

**Eric T. Becker**  
**1998 Friend of Education**

Eric T. Becker came to Beaver Dam in 1949. He first served as high school principal and was superintendent of schools from 1952 to 1981. During Becker's tenure, Beaver Dam approved the building of the present high school with a large acquisition of land for athletic activities. The "old high school," now the middle school, was remodeled for long-term serviceability. As superintendent, Becker also directed the building of the new Wilson and Lincoln Elementary Schools and additional expansions of the high school and other elementary schools.

Becker further demonstrated his vision for education in Beaver Dam by guiding the consolidation of the area's schools to form the Unified District. With this unification, he melded the district staff for an expanded education program. He is credited with "a continuing enlargement of the curriculum" and "the progressive expansion of extracurricular activities and facilities." Nominators particularly recognized Becker's leadership in the community and with district staff. "He was a focused leader who related well to the community and to his staff. The heart and soul of a school system are the people who meet the students everyday in the classrooms. Mr. Becker had an uncanny ability to pick good teachers and administrators."