



## We Believe In...

- \*Developing the whole student in preparation for lifelong success.*
- \*Developing highly trained educational leaders who support the academic, functional, and social/emotional needs of all students.*
- \*Developing educational leaders with effective problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, and resources to support our families for students' success.*
- \*Advocating so all students receive equitable academic, functional, and social/emotional opportunities.*
- \*Engaging various stakeholders on effective practices to improve outcomes for all students.*
- \*Developing and sustaining collaborative relationships among organizations and stakeholders.*
- \*Developing and sustaining meaningful relationships with families to facilitate student success.*

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL  
OF ADMINISTRATORS  
OF SPECIAL SERVICES

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# WCASS

June  
2019

Devoted to Students and Student Service Leaders Through Professional Learning, Advocacy & Educations

## Organizational Goals & Priorities

### PRIORITY: STRENGTHENING OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Goal 1: To increase, recruit, retain, and engage diverse membership as measured by membership rates, conference attendance, and survey results.

Goal 2: Begin initial plan of succession for the WCASS Executive Director as measured by the completion of the board-approved job description, timeline, and FTE.

### PRIORITY: TO INCREASE RELATIONSHIPS AND OUTREACH WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Goal 1: Identify important and essential relationships with organizations throughout Wisconsin as measured by creating a resource chart.

Goal 2: Create learning opportunities across organizations to empower all educators to close gaps for students with barriers to their learning as measured by conference evaluations and sharing of best practices through the regional and state level.

### PRIORITY: INCREASE COMMUNICATION AROUND ORGANIZATIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATION IN ADVOCACY

Goal 1: Increase membership participation in advocacy efforts as measured by membership survey results.

# The Strength of Many

The message of our Spring Conference was clear. "Now is the Time". Now is a key time for our work in advocacy, closing the opportunity gap, and continuing on the path of strengthening our organization. It is the third area in which I will focus on in this article.

If you take a moment to review our goals, you may notice that a key component is the involvement of many. We are not only looking to improve the clarity of our message, but the total number of those involved. The first two goals are about increasing our total number of members, key relationships/partnerships with others, and then providing the "many" with the tools to advocate and close the gaps that exist in our state.

As your President, I have tried to model this approach beginning with our board. We have and will continue to share the leadership within our organization to develop all members of our board. We will look to share and lift up the work of each of the committees and the key leaders in each committee. I am definitely biased, but I am in awe of the members of our board, their skills, and their ability to lead within the organization. Maybe each previous sitting WCASS President felt the same way, but I can only state what I believe.

I believe this is a direct result of a couple of key decisions. First, the significant changes within the board structure.

Second, I believe we have a clearer vision and purpose due to the strategic planning the board has done over the last few years. It has provided us with a focus and a means to share the work of leadership for the overall good of the organization. It has clarified and improved how we bring board members into the board and immediately honor their voice and talents within a smaller group structure. The framework keeps us tied together and connected, as the presidential roles are spread across the three committees. As a board, we discussed working smarter, not harder. We are a volunteer organization, thus we need to use the time of our servant leaders with great discretion and value. I believe our structure has assisted us in doing this effectively.

It is my hope that this leadership model will continue to grow the "many" within our organization and at the same time equip all our members with the tools to have a strong and clear message of support for our student's needs. The needs of our students are certainly front and center in the budget discussion and the work towards closing gaps. This feels very different from when I became a director over a decade ago.



## 14-15

State Superintendent's Conference  
Glacier Canyon Lodge | WI Dells



## 29-31

WCASS |  
Winter Conference  
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley | Appleton

This goes back to creating a board structure with better representation of the needs of our various members by reflecting the CESA regions. In addition to more voices, it has brought change to our board. I applaud the wisdom of those that served on the board at that time, as this was before I joined the WCASS board.

The majority of our board members have less than five years on the WCASS Board. We remain aware and honor our history by having a couple of members with more time on the board, an executive director with great awareness of our history, and WCASS new board members with a longer history of being members of the organization. This dynamic has created an energized board with those willing to serve and step forward. I can honestly say I see several future and potential President-Elect candidates on our board if they have the desire to serve in that capacity. These changes have created the ability for us to follow our term limits for each position, fill all vacancies quickly, and maintain a waiting list of members who have expressed interest in joining the WCASS Board of Directors. This is truly an exciting time to see so much interest and desire to step up and lead within our organization. I believe this desire honors the service of those that have come before us on the board and as members.

