



Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) Teacher Education Scholarship Winners 2017-2018

Region 1: Emily Omerink | [Amherst High School](#)



My name is Emily Omernik. I live in Polonia, Wisconsin with my parents and three younger siblings. I am thankful for the values of faith and family that I have grown up with, and I treasure the memories that I have been able to build with my family. I attend Amherst High School in the rural town of Amherst, Wisconsin where I have been given some incredible opportunities to learn and pursue my interests. During high school, I participated in FBLA, Honor Society, art club, Student Council, band, and Color Guard. Because I have always loved dance, I especially enjoyed the opportunities I was given to choreograph Rifle Line and Color Guard routines, as well as dance routines for the school musical and Chamber Show Choir. I have been accepted to the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater where I plan to major in art education and English education with a minor in dance. I am very excited about pursuing my dream to provide students with an encouraging, positive environment and diverse learning opportunities like those that filled me with confidence and ignited my passion in the arts.

Region 2: Marissa Gerstner | [Fort Atkinson High School](#)



I am a senior at Fort Atkinson High School. I plan on attending Carroll University in Waukesha, WI and majoring in Elementary Education with a dual licensure in Special Education. Some things that I am looking forward to in college would be meeting new people and having a chance to study abroad.

Region 3: Alycia Zickert | [Neilsville High School](#)



I plan on attending the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, for a degree in Special education. Right now, I spend a great amount of my school day teaching in the elementary special ed classroom, and I have learned an extraordinary amount of knowledge as to what the teaching field will consist of. I cannot wait to expand my knowledge for teaching and to enter the education field.



Region 4: Casie McAllister | [Merrill High School](#)



My name is Casie McAllister and I attend Merrill High School. I was born in raised in Merrill and have learned many things living in a rural community. In September, I will be attending UW River Falls majoring in Elementary Education. I have always loved helping people and being a teacher will allow me to do this. I chose to pursue a career in education because I want to make learning fun for children. I want to help them find their passion to inspire them to inspire others. In High School I was involved in Octagon Club, Earth Club, Tennis, Dance, Student Council, Youth group, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, playing tennis, watching sports, and volunteering. I'm ready to take the next step in my future and am excited to make my dream a reality.

At Large: Weston Morley | [Cuba City High School](#)



I am currently a senior at Cuba City High School. During the course my four-year career at CCHS, I have accomplished many things. I have run varsity cross country and track all four years, being recognize as my cross country team's MVP both Junior and Senior year. Along with my accomplishments in athletics, I have also been very active in community service. As part of my high school's Leo Club and NHS, I have volunteered at many community events. I also have been heavily involved in my school's art, theatre, and music departments. I have participated in forensics for the past three years, qualifying in state each year. Along with forensics, I have also been very involved in my school's music department. In my school's music department, I participate in jazz band, pep band, vocal jazz, contemporary a cappella, band, and choir. Along with these ensembles, I also have participated in Solo and Ensemble, qualifying for State in numerous events over the past three years. I have also been a part of CCHS's drama department for the past three years, being nominated for the Overture Center Tommy Award for Outstanding Lead Performance this year for my work in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. When I am not participating in school functions, I assist in teaching religious education in my town, as well as taking piano lessons. This coming fall, I plan to pursue a degree in Music Education at UW-Eau Claire. After I obtain my degree, I plan to teach band at either the middle school, or high school level. I would like to thank WiRSA for selecting me as a recipient for the Teacher Education Scholarship.