



March 22, 2021



It is my pleasure to announce that Isidore Niyongabo is selected as our 2021 George W. Nevil Award Recipient.

Isidore is currently the President of National Black Deaf Advocates, the founder and Executive Director of International Deaf Education, Advocacy, and Leadership (IDEAL), and Director of Human Resources at Convo Communications. Most recently, he was appointed for the second time to serve as the Co-chair for the 4th term of the Federal Communication Commission's Disability Advisory Committee.

Originally from Burundi, Isidore's world changed when he contracted and survived spinal meningitis and started his journey as a Deaf person. After overcoming the challenges and obstacles in accessibility during his early education in Burundi, he moved to California to pursue higher education. His accessible and inclusive education in the U.S started at Ohlone College, California where he graduated in 2008 with an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts, with concentration in social sciences. Further, Isidore holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from San Diego State University, and a Master's degree in Peace and Justice Studies from the University of San Diego with concentration in Human Rights advocacy, International Human Rights laws, conflicts resolution, and International Development.

While not in his office, he continues to advocate for a better quality of life for Black Deaf and hard of hearing people in the U.S through NBDA and Deaf children and youth globally through IDEAL. In addition, Isidore travels the world inspiring thousands of people through his story filled with examples of perseverance, self-reliance, courage, and hope while advocating for an equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible world for Deaf and hard of Hearing people.

Congratulations, Isidore!

Peter L Bailey

Peter L. Bailey
Head of School