Yes, I am old. I believe our members and our organization are the reason for that change. We have evolved in a way to push for the changes our kids need. "Now is the Time" to continue this work and to expand it even further. I want to thank those WCASS members that shared their voice in the budget process and those who will take the time to do so over the next few weeks. We value your servant voice and leadership within our organization.

WCASS President  
Jerry Nicholson | [jnicholson@depere.k12.wi.us](mailto:jnicholson@depere.k12.wi.us)



# Strengthening Employability Skills & Changing Perceptions

Our students with disabilities ages 16 and older have some tremendous strengths that we can build upon. More often than not, our end goal for ALL students is to have them learn, practice, and model employability skills – this also includes students with disabilities. What has been amazing to see from an educational leadership role is how much the employers benefit from employing our students with disabilities and how their perceptions of our students change significantly of what they can do. In short, the employers typically stop seeing these young adults as having a disability first and start seeing their other characteristics like honesty, humility, hardworking, supportiveness, and caring. This is the ultimate goal for our students with disabilities: for others to see them as young adults with several strengths first and how to accommodate and support their disability second. When setting up employment and volunteer opportunities, educational leaders can help set reinforce this goal by setting some expectations with employers ahead of time.

To help employers see our students as young adults with many strengths, educational leaders can reach out to their local area services clubs (like the Optimists, Rotary, and/or Lions club). Local business leaders and community members are members of these organizations.

- Coworkers of organizations often serve as mentors to our students, giving the coworker added value as an employee that their employer would trust them to guide someone new to the organization who is just starting to learn the company's expectations
- Employers gain the benefit of watching our students' skills grow while having these same skills benefit their organization; in short, everybody wins

If employers have this information ahead of time, then the choice to employ our students who have barriers in their learning becomes an easy choice. Employers need to understand that this is NOT charity work on their behalf and that our students do NOT need pity or sympathy. Rather, our students need mentors and opportunities: our local businesses can supply this and so much more.

WCASS Past President  
John Peterson | [petejo@hamilton.k12.wi.us](mailto:petejo@hamilton.k12.wi.us)



4-5

DPI-WASBO-WCASS |  
Federal Funding  
Kalahari | WI Dells



6-8

WCASS |  
Spring Conference  
Chula Vista | WI Dells

These organizations are looking to do good in their community, and they thrive on connections with other organizations whose mission is to do the same – like our school districts. Educational leaders can seek out these organizations and present information about the goals for our young adults at one of their meetings. When doing so, educational leaders can share the following talking points regarding employing our students:

- Most adults and young adults who have disabilities do NOT have visible disabilities; in other words, most coworkers would not even know that the adult or young adult has a barrier that limits them in some capacity
- All adults and young adults do NOT want to be known as disabled OR for others to see them as disabled; rather, they want to be known as abled – a coworker who has strengths and wants to contribute to the benefit of the greater good
- When employers hire our students, the morale of the work place increases for two reasons:
  - o First, coworkers see how hard our students work and what strengths they bring to the work place, and they often want emulate these characteristics themselves
  - o Second, when coworkers see how little our students complain while overcoming the barriers in their life, it provides motivation to the coworkers to improve their own outlook

## Musings of a Special Edu Director

As the intensity of this time of year presents itself, I find myself reflecting on my “why.” Why I entered education and why I come to work each day. The answer is always to improve outcomes for kids, and in particular, kids that may not always have a voice. Though any number of stressors may impact me on a daily basis, I make an effort to remember my why.

I also want to take a moment to share my appreciation for having the opportunity to help lead the WCASS organization. I'm hopeful we'll continue to our collaboration, strategic planning, and efforts to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

As your year hopefully begins to wind down, and perhaps the stress seems too much, remember your why, your purpose. I can't find a better analogy to living with purpose than the following [VIDEO](#).

