

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; for 20 years, the award-winning University of Wisconsin–Madison Odyssey Project has empowered individuals to overcome adversity and achieve their dreams through higher education, embodying the Wisconsin Idea that education should be accessible and impactful beyond the confines of the traditional classroom; and

WHEREAS; the Odyssey Project has helped hundreds of adults in Wisconsin facing economic barriers to higher education recognize their innate potential, including many who have overcome homelessness and gone on to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees and those who have moved beyond incarceration to obtain meaningful work in the community; and

WHEREAS; Odyssey Project graduates have gone on to take courses through the Onward Odyssey program, earn certificates and degrees, hold political office, direct plays, start foundations, publish books, launch businesses, and teach and counsel others; and

WHEREAS; in addition to its flagship program, the Odyssey Project has established additional programs, including Odyssey Junior, which supports the kids and grandkids of Odyssey graduates in becoming college bound, and Odyssey Beyond Bars, which brings University of Wisconsin credit-bearing classes and enrichment into Wisconsin prisons; and

WHEREAS; the Odyssey Project has also begun planning programs for other underserved communities, including an Odyssey Beyond Wars initiative for veterans and an Odyssey Senior program for elders; and

WHEREAS; outside of its educational initiatives over the past two decades, Odyssey has sponsored a biennial “Why Vote” contest that encourages its students—90 percent of whom are from communities of color that are too often disenfranchised—to use their voices and register to vote; and

WHEREAS; the Odyssey Project has grown remarkably since its inception, due in large part to the resilience of its students, the dedication of its staff, and the support of thousands of individual donors, organizations, businesses, and partners; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin commends the Odyssey Project on 20 years of service to the state and joins all Wisconsinites in recognizing the power of access to higher education to help break cycles of generational poverty and disenfranchisement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 12, 2022, as

ODYSSEY PROJECT DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 7th day of October 2022.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State