

Wisconsin's
Cooperative
Educational
Services
Agencies



******News Release******

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rachel B. Thompkins, Ed.D., President of the Rural School and Community Trust, will be a keynote speaker at the 2009 conference on Enriching Wisconsin's Rural Schools and Communities. The March 30 – 31 event will mark the beginning of a statewide dialogue on education trends and issues in Wisconsin rural settings. Wisconsin has a sizable rural student population, with nearly 40% of its schools located in rural areas and serving more than one-fourth of the state's students.

This conference is being co-hosted by the Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) and the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, College of Education and Human Services. During the conference focus will be drawn to:

- The strength of Wisconsin's rural schools and communities
- Highlighting rural successes that may be applied to other settings
- Local, state and national trends and perspective on rural schools and communities
- Solutions to the challenges of education in rural settings
- Giving a voice to rural schools and communities

"We want participants in this conference to leave with take-home ideas they can implement in their local communities" states Joan Wade, CESA 6 administrator. Joan goes on to state, "Our rural schools are facing the challenges of declining enrollment, changing student populations, growing technology needs, staff recruitment issues and tight budgets. This conference will give all participants an opportunity to hear the experiences from national and statewide experts." The summit will be held on March 30 & 31 at the Stoney Creek Inn, in Wausau, Wisconsin. For more information and to register contact, Joan Wade, Ed.D. 920-236-0512 or to register online go to www.cesa6.k12.wi.us.