



## **Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA)** 2015 Rural School Board of Education Member Award Winner

**David Amundson** | [Cashton School District](#)



David Amundson, School Board Member, Cashton School District 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. 12, 2015.

Mr. Amundson has served on the Cashton Public School Board of Education for 22 years, in this time he has demonstrated a commitment to fostering a nurturing engaging learning environment that empowers all students to achieve.

The changes in public education over the past 22 years have been immense. The students of the district have benefitted from Mr. Amundson's steady, visionary leadership that has honored Cashton's rural identity while cultivating opportunities for all students. During his tenure on the Board of Education, the district has organized, successfully passed, and implemented two separate building referendum that have totaled \$19 million. In both instances, the Board of Education recognized that the district must grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of students. The upgrades have improved student access to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools, enhanced community health and wellness, provided infrastructure updates, and created a safe learning environment for students.

The Board of Education has actively pursued community partnerships in effort to extend learning hours beyond the school day and to leverage school facilities to improve the quality of life in our rural community. One component to his vision is an intergovernmental agreement between Cashton Public Schools, Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center, and the Village of Cashton. The partnership has led to a coordinated system of wellness activities for citizens of the school district. The partnership has resulted in expanded summer recreation opportunities for students; community access to the school's fitness facilities; and the formation of the rural health careers academy.



Mr. Amundson's service to public education extends beyond the Cashton Board of Education. He is the President of the Board of Control for CESA 4. Under his direction, CESA 4 has expanded services, programs and professional development opportunities available to the 26 school districts in our area. CESA 4 offers cost-effective options that allow rural districts to provide services that would not be feasible to fund on their own.

I highly recommend Mr. David Amundson for the WiRSA Rural Board Member of the Year Award in recognition of his positive impact on the students in Cashton Public Schools. The Cashton community has benefitted from his advocacy, leadership and guidance.

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.