



WISCONSIN STATE PATROL
Awards Ceremony

April 18, 2025

Presented by:

Superintendent Timothy Carnahan
Colonel David Fish





Program Agenda

Lieutenant Jeramy Foster

Superintendent Tim Carnahan

WisDOT Secretary Kristina Boardman

Governor Tony Evers

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Wisconsin State Patrol Division Awards

MEDAL OF VALOR

Recognizes actions taken by an employee of the division who has demonstrated valor, courage or bravery to a high degree, well beyond the normal expectations of an individual. The Medal of Valor consists of a certificate, medal with ribbon, and a red, white and blue bar.

PURPLE HEART

Recognizes a division employee who suffered significant injuries caused by another, was wounded, or who lost his/her life while in the performance of duty. The Purple Heart consists of a certificate, medal with ribbon, and a purple and white bar.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Recognizes a division employee who places himself/herself at risk of injury while exceeding the expectations of his/her duties. The Meritorious Service recognition consists of a certificate, medal with ribbon, and a green, white and blue bar.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STAR OF RECOGNITION

Recognizes a division supervisory employee for distinguished and/or exceptional achievements accomplished in the performance of duty to a degree that contributes to the mission of the division in a profound manner. The Superintendent's Star of Recognition consists of a certificate, medal with ribbon, and a blue and white bar.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE

Recognizes a division employee who performs a highly creditable act above and beyond the normal job expectation or recognizes accomplishments that contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the division and enhances the professional image to the public we serve. The Commendable Service recognition consists of a certificate and a white bar.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

Recognizes an employee who creates, or has a key leadership role in the creation of, a significant process or project that generates important efficiencies that improve policies, practices and/or procedures. This award consists of a certificate.

LIFESAVING

Recognizes a division employee who performs a lifesaving effort resulting in maintaining or saving a life. The Lifesaving recognition consists of a certificate and a red and white bar.

Wisconsin State Patrol Awards

LIFESAVING EFFORT

Recognizes a division employee who provides significant or prolonged lifesaving efforts to a victim or victims but whose actions do not yield lifesaving results. The Lifesaving Effort recognition consists of a certificate.

UNIT CITATION

Recognizes all members of a work unit who have collectively exhibited a significant degree of team effort that directly results in outstanding service or successful achievement of a division goal. The Unit Citation consists of a certificate and a red and blue bar.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENDATION

Recognizes a division employee who has achieved a superior level of proficiency in law enforcement activities. Efforts must be sustained and compelling to a degree that is exceptional in comparison to the employee's peers within the agency and having a profound positive impact on achievement of identified agency strategic goals and initiatives. The Superintendent's Commendation consists of a certificate.

TROOPER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a sworn, non-supervisory trooper who displays outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership, effective interpersonal relations and must project a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol both on and off duty. The Trooper of the Year award consists of a certificate and a plaque.

INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a sworn, non-supervisory inspector who displays outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership, effective interpersonal relations and must project a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol both on and off duty. The Inspector of the Year award consists of a certificate and a plaque.

DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a non-supervisory law enforcement dispatcher who displays outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership, effective interpersonal relations and must project a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol both on and off duty. The Dispatcher of the Year award consists of a certificate and a plaque.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a non-sworn, non-supervisory employee who displays outstanding work performance, initiative, leadership, effective interpersonal relations and must project a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol both on and off duty. The Civilian Employee of the Year award consists of a certificate and a plaque.



Wisconsin State Patrol Division Awards

The Wisconsin State Patrol publicly honors those employees who have demonstrated outstanding service or performance. All honorees have been nominated by fellow employees for performing actions that deserve special recognition. These nominations for division awards are evaluated by the Division Awards Committee. The committee reviews all nominations and recommends to the superintendent those persons the committee believes deserve recognition. The final determination is made by the division superintendent.

