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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **November 3, 2026**

La Crosse Public Schools' Dr. Aaron Engel Named 2027 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year

MADISON, WI — The Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) has named Dr. Aaron Engel, superintendent of the La Crosse Public Schools, as the 2027 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Engel is being recognized for his exceptional leadership, dedication to student success, and commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for all students. Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting students, staff, and families while building meaningful relationships throughout the community.

"Aaron's selection as Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year reflects his exceptional leadership, commitment to students, and positive impact on the La Crosse community," said WASDA Executive Director Damian LaCroix. He is a highly respected educational leader, and we are pleased to recognize his service and accomplishments with this honor."

Dr. Engel has served as superintendent of the La Crosse Public Schools since 2020. Before that, he was superintendent of the Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District, and he has also served as a principal and science teacher. Additionally, he holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Dr. Engel holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin, along with a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from UW-Superior. He received his bachelor's degree in Biology and Education from UW-Stevens Point.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to receive this recognition," said Dr. Engel. "This award is a reflection of the incredible work happening every day throughout the La Crosse Public Schools. I am fortunate to work alongside dedicated educators, staff, families, and community members who share a commitment to helping every student succeed. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I look forward to continuing our work to create meaningful opportunities and positive outcomes for all students."

The selection process for the Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year award was conducted solely by the WASDA Board of Directors and its designated subcommittee.

WASDA will present the Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year award to Engel during the Wednesday General Session of the joint WASB/WASDA/WASBO Convention on January 20, 2027. Engel will also serve as the featured speaker at the WASDA Luncheon on January 21.

Since its inception, WASDA's Superintendent of the Year program has become widely acknowledged as the most prestigious honor a Wisconsin school system leader can receive. Criteria include successfully meeting the needs of students, personal and organizational communication, professionalism, participation in local community activities, and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

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