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## DPI named recipient of 2024 Diversity Award

*Creation of Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan strengthens culture and climate*

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction today was named the recipient of the 2024 Diversity Award for its strong commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive workplace.

The [Diversity Award](#) was established in 2000 by the State Council on Affirmative Action and recognizes state agencies for dedication to the recruitment, retention and promotion of a diverse workforce. The DPI received the honor for its 2024-26 Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

“Receiving this honor is a reflection of the department’s shared commitment to equity and inclusion,” State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly said. “I am grateful for the contributions of staff in creating a plan that has already had a positive impact and fostered a more inclusive and supportive environment for staff. At the same time, challenges persist, and we remain focused on the work ahead.”

Through targeted recruitment initiatives, the DPI has improved outreach to underrepresented groups and diversified applicant pools. In addition, the department has made a variety of accessibility improvements, including hiring its first ever American Sign Language interpreter. The creation of a Leadership Development Program provides ongoing leadership training to staff to strengthen the department’s culture and climate. Results from a survey show measurable progress in the department’s culture and climate initiatives.

The 2024 Diversity Award was presented to DPI staff during the 2024 Diversity and Virginia Hart Special Recognition Awards ceremony, which was held at the Wisconsin State Capitol on Friday. Video of the ceremony can be found [on the Wisconsin Department of Administration’s YouTube channel](#).

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**NOTE:** This news release is available online on the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s website](#).