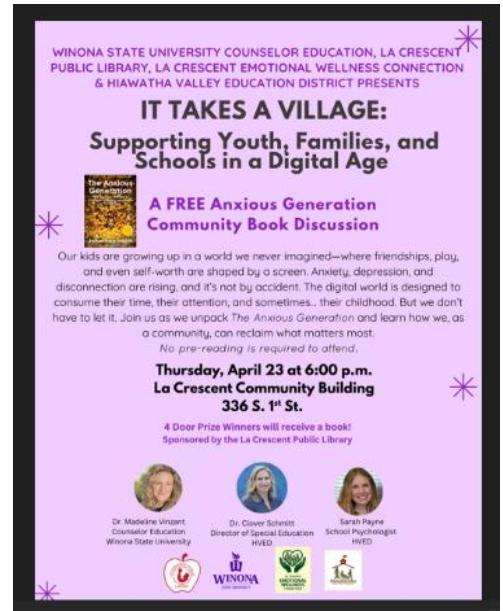




Dr. Clover Schmitt and Sarah Payne Collaborate with WSU, CESA 4, and HVED



A collaboration between Winona State University, Wisconsin CESA 4, and HVED resulted in a presentation hosted at WSU called, *It Takes a Village: Supporting Youth, Families, and Schools in a Digital Age* on April 8. As Dr. Schmitt stated, “The impacts of social media and screen time for childhood and parenting have outpaced many families, this presentation aims to connect families and educators to support Youth, Families and Schools in this digital age.” Pictured at left, from left to right: Dr. Clover Schmitt, HVED Director of Special Education; Sarah Payne, HVED School Psychologist; Dr. Madeline Vinzant, WSU Counselor Education; and Dr. Jenny Riggle, CESA 4 Director of Student Services Prevention & Wellness. A similar presentation will be given on Thursday, April 23 at La Crescent Community Building at 6 PM per the flyer at right. Contact Clover if you would like to host a similar event!



Our kids are growing up in a world we never imagined—where friendships, play, and even self-worth are shaped by a screen. Anxiety, depression, and disconnection are rising, and it's not by accident. The digital world is designed to consume their time, their attention, and sometimes... their childhood. But we don't have to let it. Join us as we unpack *The Anxious Generation* and learn how we, as a community, can reclaim what matters most. No pre-reading is required to attend. Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. La Crescent Community Building 336 S. 1st St. 4 Door Prize Winners will receive a book! Sponsored by the La Crescent Public Library

Jen Ihrke Visits with Students at Winona State University on April 14

GOALS OF OUR PROGRAMS

01 Enter programming	02 Learn skills	03 Practice skills	04 Generalize skills	05 Transition back to district
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Jen Ihrke, Director of Special Education and Program Director for SAIL, SPECTRUM, and RVA ALC, stated, “I presented to a special education methods course at Winona State University. I shared some about my background and information about HVED and our programs. I was surprised at how many students had heard of us. I promoted positions as paraprofessionals while in school, student teacher, and jobs after they graduate. They had a number of great questions.

Dr. James Kirk, Chair, WSU Special Education Department, is happy to continue the collaboration with HVED.” The slide above taken from Jen Ihrke’s presentation describes the purpose of our programs.

Join Our Team! Interest Card Created for Distribution to Future Employees

JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are hiring for multiple positions in our NEW location in WINONA!

APPLY HERE!

1213 Gilmore Ave.
507-452-1200
www.hved6013.org

Michelle Gruber, Human Resources Administrative Assistant, created the Interest Card pictured at left which was distributed to students at WSU recently. A QR Code is embedded in the card that provides access to HVED’s application process. These are three examples of the initiatives that Clover, Jen, and Michelle took in April to support the goals within HVED’s Strategic Plan for Pillar 2: Recruitment and Retention. These extra efforts make our organization stronger. We appreciate this extra effort as we continue building a strong HVED team!



Strategic Plan Oversight Committee (SPOC) Encourages Engagement and Action Throughout HVED

SPOC established an electronic spreadsheet to track work completed throughout HVED as the Strategic Plan is implemented under the leadership of SPOC and the purposeful action from the Strategic Plan Action Committees (SPAC) and all HVED staff and Board of Directors together with member district and charter school staff.

You are welcome to engage in the work by reviewing and contributing to the spreadsheet at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18HjJmGYCVXQN6WzZl6rrACcrrNxOYzl3fRiKIJp3yec/edit?gid=611947850#gid=611947850>



Pillar 1: Work Teams and Culture

Pillar 2: Talent Retention, Development, and Recruitment

Pillar 3: Effective Communication

Pillar 4: Impactful Services and Support

The SPOC Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month

via zoom from 4 – 5 PM. Meeting minutes and attachments are available at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cHkUYz7otPFNiJUtN5AiMozBV7dwb_tv

HVED Hosts Commencement for Students Earning a River Valley Academy Diploma

Once students enrolled in an Area Learning Center earn the required number of credits and complete the graduation requirements for the program, they have the option of choosing to receive a diploma from their home district or from River Valley Academy. Within the Class of 2026, two students from the River Valley Academy are choosing to receive RVA diplomas. These diplomas will be conferred on Wednesday, May 27 at 6 PM in the Main Hall at 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, MN.

Wrapping up 2025-2026 Within Weeks!

The 2025-2026 school year has been a year of transition for HVED’s SAIL, SPECTRUM, and RVA ALC Programs. Staff for SAIL and SPECTRUM transitioned to the newly renovated site in December 2025 and opened the new site for students on January 5, 2026. That transitional break means that our SAIL and SPECTRUM staff and students will be in school through Friday, May 29. The RVA ALC Program stayed in session in December 2025 and will conclude their last day of school at 3:00 PM on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Eligible RVA ALC students will be joining SAIL and SPECTRUM students for summer school and extended school year programming respectively from July 6 – July 24, 2026 for the student day from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. All programming will be provided at 1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, MN.

Open House for SAIL, SPECTRUM, and River Valley Academy - ALC



1213 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, MN Wednesday, August 26, 2026 from 2 – 6 PM

- Celebrate the journey of transitioning programs to one central site
- Tour the entire facility
- Recognize individuals who have dedicated time and effort to the project
- Program time to be announced
- HVED regular Board meeting at 6:30 PM

HVED Participates in School Behavioral Health Programs & Services

Megan Laskaskie, HVED Mental Health Professional, is instrumental in a grant initiative for School Behavioral Health Programs & Services through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Megan attended a virtual presentation on April 16, 2026, to learn more about the details of the grant. Megan will share more about this effort during the May Board of Directors’ Showcase on Service.

