



Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA) 2019 Rural Support Staff Person of the Year Award

Keith Peterson | [Argyle School District](#)



Keith Peterson 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 28, 2019.

Keith Peterson has been the Argyle building custodian for the past 21 years and served as the Head Custodian for the past 20 years. In his role he wears many hats. Keith is a graduate of Argyle and he takes great pride in making sure the building is in top shape. Keith shows his pride and commitment by coming in on

days he has set aside for vacation, working on Saturday and Sunday, and putting aside days off when an emergency comes up in the building. He regularly returns to school when evening events are occurring to ensure that everything is working and the activity has the necessary items.

As with many rural communities, Keith is involved in a number of local organizations. Keith is a member of the Argyle Fire Department and the EMS Squad. He also works closely with the organizers of the Community Fish Fry. The Fish Fry serves between 1800 and 2500 people on the last Saturday in June. The funds raised from this event go to local organizations including the school.

Keith was instrumental in bringing Argyle's recently completed referendum project and in under budget. He worked with local vendors to complete some of the work at a cost savings and Keith and his staff completed some of the work during construction. His knowledge of the building and the district was beneficial as he provided valuable input with the construction plans. Thanks to Keith's work remaining funds were used to update areas that were not considered in the original project.

As in many rural school districts, they are dependent on their personnel being able to fill many roles. Keith fills that role in Argyle serving as mechanic for the machinery, repairman for the HVAC and kitchen equipment, and chief installation officer for all of our technology.

Keith Peterson takes pride in his work and always has the best interest of the district, students and staff in mind. Keith is loved by all and he is a positive influence on the students.

Keith was nominated by Argyle District Administrator Mike Beranek.

Other award winners honored by WiRSA at the Rural Schools Conference were Door County Medical Center, Rural Business Partner of the Year; Jill Gaskell, Pecatonica School District, Rural School Board Member

of the Year; Ben Niehaus, Florence County School District, Rural Administrator of the Year; Sarah Quade, teacher in the Monticello School District, Rural Teacher of the Year; Doug Mering, Baraboo School District, Rural Advocacy Award and Andy Banasik, Principal at Prairie du Chien High School, Rural Principal of the Year.

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.