

Educators Rising-Wisconsin Announces 2024 Summit and Competitions

Madison, WI—Educators Rising-Wisconsin, in partnership with the Harju Center for Equity in Education and the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), announces its annual summit--“Take Flight & Soar!”--will be held on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. High school biology teacher and 2023 Wisconsin State Teacher of the Year Lori Danz will serve as the keynote speaker.

Wisconsin’s teacher shortage continues to be a concern to school administrators, educational leaders, and parents across the state. Educators Rising-Wisconsin aims to inspire and equip a future generation of educators to serve Wisconsin’s schools. It works to encourage young people to explore the benefits of a career in education and embrace the call of education as a profession. It is the only statewide student organization whose primary mission is to support future educators.

“This program is a direct solution to school staffing shortages because it supports and educates the next generation of teachers even before they graduate high school,” said Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, a teacher and president of the Wisconsin Education Association Council, the host organization for Educators Rising-Wisconsin since 2018. “Over half of new teachers leave the profession within the first five years, often citing lack of support and feeling unprepared.

Educators Rising helps students develop strong leadership traits that are required of today’s high-quality teachers.”

Educators Rising-Wisconsin has grown to 98 chapters throughout the state and is part of many districts' Grow-your-Own teacher-recruitment strategies. Nearly 300 students from 30 school districts will be in attendance at this year’s summit. Participating Wisconsin Public School Districts include Abbotsford, Appleton, Augusta, Baraboo, Cambria-Friesland, Cuba City, Durand-Arkansaw, Granton, Greenwood, Hortonville, Lola-Scandinavia, La Crosse, Ladysmith, Mauston, Menomonie, Muskego, New Berline, Pardeeville, Pittsville, Platteville, Randolph,

Rhineland, Rio, Riverdale, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Wausau, Wauwatosa, and Wisconsin Rapids.

Breakout sessions will be facilitated by distinguished educators. Sixteen colleges and professional organizations will participate in a recruitment fair. Additionally, many of the attendees will compete in categories that showcase their budding educator skills. Competitors have the opportunity to earn eligibility for national recognition.

“The Harju Center is honored to philosophically and financially support the amazing work of Educators Rising-Wisconsin, as together we look for innovative solutions to develop positive, passionate and prepared teachers to address this very real and growing need in our state and schools,” said Perry Cook, Harju Center director.

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For more information on the program:

[Educators Rising Wisconsin - Wisconsin Education Association Council \(weac.org\)](http://weac.org)

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