

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Wisconsin awardees recognized for sustainability

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers congratulated three public schools, one school district, and one postsecondary institution from Wisconsin honored with a 2015 Green Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Department of Education. The program, in its fourth year, recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions that demonstrate promising practices to improve the health of students, cut costs, and engage students in hands-on learning experiences.

“Congratulations to our five 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award winners,” Evers said. “Their efforts to practice and teach sustainability during all levels of education prepare our students with lifelong skills that are important for ensuring the health of future generations.”

The three Wisconsin awardees are among only 58 schools recognized nationwide as 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools:

- Colby Elementary School
- Lake Mills Elementary School
- Columbus Elementary-Discovery Charter School

Additionally, the **Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District** was among only 14 nationwide to receive the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award.

New this year, the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Postsecondary Sustainability Award was added to show the full spectrum of these exemplary efforts from early learning to postsecondary education.

**Western Technical College** in La Crosse was one of only nine colleges and universities nationwide to receive this award. Western Technical College was nominated for the award by the University of Wisconsin System.

The winners will be invited to a national recognition event in Washington, D.C., this June and professional development events in Wisconsin this October.

(more)

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools awards recognize schools and districts for achieving the often-intertwined goals of saving energy, reducing costs, fostering health and wellness, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education which incorporates STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), civic skills, and green career pathways.

Evers nominated the school and district awardees after they applied to the state's Green and Healthy Schools program. Green and Healthy Schools Wisconsin, offered through a partnership between the departments of Public Instruction and Natural Resources, along with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, supports and recognizes schools for such goals as reducing environmental impacts and costs, improving health and wellness of students and staff, and providing environmental education.

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**NOTE:** More information about the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools awards, including links to the nominations for each winner, is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_41.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_41.pdf).