

Dear WSSCA Membership,

As we enter our 52nd year, it is a great honor to begin my term as president of the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association.

Founded in 1968, WSSCA has grown from a small group of dedicated safety personnel into an outstanding organization committed to making our schools a safer place to learn, play, teach, work and visit. I look forward to helping WSSCA continue this effort.

As evidenced by recent events, the role of a School Safety Coordinator in our schools continues to become more difficult every year. Not only are we responsible for promoting a culture of safety in our buildings, but we need to continue to work diligently to keep our schools as secure as possible to help prevent tragedies. A successful safety and security program requires a wide plethora of knowledge and expertise that comes from networking with other professionals, learning from our past mistakes and most importantly having a willingness to embrace new challenges with new ideas.

School safety is everyone's responsibility. There is no one-size-fits-all for school safety, but indeed there are firmly established evidence-based practices that can and should be adopted universally to improve school security. I am looking forward to work with WSSCA members on the Board's initiatives for 2019. This will include increased engagement of our membership and the role WSSCA members play in addressing safety & security matters in our schools and secondly, sharing our success stories throughout the state with the assistance of the school safety grants. We will also continue to develop and deliver professional development opportunities for WSSCA members through re-certification courses and online training. I hope that through the strength of the organization we will achieve our goals.

As a WSSCA Board member for the last several years, I have been privileged to work with a team of exceptional people dedicated to helping others succeed in school safety. WSSCA has been actively involved with the Office of School Safety in creating Wisconsin School Threat Assessment Protocol and Wisconsin Comprehensive School Security Framework. These best practices are a great instrument to be used in the safety and security plan for every school.

I would like to thank Jim Jozwiakowski for leading and guiding WSSCA over the last year and helping us to continue to promote our message. With the expert guidance of our Executive Director Ed Dorff, Associate Executive Director Stacy Washington and the rest of the Board, we have been able to continue to provide our members with the training, education and resources to help keep our schools safe. I would also like to thank our corporate sponsors and vendors in supporting the efforts of the board, all the individuals that volunteer their time to teach our certification modules and the Board Advisors for their valuable knowledge. Please take the time to thank them for their support.

As a final reminder, WSSCA is only as strong as its members, so please feel free to share any and all ideas that will help advance our mission. Remember education first, safety always.

John Stangler

2019 WSSCA President