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Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds Receives Governor's Harvest Award for Excellence in Quality

Bismarck, ND – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proud to announce that Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, Director of the Water Development Division, received the coveted Harvest Award for Excellence in Quality during the 2024 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Public Service. This accolade recognizes her exceptional management of North Dakota's water resources and her leadership on significant projects, including the Southwest Pipeline Project which currently serves more than 55,000 North Dakotans, and the Northwest Area Water Supply project, which will serve 81,000 water users, or 10 percent of the state's population.

"I am truly humbled and honored to receive this recognition from the Governor and the Lt. Governor," S.Pillai-Grinolds stated. "This recognition strengthens my commitment to serve the citizens of North Dakota to the best of my abilities. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with a great team and contribute to the success of critical water projects that benefit our state."

The Harvest Award is a testament to S.Pillai-Grinolds' hard work and the collaborative efforts of her team in navigating the complexities of water resource management.

Under S.Pillai-Grinolds' leadership, the Water Development Division has made remarkable strides in ensuring the state's water needs are met with precision, foresight, and strong relationships with stakeholders. Her dedication to sustainable water management has played a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for North Dakotans.

"Congratulations to Sindhuja on receiving the Harvest Award for Excellence in Quality," DWR Director Andrea Travnicek said. "This well-deserved award reflects her strong leadership and commitment to managing North Dakota's water resources effectively. Her hard work and dedication have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of North Dakota citizens. We're proud to have her leading these vital efforts as part of the DWR team."

Additionally, Cam Wright, DWR Communications Manager, was recognized with a Roaming Bison Award for her contributions to the S'mores World Record Team, led by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, which organized a successful Guinness World Record attempt for the most people making s'mores together, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Fort Stevenson State Park.

“It took the effort and support of multiple state agencies to pull off the successful world record attempt,” Travnicek added. “Collaboration and teamwork should be celebrated, and we appreciate Cam’s proactive approach to creating opportunities to support Team ND as a whole.”

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