

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLEASANT VALLEY EDUCATOR IS IOWA MIDDLE LEVEL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Brian Strusz, principal of Pleasant Valley Junior High in LeClaire, has been named the 2009 Iowa Middle Level Principal of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

"I am very honored and humbled to receive this special recognition. As I reflect upon the announcement, I find myself comparing it to being a head coach where one is only as good as the team that has been assembled. At Pleasant Valley, I am very fortunate to be surrounded by students, parents, staff members and administrators who are committed to excellence. In addition, without the enduring support from my wife and family, none of this would be possible," Strusz said.

Strusz has served as junior high principal at Pleasant Valley since 2002 and previously served the district as a teacher, coach, dean of students, athletic director and assistant principal. His education career began as a math teacher and coach at Glencoe (Minn.) Middle School. He received his bachelor's degree in secondary math education and coaching from Winona State University in Winona, Minn., and his master's and specialist's degrees in educational leadership from Western Illinois University in Macomb.

SAI Executive Director Dan Smith remarked, "Brian Strusz is an exemplary leader who promotes the success of all students and staff. Among his many contributions to the school's education environment, he has been instrumental in creating an after-school study table to provide extra support to students with teachers available to offer assistance. His leadership is also exhibited at the state level where he is a steering committee member for the Iowa Leadership Academy Principals' Center."

A committee of Iowa middle level principals selected Strusz, and he will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the State Capitol in May. This selection makes him eligible for National Middle School Principal of the Year sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and MetLife.

SAI, a statewide organization founded in 1987, represents more than 2000 Iowa educational administrators. SAI's mission is to enhance PreK-12 education through effective leadership by school administrators.