News Release

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Contact: DPI Media Line, (608) 266-3559, media.inquiries@dpi.wi.gov

Grant helps Wisconsin libraries encourage
summer learning through incentivized reading challenges
Interactive online tool being used at 164 public libraries, dozens more plan to implement

MADISON — A grant facilitated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is aiding libraries across the state to better support learning by utilizing an online platform that encourages patrons to participate in incentivized reading challenges.

The DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology recently announced issuing a discretionary grant totaling nearly $327,000 to the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. This grant enabled the library system to enter into a three-year partnership on behalf of all public libraries with the software and app company, Beanstack, which customizes local library reading challenges and allows users of all ages to track their progress and complete activities related to the books they are reading.

"Libraries across our state are constantly looking for exciting and innovative ways to help their communities remain engaged through a love of reading," State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor said. "This platform enhances offerings at our public libraries and allows for continued learning, even while school is not in session."

So far, 164 public libraries in Wisconsin have implemented the programming, with another 61 planning to do so this summer. By fall 2020, 87 percent of all Wisconsin public libraries have indicated they will offer reading challenges for all ages through Beanstack.

Those interested should check with their local library to find out how to take part in the reading challenges.

NOTE: This news release is available electronically at https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2020/wisconsin-libraries-beanstack.