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Wisconsin Women's Network Hires Executive Director to Champion Women's Rights in Critical Era

Madison, WI – March 12, 2025 – The Wisconsin Women's Network (WWN) is proud to announce the hiring of Emily Hyde Cawley as its new Executive Director, effective March 2025. In an era where the rights of women and girls are under increasing scrutiny, Hyde's leadership marks a bold step forward in WWN's mission to champion gender equity and advance the status of women and girls throughout Wisconsin.

"At a time when women's rights and voices are being challenged across the nation, the Wisconsin Women's Network is doubling down on our commitment to ensure that the rights and opportunities of women and girls in Wisconsin are not forgotten," said Bianca Shaw, President of WWN. "Emily is a dynamic leader with a deep understanding of policy, advocacy, and community empowerment. Her vision and passion will be instrumental in guiding WWN through this critical moment in history."

A Leader for a Critical Moment

Hyde brings a wealth of experience to her new role, holding a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Social Welfare from UW-Madison. Her professional background includes advocacy for marginalized populations as an Assistant State Public Defender and work with the Wisconsin Innocence Project and Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences, where she championed justice and equity. Hyde has served as the WWN Program Manager since 2022; in this role, she provided integral support in restarting the Policy Institute after the pandemic, expanding the Mentorship Program to Milwaukee, and ...

As Executive Director, Hyde will lead WWN's strategic initiatives, including the WWN Policy Institute, expand partnerships with advocacy organizations, and spearhead the organization's fundraising and sustainability efforts. Her leadership will also focus on advancing gender inclusivity, equity, and civic engagement across Wisconsin.

"I am honored to step into this role at such a pivotal time," said Hyde. "Women's voices, leadership, and rights are essential to the future of our communities. I am committed to ensuring WWN remains at the forefront of advocacy, empowering women and girls to lead, and fighting for policies that create lasting change."

Advocating for Equity in Challenging Times

WWN's mission is more vital than ever, with ongoing political debates impacting reproductive rights, gender equity, economic opportunity, and access to education and healthcare. Hyde's leadership signals WWN's strengthened resolve to ensure that women's rights are prioritized in Wisconsin's policy landscape.

Key priorities under Hyde's leadership will include:

Expanding the WWN Policy Institute to empower more women advocates and the Mentorship Program to connect more leaders

Strengthening advocacy and education efforts to amplify women's voices statewide.

Building broader coalitions with local and national organizations to advance gender equity.

Advocating for policies that uplift and protect those who have faced gender discrimination and gender oppression.

About Wisconsin Women's Network

The Wisconsin Women's Network (WWN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the status of women and girls through advocacy, education, and collaboration. For over 40 years, WWN has been committed to promoting policies and initiatives that support gender equity and ensure the empowerment of women in every corner of Wisconsin.

For more information about Wisconsin Women's Network or to learn how you can support our mission, visit <https://wiwomensnetwork.org/>.

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