

Patricia (Patti) Vickman, Superintendent, Southern Door County School District

Having graduated from Southern Door High School in 1972, Patti returned to the county in 2012 to serve as the school district's superintendent and give back to the community that provided her with such a great education. The oldest of six children, she grew up on the family dairy farm just south of Southern Door. Her parents, Robert and Carolyn Marin were active in farm organizations, their church, 4-H, and community. Robert also served on the Southern Door Board of Education from 1974-1980.

Patti is married to Steve, the Executive Director of HELP of Door County. They have one son, Bob, a daughter-in-law, Renee and a one-year old grandson, Eddie who live in Illinois. Bob is a high school social studies teacher at St. Ignatius College Prep School and Renee is completing her post-doctorate work in cancer research.

Patti has 42 years in education as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, human resources director, executive administrator, and now superintendent. Her experiences in education have been in rural and urban communities, large and small school districts, public and private settings. She received a Bachelor's degree from St. Norbert College in Education with a minor in Music. Her Master's in Education was from the University of Louisville. She received licensure as an administrator from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and obtained her superintendent credentials from Marian University.

Under her leadership, the Southern Door School District has significantly expanded its business and community partnerships to increase programs and services for students, families, and the community. She was one of the founding leaders behind the county collaborative which brought together area high school youth in a social justice production - LEAP: The Human Kindness Project. Under her leadership, a site-based community clinic with Door County Medical Center was established in the district. She has led the development of significant grants to implement a five-year health & wellness initiative and to establish one of twenty-five FAB Manufacturing and Innovation Labs recognized by the state. The district is one of only 60 districts in the state offering a Global Education Certificate for its graduates, one of 600 in the nation to achieve the Gold Standard Award in Personal Finance, and is a National Future Ready School.

Patti is Vice-Chair of the Door County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, and Vice-President of the Southern Door Business Association. She serves on the Northeast Wisconsin Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors and chairs its Door County Advisory Council. Patti also serves on the Board of Directors Birch Creek Performance Center and the Door County Medical Center. She is a steering committee member of the Door County Civility Project, a member of Holy Name of Mary in Maplewood and belongs to the Brussels Lions Club.

Key to Patti's educational leadership has been her commitment to continuous improvement to meet the needs of students as educators prepare them to be college, career, and community ready. She is an advocate for improving the quality of life of children, families, and residents of Door County through her collaboration with local businesses, non-profit agencies, and community partners.