



Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA) 2018 Rural Support Staff Person of the Year Award

Dan Viste | [Southern Door County School District](#)



Dan Viste 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 October 29, 2018.

Dan Viste is a compassionate, dedicated, energetic, and super positive individual who cares deeply about the needs of students, staff and the community. He is insatiable in his quest to provide excellent customer service and be an advocate for rural education as part of his role as director

of transportation and maintenance services for the school district.

Dan started with the district as a bus driver in 1993, Dan's talents, integrity, leadership, and teamwork has propelled him through the years to take on additional responsibilities. In 1998, when a position was eliminated, Dan stepped up to take a combined role of transportation and maintenance director, overseeing 16 bus routes in a 200 square mile district and handling the maintenance needs of a Prek-12 facility complex with an auditorium, athletic grounds, school forest, prairie, and school yard garden. Dan's success is a testament to his intellect, skills sets, vision, dedication, organization, work ethic, and most of all, his ability to be a team player.

Despite the magnitude of his responsibilities, Dan always makes time to help someone out or take a personal interest in someone's needs. He is a servant leader who treats everyone with respect and empowers them to be the best they can be.

Other award winners honored by WIRSA at the Rural Schools Conference were Ashley Furniture Industries of Arcadia, Rural Business Partner of the Year; Steve Pate of Portage, Rural Board of Education Member of the Year; Bryce Bird, District Administrator of the Riverdale School District, Rural Administrator of the Year; Justin Gerlach, teacher in the Mishicot School District, Rural Teacher of the Year; and, Heather DuBois Bourenane, Executive Director of WPEN, Rural Advocacy Award.

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.