WCASS President Elect  
Sara Totten | [stotten@deforestschoools.org](mailto:stotten@deforestschoools.org)

# JFC Provides \$500 Million Increase for K-12

From the very beginning of the 2019-21 state budget process, we have known that Governor Evers' budget priorities, including the proposed \$1.4 billion increase for K-12 education, would require revenue generated by the proposed Medicaid expansion, the proposed cap on the manufacturing and agriculture tax credit and the proposed limitation on the exclusion for nonfarm capital gains. However, the first motion adopted by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) on May 9th removed those three items (and 128 others) from budget consideration leaving an enormous divide between Governor Evers and the GOP on K-12 funding and other budget needs.

In the midst of an ugly partisan environment, the SAA worked very hard with Republican JFC members to address the SAA's top budget priorities: at least a \$200 per pupil general revenue increase in each year of the biennium, a substantial increase in special education funding, a substantial increase in funding for school-age mental health and finally, funding that is "spendable" for children and not simply property tax relief.

On Thursday, May 23rd the JFC voted to provide public schools with a \$500 million increase in state funding, including the following major items:

1. General Aid. Provide \$83.2 million increase in 2019-20 and \$246.7 million increase in 2020-21.
2. Revenue Limits. Increase per pupil adjustment by \$175 in 2019-20 and \$179 in 2020-21.
3. Low Revenue Ceiling. Set the low revenue adjustment at \$9,700 in 2019-20 and \$10,000 in 2020-21 and each year thereafter.
4. Per Pupil Aid. Set the per pupil aid payment at \$679 per pupil in 2019-20 and \$704 per pupil in 2020-21. This is an increase of \$25 per pupil in each year of the biennium.
5. Special Education Aid. Provide a nearly \$97 million increase over the biennium that would allow for 26% reimbursement in 2019-20 and 30% reimbursement in 2020-21.
6. School Mental Health Categorical Aid. Increase by \$3 million in each year of the biennium for the program that reimburses eligible districts and schools for expenditures on social worker services.
7. School-Based Mental Health Collaboration Grants. Increase grant funding by \$3.25 million in each year of the biennium.
8. High Cost Transportation Aid. Provide \$1.6 million increase over the biennium.

We anticipate that the JFC will complete its work on the budget by mid-June. Once the JFC budget is drafted into bill form, the bill will be acted on by the Senate and Assembly, likely before the end of June. Once the bill has been passed in identical language in both houses, it will move to the Governor's desk where the Governor has essentially two options: 1) use the partial veto to reshape the bill and then sign it into law, or 2) veto the bill in its entirety. It is my understanding that the budget bill has never been vetoed in its entirety since the Executive Budget was initiated in 1931.

If Governor Evers does veto the entire budget and we end up with a protracted partisan stalemate, school districts would operate under the previous year's appropriation levels. DPI would be required to recalculate district equalization aid with some districts receiving more or less than they had in the prior year. Resolution of the budget stalemate would be in "uncharted waters" and very difficult to predict.

SAA | Executive Director  
John Forester | [john.forester@wsaa.org](mailto:john.forester@wsaa.org)



SAA Blog | Latest Legislative  
and Political News | [wsaa.org](http://wsaa.org)





# Mental Health & Resilience Academy

Meeting the rising mental health needs of school communities is an increasing challenge for education leaders. The Mental Health and Resilience (MHR) Academy is designed to grow capacity in Wisconsin's School Mental Health Framework and related efforts. The overall goal is to equip leaders with easy-to-access resources, tools, and application examples so that relevant, local action can be thoughtfully implemented and monitored.

In order to leverage the impact on the local school community, participants are encouraged to register in teams of three or more leaders, which include school-level administrators, student services team members, and, potentially, district-level administrators.

## Knowledge Objectives

1. Develop foundational knowledge in the three components of Wisconsin's School Mental Health Framework:
  - Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
  - Trauma-Sensitive Schools (TSS)
  - Compassion Resilience (CR)
2. Examine how providing mental health supports impacts school climate, school safety, and academic achievement.
3. Understand key system features of MLSS (Multi-Level Systems of Supports) and how they interface in addressing student mental health.
4. Learn how to strategically select and implement universal concepts in a way that is meaningful and manageable.
5. Identify tools and resources that support a local action plan.

