

Outstanding Rural District Administrator

Dr. Jerry Cochran

Cole Camp R-I School District

There is a common expression, “getting the biggest bang for the ‘education buck’”. This eight word phrase has been listed as one of Dr. Jerry Cochran’s greatest strengths. This expression exemplifies the commitment that Jerry has made to the Cole Camp School District for the last 17 years as the district Superintendent. His philosophy has always been that “kids come first” and that hard work and high expectations are the keys to success.

A Missouri educator for around thirty-five years, Dr. Cochran has instilled in all that come in contact with him, the importance of providing the best educational and extra-curricular opportunities possible for the children of his school. Dr. Cochran is a gentleman who takes pride in his work. That includes his staff, his building, his community, and his family. His door is always open and accessible to all members of the staff. He is visible in the building, in the cafeteria, hallways, at activities and in the community. Under Jerry’s leadership, the Cole Camp district has received Accredited with Distinction for 9 years, been a Gold Star High School, a Gold Star Middle School, a Blue Ribbon School under NCLB, and one of the US News and World Reports nation’s top schools.

Because of the great respect shown of Dr. Cochran by the Cole Camp community, the district voters approved the passage of a \$2.7 million dollar building project bond issue in 1998 and a \$1.2 million dollar “no tax increase” bond issue in 2010. These bond issues supported funding/oversight of a new Gymnasium, Cafeteria, Middle School Classrooms, a Football/Soccer/and Track Facility, expansion of the Bus Barn, the kitchen, air conditioning, to name a few.

Dr. Cochran’s leadership goes beyond the school district to include his membership in the local Chamber of Commerce and a board member of the newly established Triple Creek Golf Course. His ability to make sound decisions and move the group forward makes him a real asset to the groups on which he serves.

Dr. Cochran is truly a man of focus, dedication and professional integrity. Along with his high expectation of the students and staff, he has been able to communicate to each other about differing opinions and coming up with great compromises. His leadership truly exhibit’s the qualities necessary to be selected as the Missouri Outstanding Rural District Administrator for 2011.