

**PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at [dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov)**

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**DSPS Communications**

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## **DSPS Joins AIA-Wisconsin for Look at New TruStage Lighthouse Building**

Tour highlights the importance of architecture in society and industry

**MADISON-** Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Secretary Dan Hereth recently learned more about the unique, sustainable, and inclusive features of the new Lighthouse building on the TruStage (formerly CUNA Mutual Group) campus in Madison.

Last Wednesday’s tour of the building was arranged by the American Institute of Architects-Wisconsin and was one of many events the group planned throughout October for Architecture Awareness Month.

“I think this facility and its design represent the sustainability goals of Gov. Evers, our department, and AIA-Wisconsin,” said Hereth. “The design is stunning. Beyond that, the thought and care that went into every detail to make it a comfortable and inclusive space for staff is very impressive.”

The Lighthouse, a collaborative space for TruStage staff, is [LEED Gold certified](#), earning the highest certification score in the State of Wisconsin. Through its design, the building uses almost 40% less water than similar buildings and cuts energy use nearly in half by using targeted triple-glazed glass, extensive solar shading, and efficient mechanical systems.

“It’s all about the client,” said Eric Romano, Principal at Eppstein Uhen Architects and project lead for this build. “The projects that are most successful are the ones where the client has those sustainable goals that you know are aligned with the way your team wants to work. It’s magic.”

Romano led the tour, highlighting other features of the Lighthouse.

- 82% of the site is open space (LEED goal is at least 30%)
- 35% of the previously disturbed area is restored to native vegetation (LEED goal is at least 25%)
- 100% of the irrigation can be offset with the building’s water reuse system, which means a savings of potentially 348,000 gallons of water per month.

“This building was going to be all about collaboration, all about (the client) being able to engage their employees. So, we wanted to build something that celebrated that, gave them space choice, and was transparent, and was also inviting to the community,” Romano explained, noting TruStage has opened the space for use by some local non-profit groups.

AIA-Wisconsin scheduled a series of events during October, which the organization brands as Archtoberfest, to recognize the positive impact architecture makes in the state and its influence on the well-being of Wisconsin citizens. As head of the agency that licenses architects and other occupational professionals in Wisconsin, Sec. Hereth presented AIA-Wisconsin with a proclamation from Gov. Evers at the beginning of October, officially declaring it Architecture Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

“The proclamation is official recognition that Gov. Evers and DSPS realize architecture makes an economic, environmental, and cultural impact in communities across Wisconsin. I congratulate AIA-Wisconsin on another successful Archtoberfest, and I hope people who attended Archtoberfest events around the state learned something about how architecture impacts our daily lives.

**About DSPS:**

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.