## Practice Objectives

1. Conduct a mental health / wellness audit and identify entry points at both the school and community level.
2. Facilitate the integration of a selected mental health component (e.g., TSS) into at least one existing local improvement strategy.
3. Identify and use evidence-informed assessment tools to continuously monitor mental health services and supports.

## Academy Facilitators

- Dr. Joe Schroeder, AWSA, Associate Executive Director
- Dr. Becky Collins, DPI Director, Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team
- Beth Herman, DPI Consultant, Social and Emotional Learning
- Liz Krubsack, DPI Consultant, School Mental Health
- Julie Incitti, DPI Consultant, School Social Work Services

## Three Full-Day Sessions

September 24, 2019  
Holiday Inn  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

November 19, 2019  
Holiday Inn  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

March 18, 2019  
Holiday Inn  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Three 90-Minute Webinars  
January 8, 2020 (1:30 PM)  
February 11, 2020 (1:30 PM)  
April 22, 2020 (1:30 PM)

Cost and Registration  
\$399 for AWSA members  
\$539 for non-members

WCASS Members eligible to receive AWSA member pricing. Email Diane to register.

[DIANE@AWSA.ORG](mailto:DIANE@AWSA.ORG)

For any questions, please call the AWSA office at 608-241-0300.



# WCASS Regional News



## REGION 1 | Amanda Mack amack@sfsd.k12.wi.us

The CESA 1 Awards Ceremony was held on April 25th, 2019. Thank you to Kaari Olsen, the Director in Muskego-Norway, for putting together such a well-run and inspiring awards banquet. The Mainstream Teacher Award was given to Matt Morrissey of Brookfield East High School in the Elmbrook School District. The Special Education Teacher Award was given to Angela Adamczyk of Kettle Moraine High School in the Kettle Moraine School District. Sabley Sabin, a District Wide Social Worker from West Allis-West Milwaukee, was awarded the Pupil Services Award. Also from West-Allis is Tricia LaPlante, a Speech Pathologist from Nathan Hale High School, who is the winner of the Related/Support Services Award. Two paraprofessionals were awarded the Special Education Paraprofessional Award. They are Angie Chappell from the St. Francis School District and Jane Peavler of the Elmbrook School District. The stars of the morning were the two Personal Achievement Award winners given to students with disabilities. Dakota from the Muskego-Norway School District and Kim from the Elmbrook School District, inspired the audience with their speeches and served as a great reminder of why we do the work we do every day.

The entire CESA 1 Region would also like to acknowledge Ken Kassees for his many years of dedication to the field. He has been a true mentor and friend to many. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.



## REGION 2 | Todd Graco tgreco@email.parkview.k12.wi.us

For more information regarding Region 2 please contact Todd

## REGION 3 | Tammy Cooley cooleytpotosisd.k12.wi.us

Region 3 is concluding the 2018-2019 school year with some great things to celebrate. CESA 3 held its 26th annual Champion Games, a track and field/carnival day where schools come together to celebrate students with disabilities. Students with disabilities, along with students without disabilities take part in the day's events held at the Boscobel High School track facility. This year, there were over 1200 student participants from all schools in CESA 3. It was a fantastic community event that students and educators from across the region look forward to each year.

Another celebration in Region 3 was the first-year completion of Project Search at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. A partnership with the UW-P and Project Search began three years ago and after these years of planning, it is rewarding to see the first-class graduate. The next class of Project Search students also had their signing day and are set to begin in the fall.

The CESA 3 region has two districts, Ithaca and Darlington, who have been chosen to join the Research to Practice Inclusive Communities (RPIC) project. Each district will receive funding, high quality evidence-based professional development, and coaching support to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) as the framework for implementation of the research-based innovation of Inclusive Learning Communities (ILC). They will engage in professional learning that addresses each essential function of the Continuous Improvement process. Congratulations to Ithaca and Darlington!

Along with the RPIC project, Potosi School District is one of four districts in the state that is completing its first year with the ES3 Grant. Through the ES3 project, Potosi has participated in a myriad of staff and leadership training aimed to build the capacity to meet the needs of children with deficits in social-emotional learning skills and neurodiversity. Through this grant, Potosi has implemented video modeling as well as the Zones of Regulation. The district is also taking part in training in Ross Greene's Collaborative Problem Solving Model as well as hiring a new social-emotional learning coach who will serve as a resource to staff as well as students. In addition to the work with ES3 grant, Potosi Schools also utilized the Compassion Resilience Toolkit and held monthly Compassion Resilience Circles with staff. Feedback from staff regarding Compassion Resilience was very positive. The district is excited to continue this work in the fall, and grow the efforts to improve systems of support for the implementation of SEL across the district.

