

Care and Rigor

Superintendent of the Year **Jamie Nutter** thanks colleagues and stresses important role of schools in children’s lives

“I believe every school needs two things — a balance of care and rigor,” said Jamie Nutter, superintendent of the Fennimore Community School District and the 2015 WASDA Superintendent of the Year. “Some days students need more care than rigor.”

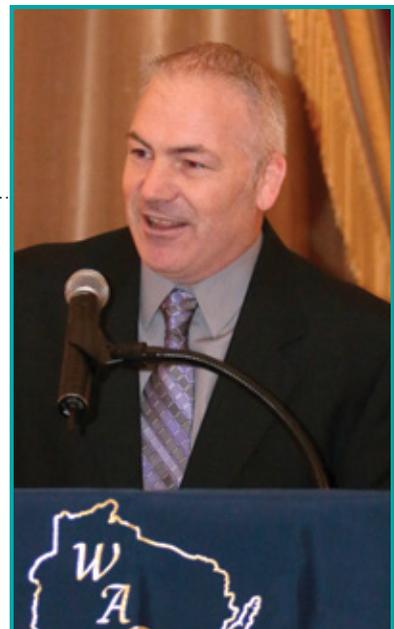
Nutter knows this to be true, not only from his role as a superintendent, but also as a wayward student whose teachers refused to give up on him.

At one point during his childhood, Nutter was raised by his grandparents. When his grandmother was in the hospital recovering from a stroke, he was free to

do as he pleased. He let his homework slide. His teachers, however, didn’t let this continue for long.

“One day they pulled me into the hallway and said, ‘We know you are going through a tough time, but Jamie, we are not going to let you quit learning,’” Nutter recalled.

This moment had a tremendous impact on him, not only helping him get back on track academically but also cementing in himself a respect for what his teachers did for him and his classmates. Speaking to his fellow superintendents at the annual WASDA Luncheon at the State Education Convention, Nutter said people may not realize the important role schools



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play in the lives of young people.

“Sometimes, as leaders, other people view us as being advantaged or having led an advantaged life, but if we got to know everyone here, I bet you all overcame some sort of adversity in your life,” Nutter said. “And I bet it is because of the people at your school that you overcame it.”

Similarly, Nutter said that his success as superintendent is due to the work and support of his family, staff, school board, and mentors.

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