Awards Committee Members:

Section Chief Jody Wormet
Lieutenant Jeramy Foster
Sergeant Joshua Maurer
Trooper Bryan Ashenbrenner
Trooper Justin Hart
Trooper Demetrius Tann
Breath Alcohol Toxicologist Ashley Kickbusch
Executive Staff Assistant Shari Gress

*Governor Tony Evers,
Secretary Kristina Boardman,
Superintendent Tim Carnahan,
and Colonel David Fish*

ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE
THE FOLLOWING
AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Commendable Service

Sergeant Jennifer Austin
Jessica Bader – Budget and Policy Analyst Advanced
Sergeant Erica Ballweg-Larsen
Lieutenant Harmanjot Chahal
Captain Nate Clarke
Chief David Harvey
Lieutenant Nate Henriksen
Lieutenant Andrew Hyer
Lieutenant Kevin Kinderman
Lieutenant Luke Newman
Captain Brad Ocain
Mark Resheske – Budget and Policy Division Supervisor

The Republican National Convention (RNC) was held in the heart of downtown Milwaukee at the Fiserv Forum and Wisconsin Center District from July 15-18, 2024. The event drew in over 50,000 attendees and thousands of visitors and media personnel each day, generating an estimated \$200 million impact for state and local economies. Given the event's global profile and level of attendance, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated the RNC as a National Special Security Event (NSSE – SEAR Level 1).

The Office of the Governor of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation administration vested the Wisconsin State Patrol with leading the effort to plan and execute a multi-disciplined external operation to: facilitate safe and efficient travel; mitigate incidents and develop emergency routing; augment security infrastructure; and provide other specialized law enforcement services including tactical team response, mobile field force, and extensive dignitary protection assignments. State Patrol organized a leadership team to help plan, establish and execute the event's external operations components including the functions of incident command, planning, logistics, operations, public information, safety, information technology and finance. Beginning over a year in advance, this leadership team committed many hours to developing comprehensive incident action plans for the Wisconsin State

Patrol's involvement and collaborating with personnel from several external state, federal, county and municipal public safety organizations. The RNC leadership team performed above and beyond their normal job expectations. Their ability to build and maintain working relationships enhanced overall operational efficiency and effectiveness during the convention, and their attention to detail ensured seamless coordination among all stakeholders.

In addition to being one of the largest deployments of Wisconsin State Patrol personnel in history, this internationally televised event showcased the agency's ability to plan and execute a complex and integrated transportation and homeland security mission while promoting Wisconsin as a premier destination.

For going above and beyond the normal job expectation and contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the division, the RNC Leadership Team members are presented with the Commendable Service Award.

*For going above and beyond the normal job expectation and contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the division, the **RNC Leadership Team members** are presented with the **Commendable Service Award**.*



Meritorious Service

Inspector Kendi Linjer



On September 12, 2024, Inspector Kendi Linjer was working in Waupaca County when she responded to a report of a female in the area who was armed and thinking of suicide. Inspector Linjer located the subject's vehicle, waited for backup, and performed a traffic stop. Inspector Linjer could see the female in the driver's seat with a firearm, so she drew her weapon and approached on the passenger side of the vehicle. She spent the next 50 minutes pleading with the woman to put down the weapon until a negotiator arrived and took over primary communication.

The driver eventually put the weapon down and was taken into custody to receive care. Inspector Linjer continued to speak with and encourage the subject. Linjer's outstanding character and compassion were very apparent in her communication with the subject during the standoff and events that followed. Inspector Linjer placed her duty to act above her personal safety, choosing to place herself in a very dangerous situation by approaching an armed subject in crisis in order to de-escalate the situation. Her quick response in locating and bravely approaching the woman undoubtedly saved her life.

*By selflessly risking her own personal safety to help another, **Inspector Kendi Linjer** demonstrated high levels of bravery and dedication in the performance of her duties. For her exemplary efforts, she is presented with the **Meritorious Service Award**.*

Meritorious Service

Trooper Justin Luangaram



On March 23, 2024, Trooper Justin Luangaram responded to an active structure fire of a two-story duplex in the City of Edgerton. Occupants of the upper-level apartment were lowering children from a second floor window to other residents on the ground outside. Trooper Luangaram entered the building and cleared the first floor of occupants. The second floor could not be accessed due to visible fire and heavy smoke at the top of the stairwell. After double checking the lower level for occupants, Trooper Luangaram exited the residence and briefed the Edgerton Fire Department on the remaining occupants. Trooper Luangaram directed fire department personnel to a second story window and assisted them with the evacuation of occupants from the upstairs apartment.

