

REGISTRATION
\$90 Members
\$140 Non-Members

Register online @
www.myquickreg.com
for registration assistance, contact
Michele McCune, CESA 5
608-745-5411

Conference Cancellation Policy: Any conference registration cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the conference scheduled date for a full refund to be issued.

Lodging Info:  **Holiday Inn**

1001 Amber Avenue
Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Reservations: (715) 344-0200
Single/DbI Room \$70.00

Mention WIRSA Conference to get rate.

Rural Wisconsin is more than our state's heritage; it's home to almost 44% of the state's 860,000 public school students. Rural schools share the same responsibility to the community as their suburban counterparts--to prepare all students for a successful future in a globally competitive marketplace.

The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA) 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. Our members include a cross-section of educators, school board members, rural community members, business leaders and other concerned individuals who want a strong voice for rural schools. More than 100 school districts have joined the Alliance.

For more information, contact:
Jerry Fiene, WIRSA Executive Director
Phone: (715) 499-4689
Email: jerryfiene@wirsa.org

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Strong Schools, Strong Communities



**"Preparing
Rural Students for
Their Future"**

NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 2014

Holiday Inn & Convention Center,
Stevens Point, WI

(see reservation information inside)

A conference for administrators, board members, teachers, CESA employees, higher education professionals, public library administrators, elected officials and citizens interested in rural school and community issues.

Conference Schedule

November 12 - Day 1

- 8:30 **Conference Registration**
- 9:30-10:15 **“Changing Education Policy- Implications for Rural Schools,”** Jeff Pertl, DPI Policy Analyst
- 10:15-11:00 **“Segregation of Opportunity: Education Funding,”** Scott Wittkopf, Forward Institute; John Gaier, Neillsville
- 11:00-12:30 Lunch--**DPI “Standing Up for Rural Schools, Libraries and Communities” Awards,** State Superintendent Tony Evers
- 12:45 - 2:00 **“Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What It Means for America,”** Dr. Maria Kefalas, Distinguished Researcher & Author, St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2:00 - 2:45 **“Rural Schools Developing Globally Competent 21st Century Citizens,”** Leah Luke, Mauston; Chuck Pursell, Lodi; Mike Ritchie, Northland Pines
- 3:00 - 3:45 **“Initiatives to Expand Broadband Across Rural Wisconsin,”** Don Sidlowski, Northwoods Broadband Development Coalition, Three Lakes
- 3:45 - 4:30 **Roundtable Discussions on Rural Best Practice: Share Your Success/Learn from Others**
Educator Effectiveness-DPI Model--
Educator Effectiveness-CESA #6 Model--
School Calendar--PBIS--Teacher Compensation--Administrative Structure--
Summer School--School/Community Partnerships--RTI--
School Breakfast/Lunch Programs--
Career Pathways--Online/Blended Course Offerings--IT Support in Rural Schools--
Youth Options/Transcripted Credits--Community Engagement

November 12 - Day 1, cont.

- 4:30 Reception--*Sponsored by National Insurance Services*
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 - 7:15 **“Rural Schools - The Heart of Rural Communities,”** Paul Kohlman, Nat’l Rural Teacher of the Year, Avon, South Dakota

November 13 - Day 2

- 7:30 Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 - 9:15 **“Supporting Rural Students in Maximizing the Use of Technology ”**
Caroline Haebig, Kenosha, Apple Distinguished Educator
- 9:15 - 10:00 **Breakout Sessions:**
- Central Wisconsin Academies--Laurie Borowitz, NTC; Scott Winch, Stratford
 - Tomorrow River Environmental Charter School--Dennis Raabe, Tomorrow River
 - Opportunities in Ag-Related Fields--Alan Herrman, Ex. Dir., WI Agriculture Ed. & Workforce Dev. Council
 - Exemplary Rural Mathematics Program--Coleen Timm, Mishicot
- 10:15-11:00 **Breakout Sessions:**
- Invisible Factors Affecting Achievement at Your School--Steven Cracker, Focus on Energy
 - Personalized Learning Action Network (9 Rural Districts)--Karen Heldt, CESA #9
 - Woodlands & Northwoods Regional Technical Academies--Brooke Holbrook, NWTC; Ben Niehaus, Florence/Goodman-Armstrong Creek

November 13 - Day 2 cont.

- 11:10 - 11:55 **“Eleva-Strum School/Community Business Partnership,”** Craig Cegielski, Craig Semingson, Eleva-Strum
- 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch
WiRSA Annual Awards Presentation
- “New Federal Initiatives to Support Rural Schools,”** John Hill, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association; Lucy Johnson, Deputy Asst. Secretary for Rural Outreach, US Dept. of Ed.
- 1:30-2:15 **Breakout Sessions:**
- Advantages of a Rural Insurance Consortium--Todd Kleinhans, LUHS
 - Community Area Networks Utilizing Fiber Optics & WiMax Towers--Ross Wilson, CESA #10
 - The Power of Forecast 5 for Rural Students--Ridge & Valley Conference (James Kuchta, DeSoto; Doug Olsen, Kickapoo)
- 2:15-3:00 **Budget & Legislative Support for Rural Schools--**Bi-Partisan Legislative Panel
- 3:15-3:45 **WiRSA Annual Meeting**
- 3:45 **Conference Adjourns**
- 3:45-4:15 **WiRSA Board of Directors Meeting**