

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program Announces Group XIII Fellows**

MADISON—Twenty-nine residents of Wisconsin's villages, towns and cities have been chosen for the 13th group of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program (WRLP).

The WRLP equips state residents to become effective leaders. Over a two-year span, WRLP "leadership fellows" participate in classroom activities, field experiences, state, regional, national and international travel, focusing on government, leadership, urban issues, individual/community rights, energy, diversity, technology, global economics, natural resources and the environment.

"Our participants are leaders who are active in their communities, organizations, or businesses. They are passionate and motivated to make things happen and are committed to developing the skills to ensure that they will make a difference," JoAnn Stormer, Executive Director of WRLP, said. "These are people with guts, determination and a burning desire to better serve their community, organization or businesses."

Group XIII Fellows are from 21 counties across the state:

Adams: Heidi Roekle  
Ashland: Mary Rehwald  
Bayfield: Lois Albrecht  
Buffalo: Shaun Duvall  
Burnett: Michael Kornmann  
Dane: Robert Carlson, Jr., Angela Kinderman, Laurie Schammel  
Dodge: Marcia Haase, James Zahn  
Eau Claire: Juanita Peck, Charles Wachsmuth  
Iowa: Thomas Hunt  
Langlade: Christine Berry  
Marathon: Donald Lutz, Carolyn Michalski, Michael Otten  
Oneida: James Winkler  
Outagamie: Jacqueline Merkel  
Ozaukee: Gary Gwidt  
Polk: Heidi Clausen  
Portage: Paul Bartlett, Jason Zilisch  
Shawano: Rhonda Strebel  
Walworth: Kathleen Baumeister, Edward Wieners  
Washburn: Linda George  
Winnebago: Karen King  
Wood: Heidi Dobbs

"WRLP will give this group of leaders from throughout Wisconsin a chance to interact with each other. It immerses them in opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of the present and what the future holds and presents them with the tools to lead innovative responses to the long-term challenges facing Wisconsin," Stormer said.

Group XIII will begin meeting in July 2008 and graduate from the program in July 2010. In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, WRLP has graduated over 300 leaders who have gone on to make positive differences in their Wisconsin communities.

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[About WRLP](#)

An initiative of UW-Cooperative Extension, the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program's mission is to "develop leaders to strengthen communities." Almost 70 percent of WRLP graduates go on to serve in elected leadership positions.

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