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Library director chosen as Friend of Education

For The Reporter

Fond du Lac Public Library Director Ken Hall has been named a 2010 Friend of Education by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Hall will join nine other recipients of the award on Thursday in Madison for State Superintendent Tony Evers' second annual State of Education address.

Evers chose seven individuals and three organizations to be recognized for their "significant contributions to students in local communities and across the state," according to a DPI press release.

Hall was lauded for his efforts in addressing the needs of displaced workers in the Fond du Lac area. According to the DPI, "Through the services of two VISTA volunteers, who recruited community members to staff the Opportunity Center at the library, more than 650 job seekers had help to improve their computer skills, write résumés and cover letters, search online for work, and research jobs and companies."

"We saw a need in our community," Hall said. "There were and still are many job seekers who lacked basic computer skills, skills that are prerequisite for nearly every opening today. We had the facilities, and the VISTA workers provided the know-how."

"I am extremely grateful to Josh Cowles and Sara Byrnes, the VISTA volunteers who got the Opportunity Center off the ground," Hall said. "They did an outstanding job and created an extremely valuable service to the community at a critical time. Their work was groundbreaking and innovative, and this recognition is due largely to their efforts."

Hall extended services of the Opportunity Center to other smaller libraries in Fond du Lac County, making the library a center for economic development and recovery.

Evers said he is "humbled by the dedication of these citizens and organizations who each day work to improve the lives and education of the children of Wisconsin."

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