



Jill Underly
State Superintendent-Elect
WI Department of Public Instruction
dpi-transition.wi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2021

Contact: Erin Forrest — (920) 234-8829

State Superintendent-elect Jill Underly Announces Transition Team

(Madison, WI) — State Superintendent-elect Jill Underly announced today her Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) transition team, made up primarily of volunteers.

“Our transition will be advised by a team with diverse experience in public education and libraries,” said Dr. Underly. “They represent a broad group of stakeholders and each bring a passion for public education and a commitment to helping our new administration fulfill our pledge to build a public education system where every child gets what they need to succeed, every day.”

The transition team will meet periodically, provide advice and counsel, and help connect Dr. Underly to various communities and stakeholders across the state.

Erin Forrest is serving as Transition Director. She is an experienced organizational leader who most recently worked in the adult training and women’s empowerment space. Erin is a proud Wisconsin public schools graduate and the parent of two Wisconsin public school kids.

Sachin Chheda is serving as senior advisor to the transition. He is an experienced communications, government relations, advocacy and nonprofit management professional, who previously has served as a senior aide to a Governor and a UW-Milwaukee Chancellor. He oversaw Underly’s campaign for Superintendent, and has four children attending or graduated from Milwaukee Public Schools.

Susie Crazy Thunder, Anishinaabe name of Giiwedinoonkwe (North Wind Woman), is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwé. She is the Tribal Outreach Coordinator for Nicolet College and has served on the board of the Wisconsin Indian Education Association since 2016.

Angelina Cruz has been a public school teacher in the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) for the past eighteen years. She is currently the President of Racine Educators United, a public educator union comprising the Racine Education Association and the Racine Educational Assistants’ Association.

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Troy Gunderson is recently retired from a 35-year career in public education. His career included seven years as a classroom teacher, 16 years as a high school principal, and 12 years as a school district superintendent. Gunderson is currently serving as an adjunct professor in school finance at Viterbo University.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle is a former National Board certified educator from the Eau Claire Area School District. After retirement, Chris served two terms on the school board and worked as an early childhood consultant. She is the Northwest organizer for the Wisconsin Public Education Network, a county board supervisor and president of her local retired teachers' union.

Dr. Shandowlyon Hendricks-Williams is a dispositional leader, life-long educator and entrepreneur. She served as a teacher assistant, teacher, principal, district administrator, regional director and adjunct faculty in Milwaukee. Dr. Hendricks previously served as director of the governor's Milwaukee office

Marva Herndon serves as an elected member of the Milwaukee Public Schools Board. She is a community advocate, founder of her neighborhood association, and a member of the NAACP Education Committee, Women Informed, School & Communities United, Educators Amplified Radio Team, and Wisconsin Public Education Network.

Kim Kaukl grew up in Richland Center, WI, earned degrees from UW-La Crosse and UW-Madison, and served 34 years as a teacher and administrator in schools of varying sizes. He is currently the executive director of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance.

Trish Kilpin is in her 30th year as a Greendale School District School Social Worker. She was named the Wisconsin School Social Worker of the Year in 1997, and Wisconsin Teacher of the Year in 2021. She believes that the social, emotional and cognitive facets of learning are deeply linked.

Scott Lenski is a librarian at the Whitefish Bay Public Library, where he's worked since 2012. He plans all of the adult programming, updates the website and posts to the library's social media. He received a Master's in Library and Information Science from UW-Milwaukee and lives in Milwaukee with his husband and many pets.

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Chai Moua serves on the Portage County Board. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services Management and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership. She holds a Family Development Specialist Certification from the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and the University of Iowa School Social of Work. She lives in Stevens Point with her husband Phong Vang and their four children

Rep. Shelia Stubbs serves in the state legislature and Dane County Board. She obtained a BS in Criminal Justice Administration, a BA in Political Science, and a Masters in Science & Management. She went on to teach Criminal Justice at Mount Senario College. As a community leader, Rep. Stubbs has served as President of the Bridge/Lakepoint Neighborhood Association, and is the Co-Founder of End Time Ministries International.

Dr. Joan Wade is the Executive Director for the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AES). Dr. Wade also led CESA 6 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin for 15 years. She was elected and served as a State Representative in the Wisconsin Legislature from 1998–2001. Prior experiences include Distance Learning Director, Technology Coordinator, Library Media Specialist and Elementary Teacher in Wisconsin.

Peggy Wirtz-Olsen is a high school art and English teacher currently serving as the Vice President of the Wisconsin Education Association Council. She earned her BA in Art Education and English from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1997 and her MS in Education with a Curriculum and Instruction emphasis from Concordia University, Mequon in 2002.

Julie Underwood, J.D., Ph.D. is the former dean of the School of Education at UW Madison. Her area of expertise is K-12 education law and policy. Prior to being dean she was the General Counsel for the National School Boards Association. In 2018-2019 she served on the Wisconsin legislative Blue Ribbon Commission for School Funding. She is the current board chair for the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools, an advocacy group for public education.

Dr. Underly will continue to announce appointments going forward, including a Transition Advisory Council, currently in formation.

More information about State Superintendent-elect Underly's transition – including scheduling requests and applications to serve – can be found at <https://dpi-transition.wi.gov/>.

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