#### REGION 4 | Tracy Hogden thogden@cesa4.org

Director and Leadership meetings support building capacity and fostering collaboration to meet the needs of the district to serve their students. Meetings are set for the 2019-2020 school year and are: September 20, November 22, January 24, March 13 and May 15. There will also be two CCR-IEP workshops held on 9/23/19 and on 12/9/2019. CESA 4 will also be hosting the 3rd annual Paraprofessional Summit on August 20-21st. With an increased effort to meet all learners' needs, there is a Universal Design for Learning Workshop on August 6-8th, 2019. On October 22, CESA 4 is hosting Paula Kluth to continue the work of meaningful inclusion in our region. All registrations can be made through [www.myquickreg.com](http://www.myquickreg.com).

#### REGION 5 | Barbara Gransee gransee\_b@afasd.net

It is time to celebrate our dedicated colleagues who have given many years, time, and energy to helping students meet their potential. With that being said, we have two retirees from the CESA 5 Region this year: Diane Giacento, CESA 5; and Maureen Markon, Waupaca. Lastly, the below individuals were honored with a WCASS Award during the banquet that was held April 26, 2019 at Springbrook Resort in Wisconsin Dells for their service and achievements. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

- SPECIAL EDU ADMIN ASSISTANT AWARD
  - o Kari Langer, Mauston
  - o Sandy Renner, Adams-Friendship
- SPECIAL EDU PARAPROFESSIONALS AWARD
  - o Becky Kopfhamer, Portage
- SPECIAL EDU TEACHER AWARD
  - o Heidi Nickel, Portage
  - o Nicole Johndro, Waupaca
  - o Danielle Wilke, Marshfield
  - o Taylor Varsho, Marshfield
  - o Andrea Marty, Stevens Point
  - o Anne Gibault, Adams-Friendship

- ADMINISTRATOR AWARD
  - o John Erspamer, Waupaca
  - o Jim Dillin, Mauston
  - o Dr. Christine Weymouth, Mauston
- PUPIL SERVICES AWARD
  - o Kristi Ruggles, Counselor, Marshfield
  - o Joann Roehl, Counselor, Marshfield
  - o Jamie Trzebiatowski, Nursing, Waupaca
- RELATED/SUPPORT SERVICES AWARD
  - o Megan Colemer, Speech and Language, Port Edwards
- PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
  - o Christina Bradney, Westfield



#### REGION 6 | Marci Thiry thiry@mjsd.k12.wi.us

For more information regarding Region 6 please contact Marci.

#### REGION 7 | Caroline Mihalski mihalski@wrightstown.k12.wi.us

As another year winds down, we are happy to announce that we were able to partner with Becky Spengler, CESA 7 Integration (RSN) Director, to honor the following twelve individuals who provide excellent services to students during a luncheon on Friday, May 10th:

- REGULAR EDU TEACHER OR TEAM AWARD
  - o *Allies for All Team*  
Seymour School District | Rachel Pautz, Kelley Selissen, Kristen Diermeier, Jackie Hill, Andrea Smet, Jodi Barrington, and Amy Mueller

#### SPECIAL EDU PARAPROFESSIONALS AWARD

- o Anna Enz, Denmark

- SPECIAL EDU TEACHER AWARD
  - o Angie Bielinski, Brillion
- ADMINISTRATOR AWARD
  - o Kris Wells, Pulaski
- PUPIL SERVICES AWARD
  - o Darlene Popelar, Two Rivers
- RELATED/SUPPORT SERVICES AWARD
  - o Angela Hanson, Wrightstown

Also, Becky Spengler, from CESA 7 has all of the RSN Director Breakfasts set for the 2019/2020 school year for 8:30-11:30am for all of the following dates:

- Sept 23rd, 2019
- Oct 22nd, 2019
- Nov 19th, 2019
- Dec 18th, 2019
- Jan 21st, 2020
- Feb 20th, 2020
- April 3rd, 2020
- May 1st, 2020

I end with the following quote by Maya Angelo: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." We have lots of opportunities every day in our positions to advocate for students, be understanding with parents, helpful with staff, serve our communities, and most of all make a difference in the lives of the children we are meant to serve. Keep up the great work fellow colleagues!

