



## Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) 2016 Rural School Board of Education Member Award Winner

**Fern Aleckson** | [Blair-Taylor School District](#)



Fern Aleckson 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 November 10, 2016.

Fern Aleckson began her tenure as a school board member in the 1977-78 school year as a member of the Taylor School Board. She

has served 12 years on the Taylor School board and 24 years on the Blair-Taylor School Board. Although every rural community is connected to their school, Fern was under the belief that our rural schools needed to do something different to continue educating students at a high level. She felt we would better educationally serve our rural communities of Taylor consolidated with Blair. Through many community discussions and meetings, both positive and challenging, the Taylor and Blair communities made the decision to consolidate and became one district in the 1989-1990 school year. In 2012, the school board began the process of constructing an addition to the Middle/High School that would create a United Campus for all students.

Fern Aleckson has worked with and supported eight different superintendents between Taylor and Blair-Taylor. She never held the seat of vice president or president; however, she has spent most of her time on the board as clerk. Fern's support and leadership has been and continues to be an anchor for superintendents.

Fern's experience and dedication to improve rural education and desire to continue to grow and learn through these challenging and changing times has been a staple for both the Taylor and the Blair-Taylor School District. Students have always been her focus and the number one reason she has continued to serve the school communities of Taylor and Blair-Taylor.

She truly lives and breathes the Blair-Taylor mission of "Educating all learners to reach their potential as productive citizens."

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.