



# Outstanding Administrator Award Erin Sullivan

Bay-Arenac Community High School

Bay- Arenac Community High School District

Essexville, MI

It would be extremely difficult to determine who was more excited about Erin Sullivan being chosen as the 2018 MAEO Outstanding Administrator, her nominator Rick Sochacki, or Erin herself. In his twenty plus years as a staff member at BACHS, Rick has witnessed many principals 'come and go'. Erin not only impressed him with her ability to deal with the crises and challenges she faced in her first few years, but is described as a "fearless leader" who has never lost sight of her students and the staff that support them.

Only at BACHS as Principal/Superintendent for just over six years, Erin's list of accomplishments is lengthy. Besides being labelled as a 'focus school' and improving student achievement enough to be taken off that list, "surviving a flood" that meant they had to move their entire program to a reception hall for five weeks at the beginning of a new school year, growing enrollment to record levels, under Erin's leadership BACHS has purchased their building after renting it for over twenty years. They are very excited to have a "permanent home in Bay County with a gym, a cafeteria, and enough space for all of the classes they want to provide to their students."

Perhaps the strongest support for Erin's work as principal at BACHS came unsolicited from a parent. She signs her letter "A Proud Parent" and states that: "We discovered a 'diamond in the rough' at BACHS. The administration, teachers, support staff embraced a young woman who thought she was no better than gravel on a dirt road and showed her that she is as valuable as a diamond."

The community at Bay-Arenac appears to be in total agreement; when Erin Sullivan returned to BACHS after getting administrative experience everyone benefited!

**CONGRATULATIONS Erin!**

