud Public Schools: Sharing Key Lessons from Successful Schools*. Presented to School Board, Superintendent, and Principals.
- Yigzaw, S. (2011). *Data Driven Instruction: Lessons from Higher Ground Academy*. Presented at a Conference for Catholic School Educators in Saint Louis, Missouri.
- Yigzaw, S. (2007). *Keeping the Promise: One Charter School's Experience*.
- Yigzaw, S. (1999). *Technology Enhanced Curriculum: The Higher Ground Experience*. Presented at Concordia University.

- Yigzaw, S. & Beran, Olson K. (1998). *Meeting the Graduation Standards with an Innovative Curriculum*. Presented to St. Paul Public Schools staff.
- Yigzaw, S. & Nguyen, K. (1996). *Student Indifference Behavior: Understanding the Challenges*. Presented at Patrick Henry High School.

References

Dr. Joe Nathan

Center for School Change

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Basima Mohamed

Higher Ground Academy Board Member

Email: basimam2008@gmail.com

Abdulcadir Mohamud

Principal, HGA Secondary Academy