*By selflessly risking his own personal safety to help another, **Trooper Justin Luangaram** demonstrated high levels of bravery and dedication in the performance of his duties. For his exemplary efforts, he is presented with the **Meritorious Service Award**.*

Meritorious Service

Inspector Aaron Peterson and Trooper Cole Glassford



On April 10, 2024, Inspector Aaron Peterson and Trooper Cole Glassford responded to a pursuit on I-39 in Dane County. Sheriff's office deputies were in pursuit of a vehicle with an individual who had left an infant at a nearby residence. The homeowner did not know the infant. During the pursuit, shots were fired from the suspect's vehicle back toward pursuing law enforcement vehicles. Inspector Peterson and Trooper Glassford joined the pursuit behind other law enforcement vehicles despite the suspect continuing to fire at the pursuing officers. The vehicle exited the Interstate and the two armed occupants fled on foot into a rural subdivision. Inspector Peterson and Trooper Glassford, along with other State Patrol, county and municipal officers, donned tactical gear and pursued on foot through the neighborhood. With the help of a drone, the 13-year-old passenger was located in a wooded area. Lifesaving attempts were made but she did not survive. They secured the scene, and then assisted with securing the last known area of the driver. The driver continued to shoot at houses and officers. After the shooting stopped, the driver was located in a house, deceased, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Inspector Peterson and Trooper Glassford displayed courage, selfless service and professionalism during this incident.

*By selflessly risking their own personal safety to help another, **Inspector Aaron Peterson and Trooper Cole Glassford** demonstrated high levels of bravery and dedication in the performance of their duties. For their exemplary efforts, they are presented with the **Meritorious Service Awards**.*

Meritorious Service

Trooper Anthony Rader



On February 7, 2024, Trooper Anthony Rader responded to reports of a vehicle in the ditch and smoking on I-41 in Washington County. When he arrived, he observed heavy smoke in the vehicle and an active fire underneath it. Despite the hazards associated with a vehicle fire, including a high risk of burning, toxic fume inhalation and explosion, Trooper Rader courageously continued efforts to rescue the vehicle occupants. He first broke the driver's side rear window to clear the back of the car. He then broke the driver's side front window and observed a male sitting in the driver's seat. Aware of the additional dangers a fire has on the integrity a vehicle's interior components, he quickly and carefully pulled the man from the driver's seat and away from the vehicle. The driver survived the crash.

*By selflessly risking his own personal safety to help another, **Trooper Anthony Rader** demonstrated high levels of bravery and dedication in the performance of his duties. For his exemplary efforts, he is presented with the **Meritorious Service Award**.*

Innovation and Excellence

Trooper Brandon Ferrell



Trooper Brandon Ferrell has been a critical resource in deploying the division's new camera system. As the agency enforcement technology specialist, Trooper Ferrell helped test, evaluate and select the division's in-car dash cameras and body-worn cameras. The next generation camera system revolutionized how video evidence is managed and allows the division to meet evidentiary standards. The new system allows the division to secure video evidence at a single source with restrictions on deletion and modification, and officers are no

longer responsible for maintaining their own video evidence. Trooper Ferrell also worked with contractors to learn the new systems and develop a training curriculum for officers when they received the latest equipment.

In spring 2024, Trooper Ferrell worked long hours with contractors to complete 300 installations of in-car and body-worn cameras over a three-month time period. He worked with officers to ensure they were adequately trained and had working camera systems before they left the Fleet Installation Center. Trooper Ferrell was the liaison between contractors and various division groups during the installation process when troubleshooting needs arose. After the primary role out, the division had over 400 users on the system. The remaining installations were scheduled with future fleet trades and a final camera purchase for inspectors. Trooper Ferrell went above and beyond expectations during the deployment of the division's new camera system.

*For going above and beyond the normal job expectation and contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the division, **Trooper Brandon Ferrell** is presented the **Innovation and Excellence Award**.*

Innovation and Excellence

Lieutenant Kevin Kinderman



The 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee required unprecedented levels of resources, supplies and emergency personnel to provide safe transportation and venue security for thousands of visitors including dignitaries and VIPs. Lieutenant Kevin Kinderman successfully implemented a new web-based software program to manage resources and centralize numerous reporting tools, tracking systems, informational resources, forms, policies, procedures and incident action plans.

