



**GARY ALAN HEBL**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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**Honoring Officer Jessica Helgeland as the 2019 First Responder of the Year  
in the 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

(**Madison**) – Today, Rep. Gary Hebl (Sun Prairie) was honored to award the 2019 First Responder of the Year for the 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District to Village of Cottage Grove Police Officer Jessica Helgeland. Rep. Hebl released the following statement:

*I was honored to go to Glacial Drumlin Middle School to personally give this award to Officer Helgeland, with the help of Police Chief Daniel Layber, who nominated Officer Helgeland, and Glacial Drumlin Principal Kristen Langer, who helped plan this surprise.*

*Officer Helgeland received this award because of her dedication as Cottage Grove's first school resource officer, a position she holds here at Glacial Drumlin Middle School, as well as working at Taylor Prairie and Cottage Grove Elementary Schools.*

*Officer Helgeland approaches the job with integrity and enthusiasm, and has worked hard at forging relationships with middle schoolers, who as we all know are famously eager to talk to and trust adults.*

*There is a fine line that one must walk to have a friendly relationship with a school kid while at the same time getting them to listen to you. There are 1000 students just here at Glacial Drumlin that Officer Helgeland is responsible for maintaining that dynamic with. That takes a tremendous amount of effort and trust.*

*I often say that Wisconsin's future depends on its school children. They will solve the problems of tomorrow. We are dependent on them having a strong education and upbringing so that we can have a strong group of people ready to become engineers, artists, physicists, police officers, philosophers, historians, educators, or any other career they wish – and maybe even lawyers like me. That is why it is so vitally important that they have someone like Officer Helgeland that they can go to for help and counsel.*

*Officer Helgeland is a proactive School Resource Officer. She has worked to ease tensions between students before it becomes a larger issue. She has given presentations on school safety as well as personal safety. She has worked closely with students who have behavioral issues.*

*It's not just students that have noticed the impact that Officer Helgeland has had. Staff, parents, and members of the community have noticed as well. And now, the Wisconsin State Assembly would like to formally recognize Officer Helgeland as the 2019 First Responder of the Year for the 46<sup>th</sup> District.*

*I would like to personally thank Officer Helgeland for her service and dedication to the students of Glacial Drumlin as well as all of the other students she serves. On behalf of your students, the school staff, the Cottage Grove Police Department, the people of the 46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and the Wisconsin State Assembly, thank you, and congratulations.*

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