**REGION 8 | Brenda Jozwiak-Boldig**  
[bjboldig@cesa8.org](mailto:bjboldig@cesa8.org)

CESA 8 Directors had meetings in December, March and May to engage in learning connected to equity and how we support students with disabilities within our school systems. Topics we connected to included:

- Equity & Social Justice
- E-MLSS RTI Center Updates
- EC, Transition, WSPEI Updates
- Supporting Students with Behavioral Needs (articles)
- Legal Updates (Mary Gerbig)
- Continuous Improvement connected to IDEA/ESSA Determinations
- Universal Design for Learning
- WCASS Updates
- DPI Paraprofessional Guide
- Transportation Updates
- EE Framework for Principals/Leaders
- WISEdash data dig

Regions 8 WCASS Banquet was held at the Waubesa Lodge in Lakewood, WI, on April 26th. We honored 21 staff from the region representing the categories of Administration, Special Education & General Education Teachers, Related Service Providers, Pupil Services and Paraprofessional Staff. Our speaker for the day was Katrina Shankland, State Representative for the 71st Assembly District, from Stevens Point joined us to speak to the awards winners and honor their service to our school districts.



**REGION 9 | Trish Teichmiller**  
[trish.teichmiller@ldfschool.org](mailto:trish.teichmiller@ldfschool.org)

CESA 9 Joint Leadership Meeting--April 30, 2019

CESA 9 announced an exciting Leadership Summit scheduled for groups of educational admin to work together on School Improvement goals--Scheduled for January 2020 in Northern Wisconsin.

Congratulations to Katherine Strong from Tomahawk on her retirement! Matt Collins also announced he will be retiring in June 2020.

Directors Updates--Matt Collins  
-New Calendar rolled out including state directors' meetings/opportunities. Lots of networking opportunities to help keep the cohesion of our regional team of directors (including overnight retreats and boating excursion)!

Three-part Continuous Improvement Process training begins in November 2019.

CESA 9 Grant Writer (Ann Brigham) --Gave questions to ask BEFORE you begin writing the grant. Offered her services as a grant evaluator moving forward.

*In our districts...*

**From the Antigo School District:** We are super psyched to be a part of the 5-year RPIC--Research to Practice Inclusive Communities Grant through DPI beginning 19-20!! As part of the grant, we will be looking throughout the district at equity as it relates to our underserved populations, including disability, and providing access to high quality instruction and environments for all students. Over the course of the next 5 years, admin and staff are being trained in how to do a co-plan to co-serve model through our already existing PLC framework through a coaching model--- One specific highlight for next year is our K-7 special education staff will be doing training in a co-plan to co-serve model for readers workshop and our EC group is working on expanding our options for natural environments for our 3's. Exciting work we are embarking on in Antigo!

**From the Lakeland Area Consortium of Schools:** We are equally "psyched" to have been awarded the Project AWARE grant, a 5-year federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and DPI Safe and Healthy Schools. Our goals for the grant will be to coordinate more immediate on-site response by mental health providers; provide coordinated referral, services and follow-up; and to provide more training for staff, students and community to increase mental health literacy, trauma responsive strategies, and improve Social-Emotional learning.

**From Marathon County:**

Representatives for Marathon County Special Education and the Edgar School District has the pleasure of presenting at the DPI Conference on their implementation of the CCR IEP process in rural schools. It was wonderful opportunity to share their continuing work with others in similar circumstances.

The Marathon City and Spencer School Districts passed referendums that will help the overall school district and also enhance special education space in both schools.

Spencer School District implemented the Go Baby Go project which was a partnership between NTC and MCSE to create a motorized, switch controlled car to enhance the mobility of students with limited mobility. The project will be expanded to other schools next year. Soon we will be a fleet of cars!