Lieutenant Kinderman collaborated with developers to create and implement innovative tracking logs to efficiently monitor personnel and dignitaries, establish a duty status log, and provide a single secure platform that significantly enhanced resource availability and efficiency for the event and statewide operations. His strategic use of the new software was instrumental in forming the event's incident command structure by providing a single platform for the event's plans and response, organization charts, emergency support functions and grouping of personnel by location, agency, responsibilities, and other visual displays ensuring a streamlined response to challenges. Moreover, it improved communications across all personnel by providing instant messaging capabilities to foster collaboration and quick decision-making. Lieutenant Kinderman's leadership and innovation elevated the operational effectiveness during the convention and set a new benchmark for future events.

*For going above and beyond the normal job expectation and contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the division, **Lieutenant Kevin Kinderman** is presented the **Innovation and Excellence Award**.*

Lifesaving Effort

- Trooper Richard Aguilar
- Sergeant Tatsuo Anduze-Bell
- Trooper Jack Barker
- Trooper Kyle Cook
- Trooper Davin Cotter
- Inspector Thomas Disterhaft
- Trooper Philip Goldman
- Trooper Christina Holtz
- Inspector Jonathan Kersten
- Trooper Zachary Lind
- Trooper Adam Lukaszewski
- Trooper Alexander Polizzi
- Trooper Scott Sternweis
- Trooper Brandon Treider
- Trooper Jennifer Van Oss
- Sergeant Timothy Westphal
- Trooper Gregory Zuehlke (2)



Lifesaving

Trooper Kyle Braun



On February 21, 2024, Trooper Braun responded to a residence in Black River Falls for a female subject who did not have a pulse and was not breathing. After arriving at the residence, Trooper Braun located the female on the garage floor with a friend who already started life-saving measures. Trooper Braun took over giving chest compressions. While the paramedics were attempting to receive a pulse, Trooper Braun administered a dose of naloxone. The subject was still having trouble breathing and staying conscious. Trooper Braun administered a second dose of naloxone, and she became alert and responsive. Trooper Braun, along with the paramedics, loaded the patient onto a gurney and placed her in the ambulance for transport to the hospital.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Trooper Kyle Braun** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Trooper Forrest Cantwell and Trooper Brody Schmitz



On February 10, 2024, Troopers Forrest Cantwell and Brody Schmitz, along with local EMS, responded to a report of a male subject who did not have a pulse and was not breathing at a residence in Black River Falls. Upon their arrival, they discovered EMS had initiated life-saving measures. Troopers Cantwell and Schmitz joined those efforts by rotating into the cycle of chest compressions and bag-valve mask rescue breaths. After several minutes, the male regained a pulse and began breathing. Troopers Cantwell and Schmitz then assisted EMS with loading the patient into the ambulance for transport to a local hospital.

*For their professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Troopers Cantwell** and **Schmitz** are presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Trooper Cody Digre



On November 20, 2023, Trooper Cody Digre responded to a report of an individual who did not have a pulse and was not breathing at a grocery store in the city of Onalaska. An employee of the grocery store started CPR and applied an AED to the individual. Trooper Digre arrived and administered two cycles of chest compressions to the individual who then began to regain consciousness and a steady pulse. Onalaska Fire Department and Tri-State EMS arrived a short time later and transported the patient to the hospital.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Trooper Cody Digre** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Trooper Steven Frantal and William Frantal



In the early morning hours of August 5, 2024, Trooper Frantal was off duty visiting a campground. He woke and observed a nearby camper on fire. He woke his brother, William Frantal, who grabbed a fire extinguisher and attempted to suppress the flames. He heard a loud bang from a propane tank which fueled the fire and caused it to accelerate. Trooper Frantal and William began banging on the side the camper in attempts to wake anyone inside. As a result of their actions, a female exited the camper with her dog and notified them of another occupant in the bedroom. At this time, the front of camper was engulfed with smoke and flames. Trooper Frantal, ignoring any threat to his own safety, entered the camper and notified the remaining occupant to exit the camper due to immediate threat. After all occupants were safely out of the camper, Trooper Frantal obtained a water hose from a nearby camper and assisted in suppressing the flames until relieved by emergency responders.

Trooper Frantal was off duty and could have stood by waiting for emergency responders to address the dangerous situation. However, he recognized that civilians were in harm's way and selflessly put himself at risk of injury to remove the occupants from the burning and smoke-filled camper.

