



# Excellence in Education *Awards*

***Presented by***

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**FOX CITIES CHAMBER**  
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**NATIONAL  
CHAMBER  
OF THE YEAR**

The Excellence in Education Awards program is the 4K-16 event recognizing the outstanding achievements of educators in the Fox Cities region. A skilled workforce of tomorrow relies on high quality education today, and this event will acknowledge and celebrate the unparalleled contributions of educators working and shining in Fox Cities schools, colleges, universities and other educational settings.

The Fox Cities Chamber is committed to supporting and facilitating education and business partnerships that promote student success, workforce and economic development, and a high quality of life for all residents learning, growing, working and living in the Fox Cities region. We recognize that educators are the preparers of the next generation of leaders and doers, and business/education partnerships are the model for success!

***THANK YOU TO MILLAINE WELLS OF LOCAL FIVE LIVE  
FOR EMCEEING THIS EVENING***



***MILLAINE WELLS***

# PROGRAM

5:00 PM  
Registration/  
Happy Hour



6:30 PM  
Award Ceremony  
Begins



6:00 PM  
Dinner Served



7:45 PM  
Photos and  
Celebration



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# Christopher Choudoir

Science | Little Chute Career Pathways Academy



*"Mr. Choudoir's commitment to creating transformative learning experiences is unparalleled. Through his innovative teaching methods, he provides his students with real-life, hands-on exposure to the world of healthcare. From connecting them with local healthcare providers to organizing impactful job shadowing opportunities, he bridges the gap between classroom learning and practical application. He also brings in local professionals to conduct mock interviews and review student portfolios, helping them develop crucial soft skills and prepare for their future careers."*

*"He fosters a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages personal and academic growth. Mr. Choudoir exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator."*



# Stephanie Halverson

Family & Consumer Sciences | Hortonville High School



*"Ms. Halverson exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator and visionary leader. Under her leadership, the Family and Consumer Science Department has grown into one of the most dynamic and forward-thinking programs at Hortonville High School. She has been instrumental in creating multiple pathways that prepare students for high-demand career fields. These include the Pre-Education Pathway, which supports aspiring future teachers; the Health Sciences Pathway, which includes Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) coursework; and the Culinary Pathway, which connects students to both industry and post-secondary training opportunities."*

*"Her forward-thinking approach ensures that students leave high school with the technical skills and the personal confidence to succeed beyond graduation."*



## Elly Hixon

### Elementary Education | New Directions Learning Community Elementary School



*"Ms. Hixon exemplifies the very essence of what this award stands for—dedication, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to student success. She sets the bar not just high, but immeasurably so. Her classroom is a place where magic happens daily, and where the youngest learners begin their educational journey with joy, confidence, and a sense of belonging.*

*Teaching 4K is no small feat—it requires patience, creativity, and a deep understanding of early childhood development. Ms. Hixon possesses all of these qualities in abundance. She sees each student as a whole person, tailoring her approach to meet their individual needs, strengths, and challenges. Her compassion is palpable, and her classroom is a safe haven where children feel seen, heard, and valued."*



## Amy Mueller

### Special Education | Seymour High School



*"Ms. Mueller is an exceptional educator who inspires students to set and achieve meaningful goals. She empowers students to believe in themselves and fosters a love of lifelong learning, teaching them that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to.*

*One of her standout contributions is the coffee cart she created for our school. This innovative project provides her students with real-world experience, teaching them valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, responsibility, and customer service. Through this hands-on learning, Ms. Mueller ensures her students are prepared for success beyond the classroom. She creates an environment where everyone feels encouraged and capable. Her commitment to developing confident, capable learners makes her truly deserving of this recognition."*



# Yvonne Mullen

Elementary Education | Huntley Elementary



*"Mrs. Mullen is passionate about her students, the love of reading, building connections with families in and out of the classroom, and brings a richness to learning that connects to students for years after they have left her classroom. Mrs. Mullen goes above and beyond the typical classroom experience. She has her own library that is coded by reading level by different emojis. It is such a hit with her second graders. She enriches math experiences by having students accrue "class money" to purchase squishy animals, food and materials to build a home for their animal.*

*Mrs. Mullen really knows her students and it shows in how she encourages and pushes them each for what is needed for them individually. Mrs. Mullen's passion for teaching and reading builds a strong foundation for her students and all students attending Huntley Elementary."*



