

Speakers

Rose Roach is the National Coordinator for the Labor Campaign for Single Payer and Chair of Healthcare for All Minnesota. Ms. Roach retired in 2023 as the Executive Director of the MN Nurses Association after working in the labor movement for 34 years. For more than two decades, Ms. Roach has been involved in the healthcare justice movement, both as a national speaker and trainer. She served on Governor Mark Dayton's Healthcare Financing Task Force as well as Attorney General, Keith Ellison's, Lowering Pharmaceutical Costs Task Force. In 2016 and 2020, Ms. Roach was recognized as one of the MN Physician's Magazine quadrennials, top100 leaders in healthcare, was the first recipient of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's 2023 Women's Trailblazer award; received the 2019 DFL's Paul Wellstone Lifetime Commitment to Organized Labor award and the 2024 Paul and Sheila Wellstone Social Justice Award from the MN Nurses Association.

Carrie Henning-Smith, is Co-Director of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, and Co-Director of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Program. She is President-Elect of the National Rural Health Association and serves on the Board of Directors for CentraCare, a large, integrated health system serving central Minnesota. Dr. Henning-Smith has published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, commentaries, book chapters, and policy briefs, and her work has been widely cited in federal and state policy documents, as well as in national and international media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, National Public Radio, NBC News, AP, CBS, CNN, ProPublica, and Politico. Dr. Henning-Smith's work focuses on rural health, with particular attention to structural barriers to health and social well-being. She holds a PhD in health services research with a minor in demography from the University of Minnesota.