

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
**Marta S. Bechtol**

**Federal & State Budgets**

The 119<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 6, 2025. The federal government is operating on a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) passed by Congress on December 21, 2024, scheduled to expire on March 14, 2025. Congress will need to take action to finish Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations or pass another CR. Funding for public media could be affected by a budget reconciliation bill and I am following this process closely. Due to the two-year forward funding mechanism currently implemented for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the FY24 budget has funded our agency grants through FY26. CPB grants account for just over 10% of ECB's program revenue budget.

Jordan Siegler (Interim Executive Director of Wisconsin Public Media) and I will travel with Roy Christianson (Wisconsin Public Radio Association Chair) and Kyle LaFond (President of the Friends of PBS Wisconsin) to Washington, D.C. at the end of February to attend the annual America's Public Television Stations' (APTS) Public Media Summit. There we will be joined by Debbie Hamlett (Milwaukee PBS) and her station members as we make advocacy visits to Wisconsin's congressional delegation.

The Governor's budget address is expected to be delivered on February 18. ECB's FY25-27 Biennial Budget submission requests only standard budget adjustments and a 5% increase in the appropriation line for supplies and services (\$9,100). General Purpose Revenue funding (tax dollars) currently makes up 30% of the agency budget and covers salary for half of the staff, utilities, debt service and some administrative costs (primarily state assessments).

The Friends of PBS Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Public Radio Association will hold their annual Advocacy Day on Wednesday, March 20 at the State Capitol to share their thoughts with the legislature on the value of public media to the state.

**Annual Audit**

I would like to congratulate and thank Aimee Wright, Director of Finance, and her team for their excellent work and preparation for the FY24 audit. The results speak to their professionalism and the agency's stewardship of the funds we receive from the government and our supporters.

**Annual Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Report**

*Prepared by Deputy Director Jennifer Dargan, December 2024*

In adherence to the directives of [Executive Order #59](#), ECB developed a new Equity and Inclusion Plan for 2024 - 2026. The plan guides the activities of the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EIAC). Below are the plan's goals and progress.

**Expand job posting locations based on staff input:** We requested staff input but this did not result in identification of new posting locations. We will continue to request input with future postings.

**Improve job application process:** A workgroup audited the process then provided feedback to DOA HR.

**Improve job announcements:** A workgroup audited the process. We will work with DOA HR to implement suggestions in 2025.

**Share details about frequent job openings at job fairs:** This information has been incorporated into our job fair flyer.

**Build relationships with STEM programs:** Planning has begun for a STEM day for MATC STEM Academy students in 2025.

**Quarterly agency conversations about equity and inclusion:** We hosted the following this year.

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| - Multigenerational Workplace | 6/3/2024            |
| - Workplace Integrity 1 and 2 | 6/11/24 and 7/24/24 |
| - Workplace Integrity 3       | On own time         |
| - Workplace Integrity 4       | 9/9/24 and 10/30/24 |
| - Wisconsin Pride             | 10/25/2024          |

**Document correct procedure in event of harassment or discrimination:** Completed and posted procedures on agency intranet.

**Improve shared understanding of commitment to professional development:** Rewrote and rolled out new training policy. Simplified and automated professional development request process.

**Improve accessibility of ECB public worksites:** Made upgrades at Eau Claire site based on accessibility audits. Shared accessibility audits with landlords at Madison and Milwaukee.