

# The Education Business



**Business official of the year says job is educator not just business**

## SESSION: BUSINESS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

*Presenter: Keith Lucius, Assistant Superintendent and Business Director, Ashwaubenon School District (pictured)*

**W**henever Keith Lucius, assistant superintendent and business director at the Ashwaubenon School District, is feeling down, he knows just what to do: get out of the business office and into the classroom.

“When I have a bad day, I go hang out with the kids,” Lucius told an audience of his peers after accepting his award as 2013 Wisconsin School Business Official of the Year. “Walk into a 4K classroom and you’re like a rock star.”

During brief remarks, he shared his appreciation for the award as well as suggestions for being an effective school business official.

He believes it is imperative to learn as much as possible about education in general and be particularly knowledgeable about what is happening in district classrooms.

“You should look at becoming more of an educational leader and not just a business person,” Lucius said. “Get involved in discussions, read, stay involved and know what is happening.”

His involvement in his district eventually led to him leading the district’s 1:1 technology initiative that gave laptop computers to high school students. He also encouraged his peers to find teachers who

will let them help in the classroom. Once a week, Lucius works on math with a small group of first and second graders.

This type of involvement has helped him build a more collaborative relationship with teachers, which makes budget discussions easier.

“They see me as an educator now, not just a budget cutter,” Lucius said. ■

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