



2025 Wall of Fame Award Recipients

The Beaver Dam Unified School District is pleased to announce the 2025 Wall of Fame Award Recipients. The Outstanding Alumni Award honors a graduate of BDUSD in recognition of their exceptional accomplishments and the Friend of Education award recognizes individuals and an organization or business who have given distinguished service to the district and its students.

Outstanding Alumni

Russ Kottke, a 1974 graduate of Beaver Dam High School, has been named the 2025 Outstanding Alumni in recognition of his lifelong commitment to service, leadership, and community. Following graduation, he became the sole proprietor of his family's farm, building a career rooted in hard work and dedication. He credits his high school agriculture teacher, Mr. Meinke, and his involvement in FFA for inspiring his passion for service.

Russ has demonstrated impactful leadership through his service on the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, Trenton Town Board, and Oakwood Cemetery Board where he earned respect for his integrity, thoughtful decision-making, and ability to bring people together. A quiet yet effective leader, he is known for listening, researching, and fostering collaboration.

A strong advocate for youth and agricultural education, Kottke has supported scholarships and FFA programs through his leadership as President of the Beaver Dam Agribusiness Association. He also dedicated more than 50 years to the Dodge County Dairy Promotion Committee, advancing agricultural education and awareness.

His contributions extend across the community, including key roles in projects such as the Trenton Town Hall, Dodge County Jail, and Clearview Nursing Home. A dedicated supporter of 4-H and the Dodge County Fair, Russ continues to champion youth involvement and community engagement.

Russ's legacy is defined by his service, collaboration, and steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others. He remains a role model, inspiring future generations to lead with integrity, humility, and purpose.

Friend of Education - Individual

Gary Spielman has been named the 2025 Friend of Education in recognition of his lifelong commitment to supporting students, educators, and the school community. He dedicated 33 years of service as a member of the Board of Education, demonstrating steadfast leadership and a deep belief in the power of education. Gary remained closely connected to schools by regularly visiting classrooms, engaging with students and staff, and gaining firsthand insight into the learning environment.

Beyond his board service, Gary has continued to volunteer in schools, offering his time and support to both students and educators. His genuine care for student success and the well-being of staff has been evident throughout his years of service. His lasting impact continues to inspire future generations and reflects the true spirit of a Friend of Education.

Friend of Education – Organization

The Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre has been named a 2025 Friend of Education in recognition of its outstanding commitment to students, educators, and the school community. Founded by community members, including school district educators, the organization has long been a valued partner in education. Through its investment of time, talent, and resources, the theater supports student growth both on and off the stage which helps students build confidence while developing leadership, teamwork, communication, and courage.

Through programs such as Tell-A-Tale Children's Theater, One Voice Children's Chorus, stagecraft workshops, and scholarships for high school students, the theater provides meaningful opportunities for learners of all ages. The

Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre's continued dedication to uplifting students, supporting educators, and enriching the community's culture reflects the true spirit of a Friend of Education.