# Nicholas Rankin

Science | Little Chute High School



*"Mr. Rankin embodies the very spirit of this award, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to supporting all students, enhancing educational experiences, and improving student outcomes both inside and far outside the science classroom. His dedication extends well beyond his duties as a science educator. He has been a driving force in creating a diverse and engaging landscape, fostering communities where students can explore their passions, develop leadership skills, and feel a true sense of belonging. He leads several groups that truly take classroom education to another level - these groups include Earth Club, Diversity Club, and Criminology Club.*

*Mr. Rankin truly embodies what this award is about. His 18-year legacy is defined by his passion for science, his tireless work supporting opportunities for all students, and his forward-thinking leadership."*



# Tim Roehrig

Social Studies | Kaukauna High School



*"Mr. Roehrig has done so much for this school and community highlighted by the work he does with civic engagement. But it extends beyond that. He has a personal relationship with every student he interacts with giving out nicknames and greeting them."*

*Mr. Roehrig's direct style of education engages students in curriculum that might not otherwise attract them. He cares about the school and community and his actions show that."*



# Katie Rosenbaum

Teacher for the Visually Impaired |  
Appleton West High School



*"Mrs. Rosenbaum is an exceptional and highly professional educator who demonstrates outstanding dedication, compassion, and structure in her teaching every single day. From her strong teaching ethics and well-organized classroom to her structured and positive learning environment, Mrs. Rosenbaum truly knows how to lead a class with excellence. Her ability to balance learning with engagement shows through her students' growth, enthusiasm, and confidence."*

*You can always recognize a passionate educator when you meet one — and Mrs. Rosenbaum is a shining example. Her love for teaching and dedication to her students never goes unnoticed."*



# Matthew Van Thiel

Science | Little Chute Intermediate/Middle School



*"Mr. Van Thiel's impact on students, staff, and community began immediately upon his arrival. He has enriched our curriculum and our culture in many ways. He brings relevant life experiences into the engaging, hands-on lessons in his classroom daily. Everything from growing bacteria from various places in the building, running survival simulations, growing lettuce and herbs in the Fork Farm, to writing grants to create a pollinator garden for further nature education. Students are engaged when they enter his classroom through daily science entrance tickets and interactive notebooks.*

*Outside of the classroom, Mr. Van Thiel enriches the culture and curriculum by planning various field trips to a local farm and Fallen Timbers - a nature education based facility. He is also highly involved with extracurriculars through Sea Perch and coaching softball."*



# Amanda Voss

Elementary Education | Fox River Academy



*"Mrs. Voss fosters a culture that celebrates development over pressure, and her approach brings out the best in her students. She engages parents meaningfully while also showing grace and understanding to those who may not be as involved. She listens deeply, which is truly rare, and always works collaboratively to find creative solutions, even in the most unexpected situations.*

*Her leadership is gentle yet powerful, always guided by positivity and love. It is clear that both students and staff are drawn to her energy, and she is dearly missed by my son who has moved grades. Mrs. Voss is not only a remarkable educator but also a truly wonderful person. She made a lasting impact on our family, and I believe she deserves to be recognized for the incredible work she does."*

# 2026 Excellence in Education Nominees

## **Appleton Area School District**

Abby Schmidt  
Abby Vanderlooop  
Amanda Voss  
Amber Heiting  
Amy McAloon  
Ashley Whittington  
Aubrey Hayes  
Christine Meixl  
Craig Moroio  
Dan Van Sickle  
Erica Roberts  
Ilse Lathrop  
Jack Knaack  
Jenny Gilbert  
Jessica Crownhart  
Joseph Pollari  
Julie Westphal  
Katie Rosenbaum  
Katie Dalke  
Mailee Harkey  
Marilyn Howard  
Matthew Hechel  
Matthew Kierzek  
Meghan McCallum  
Meghyn Scheffler  
Michael Schroeder  
Mollie Spencer  
Olivia Schwarm  
PaNhia Yang  
Rachel Piecikowski  
Raeanne Albertson  
Ryan Vander Heiden  
Sarah Hestres  
Sarah Rimmel  
Shandee Kempf-Cohen  
Stacy Juhl  
Stephanie Vos

