Nimco Ahmed, a resident of Minneapolis, MN, has been named a Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. She is one of 37 individuals selected for the 2009-2010 program.
Ahmed works as a policy aide for the vice president of the Minneapolis City Council, where she is the chief of staff of the 6th ward office and represents the council in city and neighborhood meetings. Ahmed entered the political world with a strong desire to educate communities who are marginalized politically, socially, and economically. She has extensive experience as an organizer for political campaigns at the state and national level. In 2007, Ahmed was named a "Woman to Watch" by the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus. Ahmed is one of 16 state directors for the Minnesota DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor) party and serves on the board of directors of Minneapolis Community Action, Circle of Discipline and the reNEW Minnesota Campaign.

The Policy Fellows program prepares individuals from all professional sectors to assume leadership roles in public affairs. Through a nine-month educational experience that includes workshops, seminars, and leadership development activities, Policy Fellows gain practical training in public affairs leadership while examining national and international issues confronting the United States. Fellows are selected from Greater Minnesota as well as the Twin Cities.

The program is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. Begun by Vice President Walter Mondale and Geri Joseph in 1990, the program was co-directed for a dozen years by former congressmen Tim Penny and Vin Weber, and is now directed by nationally prominent political science Professor Lawrence Jacobs, the Walter F. and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Says Professor Jacobs, "We are thrilled to be working with this impressive group of Fellows, representing government, business, and nonprofit sectors. This year's program will equip these individuals with the leadership skills to advance the common good in Minnesota and beyond," said Jacobs. "Our current class of Fellows represent Minnesota's changing demographics and

trends, and they join a distinguished group of over 550 prominent Minnesotans who are alumni of the program."

The program is housed in the Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance. The Center strives to increase public understanding of politics and promote an informed and engaged citizenry through research and by offering a wide array of public events and programs.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the University of Minnesota's graduate school of public affairs, prepares individuals for public service and designs more effective public policies and institutions. The institute offers four graduate degree programs and is home to 16 research and outreach centers and programs.