

Outstanding Rural School Board Member

Bruce Westrip

Crane R-III School District

Bruce Westrip has spent the last eighteen years serving the students, parents, patrons and staff as a School Board Member working to improve and support the Crane R-III School District. During his tenure on the board, Mr. Westrip has been recognized for his outstanding leadership abilities by his peers, by being elected to serve as the board president for seven years and as vice-president for five years.

The words “consistent leadership” best describes the dedication that Mr. Westrip has provided to the Crane School District as the district has gone from a rural school with a narrow focus of doing what can be done with the limited resources available, to determining what is best for students and finding ways, however daunting a task it may be, to implement the very best practices.

The leadership that Bruce Westrip has shown, either as the board president or a member of the board, has helped to utilize the newest technological advances through programs such as E-mints, Smart Boards and distance learning capabilities. Recently under Mr. Westrip’s leadership, Crane R-III built a state-of –the-art library media center which students have utilized to earn up to 24 college credits for graduation. Mr. Westrip was also instrumental in allowing these college credits to be earned without cost to the student. Implementation of a daycare facility for students and staff has also been one of Mr. Westrip’s top priorities. His desire to see students graduate, who normally would not have, due to parenting obligations, has been a real blessing for the district.

Bruce Westrip has always represented the community of Crane, as a Board member with integrity. With the great love he has for the students in the Crane district makes him deserving of the honor as the Missouri Outstanding Rural Board Member for 2011.