*For their professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Trooper Steve Frantal** and brother **William Frantal** are presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Trooper Caleb Grabow-Hohensee



On November 18, 2023, Trooper Grabow-Hohensee intercepted a private vehicle in Oneida County that was transporting a person reported to have an accidental gunshot wound. Trooper Grabow-Hohensee located the vehicle and found the injured person conscious and lying across the back seat. The person was in extreme pain due to a substantial gunshot injury to their left leg. They had applied a make-shift tourniquet, but something additional was needed to minimize further blood loss. Trooper Grabow-Hohensee quickly applied his CAT tourniquet and gauze and held pressure until EMS arrived. The person was later transported to an area hospital, arriving in serious yet stable condition.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Trooper Grabow-Hohensee** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Inspector Dustin Johanning



On September 10, 2024, Inspector Johanning was on patrol in the Dodgeville area when he heard a report of a subject who did not have a pulse and was not breathing at a residence in the city. Inspector Johanning responded to the residence and found the husband doing chest compressions on the female victim. Inspector Johanning took over and was unable to find a pulse. Inspector Johanning started chest compressions and after two rounds was able to detect a pulse. EMS arrived on scene and had Inspector Johanning continue the chest compressions. EMS ultimately transported the victim to the hospital.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Inspector Dustin Johanning** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Sergeant Nic Lorenzen



On September 29, 2023, Sergeant Nic Lorenzen responded to a report of a vehicle stopped on the shoulder of westbound I-94 at mile marker 272. It was also reported the driver was slumped over the steering wheel. An off-duty first responder arrived on the scene and gave a dose of naloxone. Sergeant Lorenzen arrived on scene and found the male driver did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Sergeant Lorenzen completed multiple rounds of chest compressions on the driver trying to regain a pulse. He continued until relieved by EMS. The driver was transported to a local hospital and later fully recovered from the overdose.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Sergeant Nic Lorenzen** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Sergeant Joseph Stephens



On August 21, 2023, Sergeant Joseph Stephens responded to a roll-over crash near the border of Wisconsin and Illinois. Upon arrival at the scene, Sergeant Stephens found one of the occupants with a severe laceration from her elbow to her wrist and she was losing a large amount of blood. Sergeant Stephens applied a tourniquet to the patient's right arm. The initial tourniquet did not completely stop the bleeding, so Sergeant Stephens applied another tourniquet to the patient which stopped the bleeding. Sergeant Stephens applied pressure on the wound until he was relieved by EMS.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Sergeant Joseph Stephens** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Lifesaving

Trooper Damian Wood



On December 12, 2023, Trooper Damian Wood responded to a 75-year-old female in full cardiac arrest with CPR actively in progress. Trooper Wood arrived on scene and performed several rounds of chest compressions. After three to four rounds of chest compressions, Baldwin Ambulance staff arrived and took over life saving measures. The patient regained a pulse and was transported to the hospital.

*For his professional and decisive actions, which ultimately led to saving a life, **Trooper Damian Wood** is presented the **Lifesaving Award**.*

Superintendent's Commendation

Trooper Christina Holtz



Trooper Christina Holtz patrols the highways in the Southwest Region and is assigned to Monroe County. In 2024, through her proactive patrols, Trooper Holtz demonstrated exceptional performance in her effort to improve public safety with a focus on speed enforcement. Her actions have played a significant role in preventing crashes, improving driver behaviors, and saving lives.

*For her commitment to enhancing public safety by enforcing Wisconsin traffic law, **Trooper Christina Holtz** is presented the **Superintendent's Commendation Award**.*

Superintendent's Commendation

Trooper Steven Kuhnke



Trooper Steven Kuhnke serves in the Northeast Region and is assigned to Winnebago County. In 2024, through his proactive patrols, Trooper Kuhnke demonstrated exceptional performance in his effort to improve public safety with a focus on seat belt enforcement. His actions have had a profound impact on the division's goal of saving lives.

*For his commitment to enhancing public safety by enforcing Wisconsin traffic law, **Trooper Steven Kuhnke** is presented the **Superintendent's Commendation Award**.*

Superintendent's Commendation

Trooper Redouan Oubouha



Trooper Redouan Oubouha serves in the Southeast Region and is assigned to Jefferson County. Through his proactive patrols, Trooper Oubouha played a substantial role in deterring impaired driving in 2024, helping reduce the risk on the roads. His actions have had a profound impact on the division's goal of enhancing public safety, no doubt lowering crashes and saving lives.

