



2022 Health Officer of the Year Award Named for the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jamie Michael, Association Director (jamie@badgerbay.co)



May 19, 2022 - Earlier this month, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB), the statewide leader and voice for local governmental public health, named its 2022 WALHDAB Award for Health Officer of the Year. This recognition demonstrates a nominee who has made a significant contribution to WALHDAB over a prolonged period.

Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Health Department, is named the 2022 Health Officer of the Year. One of the many nominators for this award shared this: "Doug has been a leader during the COVID response for the state through his participation in the morning COVID Response Team for over two years. He has stepped forward during a pandemic to create positive change and forge forward in stronger partnerships. Doug consistently sees opportunities for growth to address health disparities. He has given his time and leadership to statewide conversations to benefit public health. "

Doug has been a mentor to many local health officers, providing steadfast guidance around public health practice and promoting efforts to collaborate with community partners at the local, regional and state level. Colleagues look to Doug not only for his leadership, but his friendship and support. Over the past year, Doug was elected into the WALHDAB Co-President Elect role in 2021, and will become Co-President after the Annual Meeting later this month.

Winnebago's County Executive, Jon Doemel, added to Doug's honor, "I appreciate Doug's commitment to our community. Above and beyond countless hours focused on the pandemic, he and his team found capacity to help our County write and win a \$10.35M grant to address housing instability through multiple projects and partners throughout the community. Director Gieryn has also fought our opioid crisis head on by implementing innovative methods to prevent overdose deaths in our county."

Doug is deserving of this award for his leadership within WALHDAB, his community, the state, and nationally.

The award will be celebrated during the Public Health Awards Ceremony, being held on May 25th at 6 p.m. Congratulations and thank you to all public health professionals and advocates for their tireless efforts, and especially to Doug Gieryn, all of our health officers and our boards of health who are continuing to advocate and protect our community's health.

###