

BRAD TAYLOR

Information Coordinator

920.492.2905 ext. 1017

E-mail: btaylor@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us



MEDIA RELEASE

For More Information Contact:

Dave Schmidt, Superintendent of Ashwaubenon Schools

920-492-2905 ext.1003

dschmidt@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us

ASHWAUBENON SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS MOST VALUABLE PARTNERS

Ashwaubenon, WI – September 11, 2009 – At their Welcome Back meeting for all staff, the Ashwaubenon School District recognized four Most Valuable Partners (MVPs). These partners were nominated by staff for their involvement and commitment to education and the school district over the several years. Criteria for becoming an MVP include the number of students impacted and the longevity of the partnership. This year's honorees were Barnes & Noble, M&I Bank, Ayres Engineering and the Village of Ashwaubenon.

The Barnes & Noble bookstore on Oneida Street was recognized for their partnership with the school district and its Family Resource Centers to promote the importance of literacy within families. Barnes & Noble has supplied the books, materials and volunteers for the district's Reading Rocks program the past two summers. Since 2004, Barnes & Noble employees and customers have collected and donated books for holiday gift book drives and hosted a Family Literacy Evening for families at Valley View Elementary School.

M&I Bank was honored for their donation of staff time and expertise to Ashwaubenon High School's Entrepreneurship and Career Prep classes over the past ten years. M&I loan officers educate students in the Entrepreneurship class about their profession and what it takes to build a small business. In Career Prep courses, M&I employees conducted mock interviews with students, providing them with feedback regarding their interviewing skills.

Ayres Engineering was recognized for working with Parkview Middle School eighth graders for over ten years on The Tower Challenge and The West Point Bridge Design Project - two programs to introduce students to the field of civil engineering. Ayres donates balsa wood as well as five to eight of its engineers over a four-day period.

The Village of Ashwaubenon was recognized for their long standing partnership with the district in providing core services for the district and the entire community. This relationship of shared services is both cost efficient for community taxpayers and operationally effective for the district. Some of these core services include providing snow plowing, grass cutting, and garbage pick-up. They also share the

cost of crossing guards and police liaison officers. The relationship extends to the use of district facilities for park and recreation activities which help keep students engaged in healthy activities afterschool, on weekends and in the summer.

Representatives from each organization were on hand to accept their award in front of over 300 employees of the Ashwaubenon School District. The school district plans to continue honoring MVPs on an annual basis.

For more information, contact Dave Schmidt, Superintendent of Ashwaubenon Schools at 920-492-2905 extension 1003 or dschmidt@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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