**REGION 10 | Missy Lesik**  
[lesikm@cadott.k12.wi.us](mailto:lesikm@cadott.k12.wi.us)

Greetings, I am the new Region 10 Representative and am excited to join the team! Region 10 wrapped up the year with a celebration. At our RSN meeting on April 26, we recognized the following individuals for their leadership and willingness to go above and beyond in regards to their support of students: Region 10 Administrator of the Year Award--Dan Miller of Medford Elementary School, Region 10 Related/Support Services of the Year Award--Gwen Westlund of CESA 10, and Region 10 Special Education Teachers of the Year Award--Hannah Mesiar of Bloomer Middle School and Kathleen Schumacher of Medford Elementary School. Thank you to each of you for your exemplary commitment to students in special education! Over the summer, our region will be hosting the following events at CESA 10: Behavior Threat Assessment and Management Workshop, Suicide Risk Assessment Workshop, EE Exchange, Evaluator Recertification and Calibration Training-Danielson Model, Literacy Institute 2.0, Implementing Strategies to Prepare for Your Best Year of Teaching, and PLC Coaching Academy. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions/concerns or would like more information regarding Region 10!



**REGION 11 | Carol Kline**  
[ckline@unity.k12.wi.us](mailto:ckline@unity.k12.wi.us)

The leaves on the trees are narrowing the line of sight through the forests. The Directors of CESA 11 are awaiting the warm temperatures of Spring, much like we await the legislative budget agreement. In the meantime, the CESA 11 and 12 RSNs are diligently planning the Directors Summer Summit scheduled for mid-June. Topics include: 1) legal updates regarding seclusion and restraint presented by Chad Wade from Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis, & Lacy, 2) information shared from Shelley Moore's presentation to WOW participants around inclusive practices presented by Jen Ledin and Ali Kahl, and 3) Wisconsin State updates presented by Gary Myrah. We'll leave a light on for you at the cabin and gas up the boat!

**REGION 12 | Cody Fechtelkötter**  
[cfechtelkötter@nw-tigers.org](mailto:cfechtelkötter@nw-tigers.org)

For more information regarding Region 12 please contact Cody..



Get Social...  
[@WCASS\\_WI](https://twitter.com/WCASS_WI)

We are WCASS! This is a strong organization that offers valuable resources to directors across the state. Our ties to DPI and other state organizations keep us up to speed on the ever changing world of education. We offer networking opportunities and valuable training opportunities throughout the year.

The links below allow you to quickly join/renew your WCASS membership and CEC/CASE membership. Contact me at [TNICHOLSON@ASHWAUBENONK12.ORG](mailto:TNICHOLSON@ASHWAUBENONK12.ORG) for information about joining or feel free to contact your WCASS region representative.

Register for WCASS <http://www.wcass.org/join-renew>

Register for CEC/CASE <http://www.cec.sped.org/Membership>

\*make sure to select the WI CASE division\*

Check out the CASE link to see all it has to offer

<http://www.casecec.org/>

#### Membership Chair

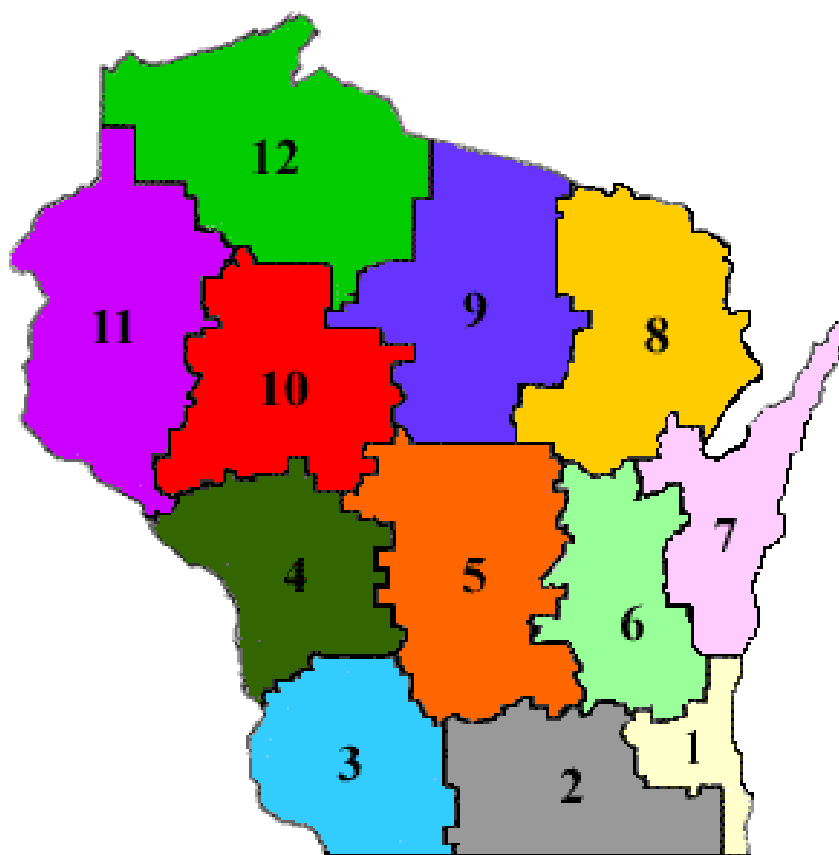
Tammy Nicholson | [tnicholson@ashwaubenonk12.org](mailto:tnicholson@ashwaubenonk12.org)

