



January 14, 2019

To: Members, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

From: Layla Merrifield, Executive Director

Re: Governor Tony Evers Administration

Monday, January 7, was inauguration day for Governor Tony Evers, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and Wisconsin's constitutional officers, ushering in a new era of divided government, following eight years of single-party control of the Assembly, Senate, and Governor's office. Governor Evers has announced his selections to fill Cabinet positions and senior staff roles in his new administration. Cabinet selections are subject to confirmation by the State Senate. Evers' cabinet and staff appointees are as follows:

Department of Administration – Joel Brennan. Brennan has been the chief executive officer of Discovery World Science and Technology Museum in Milwaukee for 11 years. He previously served with the Milwaukee Redevelopment Authority. Brennan was also campaign manager for Tom Barrett, mayor of Milwaukee since 2004.

Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection – Brad Pfaff. Pfaff, of Onalaska, is deputy chief of staff for US Representative Ron Kind. He previously worked as executive director for the US Department of Agriculture's Wisconsin Farm Service Agency under the Obama Administration.

Department of Children and Families – Emilie Amundson. Amundson previously served as chief of staff to then-State Superintendent Evers at the Department of Public Instruction.

Department of Corrections – Kevin Carr. Carr worked for 30 years in the Milwaukee County's Sheriff's Department, rising to become top aide to former Sheriff David Clarke, before becoming a US Marshal for the eastern district, which includes Milwaukee, in 2010.

Department of Financial Institutions – Kathy Koltin Blumenfeld. Blumenfeld is executive vice president of special operations for TASC, a Madison-based benefits administration company. Prior to TASC, Blumenfeld worked for CUNA Mutual for 25 years.

Department of Health Services – Andrea Palm. Palm, originally from New York, previously served as senior counselor at the federal Department of Health and Human Services under the Obama administration. Prior to joining Health and Human Services, Palm worked for five years as a health policy advisor to then-US Senator Hillary Clinton.

Insurance Commissioner – Mark Afable. Afable is chief legal counsel at American Family Insurance, based in Madison, and has worked there since 1994. He previously served as counsel for the National Association of Independent Insurers.

Department of Natural Resources – Preston Cole. Cole has served on the Natural Resources Board since 2007. He was also Milwaukee Commissioner of Neighborhood Services under Barrett. Cole also sits on the board of directors of the Water Council.

Public Service Commission chair – Rebecca Cameron Valcq. Cameron Valcq is a partner with the law firm Quarles & Brady, focused on regulatory, compliance, and energy law, and previously spent 15 years as regulatory counsel for WE Energies.

Department of Revenue – Peter Barca. Barca was a longtime Assembly representative from Kenosha, who previously served in Congress, and as a regional administrator of the Small Business Administration under the Clinton administration.

Department of Safety and Professional Services – Dawn Crim. Crim, of Fitchburg, was previously the assistant state superintendent for the Division of Student and School Success at Public Instruction. Crim is a former assistant coach for the University of Wisconsin women's basketball team.

Department of Tourism – Sara Meaney. Meaney is the chief marketing and development officer at Milwaukee Film, and prior to joining the film festival, was a managing director at Glendale-based advertising agency BVK.

Department of Transportation – Craig Thompson. Thompson, a Racine native, has served as executive director of the Wisconsin Transportation Development Association for more than 10 years. The association advocates for the development and maintenance of intermodal transportation networks. Prior to that, Thompson was legislative director for the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Department of Veterans Affairs – Mary Kolar. Kolar is a retired US Navy captain and Dane County Supervisor representing downtown Madison since 2013. She served 28 years on active duty in the Navy, chaired the Dane County Veterans Service Commission, and served as vice president of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation board of directors. She also serves on the Wisconsin Counties Association board of directors.

Department of Workforce Development – Caleb Frostman. Frostman, from Sturgeon Bay, is the former executive director of the Door County Economic Development Corporation. He was elected to the State Senate in a special election in June, but lost in the general election to former Representative Andre Jacque.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority – No announcement.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction – Carolyn Stanford Taylor. Evers appointed Stanford Taylor to serve out the remainder of his term as State Superintendent, which will be up for re-election in 2021. Stanford Taylor is the state's first African American State Superintendent, and was a longtime assistant state superintendent of the Division for

Learning Support, which includes special education and student services. This appointment is not subject to Senate confirmation.

Department of Administration State Budget Director – Brian Pahnke. Pahnke is a longtime assistant state superintendent for finance and management, and was formerly budget director for the Department of Public Instruction. Prior to joining DPI, Pahnke served in the state budget office, with more than 28 years of experience in budget and finance positions in state government.

Other senior staff appointments include:

Chief of Staff -- Maggie Gau. Gau was campaign manager for Evers' gubernatorial bid and a former legislative staffer.

Deputy Chief of Staff – Melissa Moore Baldauff. Baldauff is a former Democratic Party of Wisconsin spokeswoman and staffer for Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele.

Deputy Chief of Staff – Kara Pennoyer. Pennoyer is former chief of staff to Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling.

Deputy Chief of Staff – Barbara Worcester. Worcester was chief of staff to former Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker.

Chief Legal Counsel – Ryan Nilsestuen

Policy Director – Jenni Dye. Dye is the former Executive Director of the State Senate Democratic Committee, Dane County Board member, and former research director at One Wisconsin.

Director of Constituent Services – Margie Berkowitz

Legislative Director – Stephanie Hilton

Deputy Communications Director – Britt Cudaback. Cudaback is a former staffer for Representative Melissa Sargent and worked on the Evers campaign.

Operations Director – Royce Kim. Kim was a staffer for the Evers campaign for governor, and has extensive campaign experience in races across the country.

Director of Appointments for Boards and Commissions – Cassi Fenili

Scheduling Director – Elsie Raymer

Outreach Director – Jamie Kuhn. Kuhn previously worked for Planned Parenthood, is a current Dane County Board member, and was a onetime staffer for Senator Mark Miller.