*For his commitment to enhancing public safety by enforcing Wisconsin traffic law, **Trooper Redouan Oubouha** is presented the **Superintendent's Commendation Award**.*

Superintendent's Commendation

Trooper David Welling



Trooper David Welling patrols the highways in the Northeast Region and is assigned to Fond Du Lac County. In 2024, Trooper Welling had an exceptional impact on public safety through his efforts to identify, stop and prevent crimes. His criminal interdiction enforcement has had a profound impact on the division's goal of combating crime and terrorism. His efforts have undoubtedly lowered the number of crashes and saved lives.

*For his commitment to enhancing public safety by enforcing Wisconsin controlled substance laws, **Trooper David Welling** is presented the **Superintendent's Commendation Award**.*



Civilian Employee of the Year

Breath Alcohol Program Specialist Nicole Duensing



Nicole Duensing is a breath test program toxicologist with the Chemical Test Section in the Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technical Services. In her two years with the agency, Duensing has significantly expanded State Patrol's presence and engagement with the community and law enforcement agencies. Duensing consistently exemplifies strong leadership through her positive work ethic, innovative thinking, and sense of responsibility, making her an invaluable asset to the

Chemical Test Section and Wisconsin State Patrol.

In team projects, Duensing often takes the lead and works diligently with all members to ensure timely completion. When a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) grant was created, Duensing worked with members of the section to produce a robust grant proposal. When the work group for impaired driving asked for presentation ideas, Duensing was swift to recommend a presentation of the Chemical Test Section. She also worked with the section chief to put together a presentation for the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety. In addition, Duensing regularly attends Traffic Safety Commission meetings and presents on services offered by the Chemical Test Section that supplement law enforcement efforts and contribute to highway safety.

Duensing's ability to spearhead outreach efforts has had a transformative impact on the organization. She collaborated with Mothers Against Drunk Driving for a booth at fairs in Green and Dane counties. This led to an invitation to participate in National Night Out events in Monroe and Waunakee. Duensing has also developed and presented curriculum for OWI enforcement, especially as it relates to breath alcohol testing. Last year, she presented with the Technical Reconstruction Unit on roadside field tests and demonstrated how the PBT device is used to determine presence of alcohol in a driver. Duensing is always a positive influence and creates safe environment for learning.

Duensing is also passionate about employee wellness. She is a member of State Patrol's Wellness Committee and is working to become a member of the Peer Support Team. She has made wellness a part of the conversation and presents a short wellness segment every quarter at team meetings.

Outside of State Patrol, Duensing has been a long-time Monona firefighter. For the past eight years, she has volunteered as a lead counselor and is a member of the leadership board at CampHERO, a program that introduces school-age girls to protective services and helps them build confidence and self-awareness. Duensing has also completed the Citizen's Police Academy in Stoughton and helps teach the impaired driving portion of the course.

*In recognition of her outstanding work performance, initiative, and leadership, and for promoting a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol, both on and off duty, **Breath Alcohol Program Specialist Nicole Duensing** is presented with the **2024 Civilian Employee of the Year Award.***



Inspector of the Year

Inspector David Ecklor



Inspector David Ecklor is assigned to the Northwest Region–Eau Claire Post. He serves as a mobile inspector in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties and in many other important roles including physical fitness assessment instructor, school bus inspector, Mobile Field Force grenadier operator, Field Training Officer, background investigator and State Patrol Recruitment Team member. He also assists in numerous dignitary protection and escort details and safety presentations in the region.

Inspector Ecklor is a dedicated, selfless employee respected by his peers in the region for his hard work and diligence toward highway safety. Despite his involvement in many roles, Inspector Ecklor continues to be a top performer statewide in his annual Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program inspections. Last year, Ecklor used his portable scales in over 240 roadside inspections, leading all inspectors in that category.

Ecklor's attention to detail is evident in the high number of violations and out-of-service defects documented during his inspections and weight enforcement activities. Inspector Ecklor presents on motor carrier safety numerous times throughout the year, representing the agency in a positive manner in front of local contractors and haulers. Inspector Ecklor also assists local partners with portable scale certifications and serves as a resource for those officers.

In addition to his law enforcement service, David Ecklor volunteers on the security team at his church, providing security around the building and protecting parishioners and the Pastor during services. Ecklor also volunteers his time to assist the Eau Claire North High School wrestling team with various activities during home meets and tournaments.