\*Be on the Lookout for your Membership Renewal Invoices in June!

Any questions, concerns, or changes should be forwarded to Diane.

[DIANE@AWSA.ORG](mailto:DIANE@AWSA.ORG) | 608.729.6663

## Membership Corner



## Awards & Retirees

I want to take a moment and thank the following retirees for the many years of service you all have brought to the student's, families and communities within your districts. It's an honor to be able to recognize all of you again. Please take a moment and thank each of these individuals when you get a chance.

**Jan Chapman:** Kewaskum

**Maureen Markon:** Waupaca

**Ken Kasses:** Kettle Moraine

**Julie Krackow:** Ripon

**Laura McCormick:** Little chute

**Diane Giacinto:** CESA 5

**Cynthia Russell-Smith:** Marinette

**Katherine Strong:** Tomahawk

**Katerina House:** Barron Area School District

WCASS would also like to thank Jan Chapman and Lorna Margenau for their years of service on the Board of Directors. It has been an honor to serve with both of you.

It's also with great pleasure to recognize once again Kristin Jacobson from Marathon County Special Education for receiving the Rising Star of the Year Award for 2019.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you all as the Awards and Social Chair. As I move into the Legislative Chair seat I look forward to learning from all and serving the Board in the new role.

(Outgoing) Awards & Social Chair  
Caleb Feidt | [cfeidt@pointschools.net](mailto:cfeidt@pointschools.net)



## WCEC Update

Hello WCASS members! I am happy to introduce myself as the new WCEC Liaison for the WCASS Board. I am the current Director of Student Services for the School District of Cudahy. I have worked in Cudahy for twenty five years in several different roles including, Special Education Teacher, Transition Coordinator and Special Education Coordinator. I am looking forward to my future opportunities working with amazing directors throughout the state being a part of WCASS.

WCEC had a quarterly meeting on April 16th to discuss several new topics including the Spring elections and future professional development opportunities in the state. It is nice to see some new faces running for different positions on the WCEC Board. Janis Chapman is running for CAN Coordinator and Wendi Dawson is running for Membership. Tom Holub, Edgewood College professor, is running for President Elect along with Amanda Zbacnik, University of Wisconsin-Superior professor. Both Candidates come with impressive backgrounds in the area of special education. The election closes on May 30, 2019.

WCEC is supporting several professional development opportunities throughout the state. The Endless Possibilities Conference is being held again at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater on August 1-2, 2019. The focus this year is Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities with Shawn Anthony Robinson as the Keynote Speaker. This conference is for educators, parents, and others to gain information related to special education, family supports and mental health. This conference is sponsored by WI FACETS, Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative, and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. WCEC is also in the planning stages for another statewide conference focusing on paraprofessional development. This conference will most likely be taking place in the Madison area. More information will be coming this summer.

Janis Chapman is also working hard to re-establish the Wisconsin Chapter of the DCDT (Division on Career Development and Transition). Anyone passionate about transition and interested in joining her in this adventure should contact me so I can get you her contact information. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

WCEC Liason

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