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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2011

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Local partnership receives “Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin” Award

MADISON, WI — The Northland Pines School District and the YMCA of the Northwoods Eagle River Branch’s partnership was one of ten projects to receive the “Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries, and Communities” award recognized by State Superintendent Tony Evers on March 7th in Madison.

“These projects share a common thread – people coming together to improve life in their communities,” Evers said. “Recognizing this commitment to enriching the quality of life in rural Wisconsin not only honors the talented individuals who are involved, but inspires others to invest in our rural communities, which are a vital part of Wisconsin’s culture and economic future.”

Nancy Ellis - Executive Director of the Y’s Eagle River Branch and Mike Richie - District Administrator for Northland Pines accepted the award at the ceremony held at the Concourse Hotel. Mr. Richie was given the opportunity to explain the benefits we have seen from the students, staff, district, and community due to this unique partnership. “It not only supports healthy living but it has fostered other partnerships within the district, such as our School-to-Work program providing free babysitting services for a couple hours in the morning so the Y members with young children have an opportunity to exercise affordably,” stated Richie. Kurt Kiefer from the DPI stated “This partnership is a model for how smaller communities around the state could be pooling resources”. Jerry Fiene, CESA 9 Administrator, also stated “This could and should be replicated in other communities”.

There have been 46 other award recipients since 2005 plus the 10 added in 2011. To view all the projects honored with the award this year see the DPI press release located on the Northland Pines website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us/awards.cfm.

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