Inspector Ecklor's dedication to mobile weight enforcement undoubtedly has a positive impact on commercial motor vehicle safety in the region and helps preserve our valuable infrastructure. He displays integrity and professionalism every day in his enforcement activities. He represents the agency in a positive light to applicants through his work as a recruiter and local carriers during safety presentations.

*In recognition of his outstanding work performance, initiative, and leadership, and for promoting a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol, both on and off duty, **Inspector David Ecklor** is presented with the **2024 Inspector of the Year Award**.*



Trooper of the Year

Trooper Darrick Lorbecki



Trooper Darrick Lorbecki is assigned to the K9 Unit in the Special Operations Section and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Madison Field Office as a Task Force Officer (TFO). He serves the Southwest Region and division in many other important roles as a mentor, instructor and Federal Asset Forfeiture Adoptions liaison. There is no doubt that his commitment to excellence and focus on achieving the division's goals have made Wisconsin safer.

Trooper Lorbecki is an exceptional leader and team player. He remains active in enforcement and balances his responsibilities to maintain an exceptional level of performance. He makes himself available to assist the Southwest Region with calls for service, statewide criminal interdiction details, critical incidents and special events.

Lorbecki is at the forefront of the division's Highway Criminal Interdiction (HCI) program. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and experience as a core instructor of HCI and inspires others as a mentor to field personnel.

With an outstanding reputation that extends far beyond the division, Lorbecki has earned profound respect among peers in local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. He is meticulous with assigned equipment, pays attention to detail, and represents the division in a positive and professional manner through contact with the public, prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies.

Trooper Lorbecki demonstrates leadership in critical incidents with an ability to switch roles at a moment's notice. One example was his response to the Mount Horeb Middle School active shooter incident. Lorbecki overheard radio traffic during a high-level drug investigation on the west side of Madison and immediately responded to the active shooter incident. Once at the school, Trooper Lorbecki was part of a strike team clearing the adjoining high school of any additional threats.

As a veteran K9 handler, Lorbecki prepares and conducts monthly training for the division and other law enforcement teams. With his experience, he is able to identify potential training issues with K9 teams and provide valuable feedback.

Trooper Lorbecki's efforts to bridge interagency gaps have fostered positive relationships and enhanced collaboration across the law enforcement community. Serving as a sworn DEA TFO and federal asset forfeiture adoptions liaison has strengthened relationships with federal, state and local partners. Trooper Lorbecki's specialized knowledge in this area has directly resulted in a substantial portion of the asset forfeiture funds acquired by the division.

In addition, Darrick Lorbecki is active in his community, serving as a volunteer coach for the Baraboo area youth football program. He has also volunteered to provide K9 demonstrations for civic organizations and the annual Take Your Child to Work Day.

*In recognition of his outstanding work performance, initiative, and leadership, and for promoting a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol, both on and off duty, **Trooper Darrick Lorbecki** is presented with the **2024 Trooper of the Year Award**.*



Dispatcher of the Year

Law Enforcement Dispatcher Kelly Rhodes

Law Enforcement Dispatcher (LED) Kelly Rhodes is assigned to the Communications Unit–Deforest Post. LED Rhodes is reliable, demonstrates strong communication skills, and has a “can do” positive attitude. Her dedication and professionalism to the safety of the troopers and citizens make her an invaluable asset to the State Patrol team.

LED Rhodes can always be relied upon to get the job done, especially in critical situations. She meets her deadlines, communicates clearly and goes above and beyond to ensure team success. Not only does Rhodes excel at her dispatching duties, but she also takes the initiative to assist with additional projects outside of her typical work. For example, she has pulled audio for open records requests and helped manage the Southwest Region dispatch quality control program for critical incidents.

LED Rhodes is always willing to help others succeed, and she makes an effort to reach out to coworkers that may be struggling with personal or professional issues. Rhodes uses her experience working for other law enforcement agencies to help new employees and improve processes within the dispatch center.

In addition, Kelly Rhodes gives back to the community by donating blood at Red Cross blood drives on a regular basis. She has also volunteered with the Aging and Disability Resource Center to deliver meals to homebound individuals.

*In recognition of her outstanding work performance, initiative, and leadership, and for promoting a positive image of the Wisconsin State Patrol, both on and off duty, **LED Kelly Rhodes** is presented with the **2024 Dispatcher of the Year Award**.*



Congratulations

2024

*Wisconsin State Patrol
award recipients*