Tami Wendt

Yvonne Mullen

## **Brillion Area School District**

Nicole Berndt

## **Chilton Area School District**

Carrie Stammer  
Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Jennifer Mastey  
Kevin Johnson  
Lisa Fesing  
Sabrina Holden

## **Freedom Area School District**

Alesha Dobbe  
Amanda Susek  
Andrea Anderson  
Andrea Micke  
Ashley Scheibe  
Crystal Forsyth  
Dan Marquardt  
Deanne Gerondale  
Devin Maroszek  
Elizabeth Voissem  
Gereon Methner  
Jay Abitz  
Jennifer Wilson  
Jenny Biese  
Jonathan Awe  
Katie Wichman  
Kelly Schmidt  
Kylie Hayes  
Linda Braun  
Megan Rady  
Natalie Franke  
Paul Maronek  
Penny Kurkiewicz  
Sara Culotta  
Sarah Northam  
Stephanie Linsmeyer

Terri Erickson

Todd Riesterer

Tony Kazik

Wade Landsverk

## **Hilbert School District**

Beth Ott  
Briah Davis  
Emma Wisse  
Tara Diedrich

## **Hortonville Area School District**

Heather Mork  
Jennifer Cullen  
Melissa Van Deurzen  
Sarah Awe  
Stephanie Halverson  
Tim Rietveld  
Julie Karbula

## **Kaukauna Area School District**

Alexander Juneau  
Amy Xiong  
Antonio Flores  
Elly Hixon  
Eric Vander Loop  
Greg Franzenki  
Heather Browne  
Jacob Hansel  
Jacqui Jenkins  
Janel Englebert  
Jennie Gries  
Jennifer Domack  
Jennifer Neumann  
Jon Vandewettering  
Kathryn Piper  
Kevin Meyer  
Kristin Warden  
Lindsey Kruchoski

# 2026 Excellence in Education Nominees

Matt Dale  
Michael Frost  
Michael Vanderscheuren  
Nicole Beck  
Nicole Hochholzer  
Riley Knaack  
Robert VanderHeiden  
Sharon Boehme  
Taylor Kloehn  
Tim Roehrig  
Vicki Marquette

## **Kimberly Area School District**

Amanda Smith  
Ashley Duda  
Calvin Edwards  
Emma Hall  
Jayne Vosters  
Kacey Fontecchio  
Katie DuLain  
Kris Mau  
Lynn Fischer  
Megan Bertrand  
Rebecca Barlow  
Sam Watson  
Sean Fitzgerald

## **Little Chute Area School District**

Angela McMahon  
Christopher Choudoir  
Erin Kosch  
Gretchen Maronek  
Gwen Schmitt  
Isley Justinger  
Joe Krueger  
Kendra Johnson  
Lisa Klein  
Matt Van Thiel  
Meredith Waters  
Nick Rankin

Nikki Esterling  
Renae Joten  
Skylar Wolf  
Tracy Schmidt  
Heidi VanDenHeuval  
Melanie Burton  
Sadie Jensen  
Mimi Zerba  
Olivia Potter

## **Neenah Area School District**

Dean Olkowski  
Jennifer Hager  
Leeah Andrew  
Leo Sances

## **New London School District**

Kevin Spindler  
Dan Carew  
Lisa Sanders  
Stephanie Ott  
Taylor Grissman

## **Seymour Area School District**

Alicia Guarascio  
Amy Mueller  
Angie Arneson  
Dennis Rohr  
Jennifer Mueller  
Jessica McAndrews  
Katie Grassel  
Kellie Peters  
Mark Schmoll  
Sarah Klingbile  
Tanya Nechodom  
Tricia Tellock

## **YMCA**

Abbey Adrian  
Addisyn Draheim

Bailey Ellisen  
Becky Fenske  
Karin Schilke  
Tamara Eagles

## **Other Schools**

Bill Wiesmueller  
Jocelyn Tapia  
Vicki Lichosik

## **Private Schools**

Aimee Melso  
Bri Vergenz  
Brian Zunker  
Cheryl Rivas  
Jackie Gawel  
Jesse Nofftz  
Jill Dolan  
Katelynn Dorn  
Katie Stein  
Lyndsey Bergstrom  
Phil Stern  
Sam Hawkinson  
Seth Jaeger  
Thomas Stelter  
Wendy Bixby



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