

'Stretch and Grow'

School Business Manager of the Year **Chad Trowbridge** encourages colleagues to grow as school leaders

Sometimes taking a little risk is the right way to go. That's the message Chad Trowbridge, executive director of business services and finance at the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District, shared with his colleagues as they recognized him as the 2018 Wisconsin School Business Official of the Year.

"I would encourage all of you to take a chance on yourselves, to stretch and to grow, and to take a chance on others," said Trowbridge. "It's a tough time to be in education but it's also an awesome time. We can make a difference."

Trowbridge, who has been in Chippewa Falls for 14 years, was

nominated by Chippewa Falls Superintendent Heidi Eliopoulos for being a "pillar of our school district as well as our community."

Trowbridge is active in the local YMCA and United Way organizations. He is also a senior lecturer in the Educational Leadership Department at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

In his acceptance speech, Trowbridge thanked his family and colleagues at Chippewa Falls as well as all those who had helped him throughout his career. After graduating from college, he took a job as a bookkeeper in the New Auburn School District. He was encouraged to take on more responsibilities and



took other jobs. He entered a master's program at UW-Superior and joined Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) on the advice of his superintendent.

"Throughout my career, I feel like people have taken a chance on me," he said. "None of this came easy. I'm proud to grow as a leader every day."

In closing, he urged his colleagues to "get out to classrooms and get involved with kids" and always remember to take a chance. ■

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