

## Guest Editorial

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### Evers: Keep learning, exploring, serving

*A graduation editorial by State Superintendent Tony Evers*

About 60,000 students will graduate from Wisconsin public high schools in the coming weeks. Those graduates, their families, and friends have much to celebrate. High school graduation is a milestone, a transition in life.

Most of our 2015 graduates are or will soon be 18-years-of-age, the mark of adulthood in the United States and many other countries. But as those of us who have reached and surpassed the age of majority, leaving high school and being an adult doesn't mean the end of education. Successful people will tell you, they never stop learning. And, if the class of 2015 is like those before it, about 60 percent of our graduates will continue their education at a two- or four-year college or university in the fall. Others will pursue postsecondary studies later. With a world economy that demands some education beyond high school for most family-supporting jobs, our graduates' level of continuing education is good news. Whether headed toward postsecondary studies, an apprenticeship or training program, military service, or the workforce, I hope our 2015 graduates keep learning throughout life.

America's strength comes from its diversity. While few of us can travel to exotic places, exploring our diverse planet spans a wide range of experiences with many options for broadening cultural connections. Through the public library, the Internet, community gatherings, and other events, the world might just be around the corner. When you interact with someone whose background and upbringing is different than your own, it opens new ways of thinking and adds to the richness of life. I urge our graduates to keep exploring your community, state, country, and beyond.

What would our communities be without those who volunteer? I can tell you, they wouldn't be much. From coaching athletics to collecting for a food bank, from cleaning up parks and roadways to participating in civic and social organizations, it's the time we give that makes a community thrive. And, our capacity to show compassion and understanding to others is strengthened through service. Graduates, I encourage you to find a cause you believe in to help a neighbor or improve your community. It's worth it.

Congratulations 2015 high school graduates. Never stop learning, exploring, and serving. The world needs your strength and energy to move forward. Best wishes for your life ahead.

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**NOTES:** A high resolution photo of the state superintendent is available on the Department of Public Instruction "Media Contacts and Resources" webpage at <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/contacts-resources>. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_54.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_54.pdf).