



## Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) 2014 Rural Advocacy Award Winner

**Dr. Frederick Yeo** | [UWO Dean of College of Education & Human Services](#)



Dr. Frederick Yeo, UW Oshkosh Dean of the College of Education & Human Services was honored by the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA), a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping address

challenges faced by rural school districts, at the annual Rural Schools Conference on Nov. 13, 2014.

Having come to Wisconsin in July 2005 as the Dean of the College of Education & Human Services for UW Oshkosh, Dr. Yeo's focus has always been the role of rural public schools within the context of rural communities and economic development. As Dean, he oversees eight departments plus four service or resource centers including Head Start, Project Success and the Reading Study Center. Along with his normal administrative functions, his primary focus has been on the development of outreach programs for the educational support of rural schools through the Wisconsin Rural Education Center. Dr. Yeo has developed collaborative degree programs in partnerships with other UW Campuses throughout Wisconsin so that rural participants could earn their degree in Early Childhood education, Special Education and Human Services leadership at a campus close to home. The courses and field placements happen throughout rural Wisconsin so that students don't have travel to Oshkosh for the



classes and support they need, rather they can stay close to their home communities.

Dr. Yeo travels extensively to connect with K-12 Superintendents and CESA Administrators to talk about developing partnerships and meeting the educational needs of adult learners, regardless of their zip code. Dr. Yeo is a member of the National Rural Education Association. He also serves on the State Superintendent's Rural Advisory Council and is a founding member of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance. A founding member of WiRSA, Dr. Yeo contributed his expertise in law in setting up the governance structure of the organization, as well as serving on the governing board since its inception. He has annually contributed financially to the annual conference in order to keep the registration cost down, making it affordable for leaders living and working in rural schools and communities. Dr. Yeo also hosts the WiRSA website at no cost to the association, again to help keep the membership dues at an affordable cost. There is no end to how much time and dedication Dr. Yeo has contributed to the success of WiRSA. He believes in rural schools and communities and he wants to make sure that they don't just survive, but they thrive in the future!

The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance was formed to help rural school districts address the unique issues that affect rural schools as they seek to achieve the highest quality education for every student. Members include a cross-section of administrators, educators, school board members, post-secondary representatives, rural community members, business leaders, and other concerned individuals who want a strong voice for rural education.