

# For the Students

**School Business Official of the Year:** make sure your decision-making keeps the best interests of students in mind

**SESSION:** School Business Official of the Year

**Honoree:** Gail Moesch, school business official, Shawano School District

**M**onths after she graduated from Shawano High School, Gail Moesch took a job in the district's business office. She never left.

Moesch, now Shawano's business manager, capped a 50-year career in the district by being named Wisconsin's School Business Official of the Year for 2014. She accepted her award at the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials' luncheon during the State Education Convention.

"You don't expect to be recognized so it's an honor when you are," Moesch said as she thanked her family and the co-workers who nominated her.

In her nomination, she was cited for starting a wellness program at

Shawano and helping the district keep its self-funded insurance program.

She also thanked her fellow business officials in other districts.

"Everyone is so willing to share. You don't have to reinvent the wheel," she said.

Moesch grew up on a farm in Shawano a mile away from where she lives now. Her father was a bus driver and she spent many days riding the bus with him even before she started school.

"I guess I got an early start on education riding with my father," she said.

Widowed at an early age, she worked full time to support her two



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— Gail Moesch,  
Shawano School District

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children and also went to night school for 15 years. She earned her master's degree in 1998.

Acknowledging that her job can be very demanding at times, she said she has always made a point of listening to her staff, the administration, the school board and the community and used their input to make the best decisions possible.

"Just make sure when you are making decisions that you are making them for the students," she said. "Then you can hold your head up high and say, 'I did the best I could.'"

Moesch received \$500 as part of her award. She plans to donate the money to the district to use as a scholarship for a graduating high school senior. She will retire at the end of this school year. ■