

# April 2024 Nominations



**Serenity Lee** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Serenity is constantly going above and beyond. She is the first to step in and help whenever it is needed. When there are staffing issues, she ensures the classroom continues to run smoothly and keeps the students on their schedule. Serenity has been an excellent addition to the SUN program this year.”

**Cristina Cardenas** – Behavior Therapy Assistant

“Thank you Cristina for doing a great job in demonstrating the work that we are doing with clients with our legislative visit. We appreciate you!”

**Morgan Guardado** – Revenue Cycle Support Specialist

“Thank you for re-arranging your schedule to be present and set up our legislative visit at TRC- Pipestone. Your advocacy for our kids is so apparent! Thank you!”

**Amber Grengs** – Senior Behavior Therapist

“Amber was key in helping our staff and site be prepared and ready for our legislative visits. We appreciate all you do!”

**Nancy Crocker** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Nancy is a rock in the foundation of this building. Without her I truly don't know how this building would work. Not only does she show up every day and does her job with excellence and proficiency, but she still manages to find time for each student and each staff. She is very knowledgeable and comes with so much experience that she is the go to for advice. Windom ELC appreciates you Nancy!!”

**Melanie Beam** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Melanie has a wonderful relationship with her students. Their faces light up when they see her each morning. Her sense of humor gets us through the days!! So glad to have her on our staff!”

**Tera Swenson** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Tera has always been there to answer my questions and I ask many. I am so thankful for her and her positive attitude. She is a great asset to have in Montevideo. I am incredibly lucky to work with her.”

**Alicia Roelike** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Alicia always goes above and beyond to help others. I needed information and was unable to locate it. Alicia answered my questions, found answers and resources that were needed, and got them to me promptly. I'm so very lucky to work with Alicia.”

**Molly Ludwig** – School Social Worker

“Molly is always available to answer any questions I have about how to better help students. She always helps to problem solve and work out a plan of action. She has a positive outlook and I am so thankful to get to work with her.”

**Melissa Andree** – Behavior Analyst

“Melissa has been a huge help with supporting the Pipestone clinic! She is always willing to help out and has great feedback to staff. Thank you, Melissa, for always being a great team member and great role model to the TRC staff!”

**Shelly Maes** – Director of Member Engagement

“Shelly is always willing to help me with outreach and getting materials out to districts. Shelly has provided me with feedback on materials multiple times and has recommended the best way to get in contact with administrators. I appreciate Shelly!”

**Kari Bailey** – Staffing Coordinator

“Kari is very helpful and has helped to get in contact with colleges to advertise for opportunities. Kari has provided feedback on materials multiple times and has given meaningful recommendations. Thanks, Kari!”

**Maggie Sawatzky** – Speech Language Pathologist

“Maggie is absolutely amazing at what she does and as a co-worker! The connections she develops with students to meet them where they are at is incredible! Maggie's ability to come up with curriculum personalized to a student's needs on the fly is much appreciated by staff and students! She also has a super stunning watch that she wears to keep time orientated.”

**Nicole Grandsberry** – Behavior Therapy Assistant

“Nicole has really stepped up in her role at The READY Clinic in Pipestone. She is always striving to ensure that clients are progressing in their programming and continues to make a positive impact on families. Thank you, Nicole, for all you do! The READY Clinic is lucky to have you.”

**Annika Swenson** – LT Substitute Occupational Therapist

“Annika has done a fantastic job covering OT services for the Lester Prairie School District. Week after week she plans exciting therapy activities that are fun, engaging, and functional for her students. Annika has been quick to form positive relationships with her students and school staff and has a wealth of knowledge and expertise she is willing to share. Annika is an OT extraordinaire who is an asset to her students and the districts she serves. Thank you, Annika!”

**Nicole Grandsberry and Cristina Cardenas** – Behavior Therapy Assistants

Cristina and Nicole have done a great job stepping up in Pipestone and adapting to changes. They have assisted with new staff training by modeling and talking through client programs and behavior plans with new staff. Thank you, Nicole and Cristina, for all you do for The READY Clinic - Pipestone!”

**Dana Hamilton** – Physical Therapist

“I would like to give a shout out to PT extraordinaire, Dana Hamilton! Dana goes above and beyond for the students and families she works with. She is incredibly knowledgeable and a great team member to have. Dana is an asset to the Coop and the students she serves. Thank you, Dana!”

**Rebecca Paluch** – Speech Language Pathologist

“This shout out goes to SLP extraordinaire, Rebecca Paluch! Not only does Becca do incredible work in the districts she serves, but she is a great colleague to have. She is a go-to for any questions one might have. Becca always has great suggestions or a handout she is willing to share. I have enjoyed networking with her throughout this school year. Rebecca is a Great person doing Great things. Thank you, Rebecca!”

**Kaye Squires** – Speech Language Pathologist

“I would like to give recognition for outstanding work in honor of Kaye Squires! Kaye has been a fantastic SLP lead this year. She does an excellent job in planning and running our networking sessions, and Kaye is always in the know when it comes to what is happening in the speech world. Kaye is an asset to the Coop and the districts she serves! Thank you, Kaye!”

**ELC – Windom Staff**

“Yesterday was a prime example of how important teamwork is. We were short staffed, yet everyone worked together to make the day flow. When a situation arose that additional staff help was needed, everyone jumped to step in. ELC Windom we are amazing!! Each one of you is appreciated!!”

**Nicole Svoboda** – Physical Therapist

“I have been at many IEPs with Nikki. She is always positive and knowledgeable. Today, however, it was to a whole new level. I sat in awe as she explained to parents about what she observed (initial eval results meeting) and the in-depth but relatable explanation of what was displayed by the child. The information about reflexes,

eye/ear muscles, etc. was second nature to her as she not only explained the PT side of things/observation but it is likely connected to many of the other things that had been shared.”

**Anthony Frank** – Speech Language Pathologist

“Anthony is a brilliant SLP who has been a huge support this year. He is very knowledgeable and has been a wonderful resource to our SLP group. He is approachable, easy to work with, and happy to help in any way he can. SWWC is very lucky to have him. Thanks for all you do, Anthony!”

**Becky Laleman** – Helpdesk Support Specialist

“Becky recently assisted with something before I could even ask for help! Taking initiative and helping out without being prompted is one of the greatest ways to show someone you care and being dedicated to making SWWC more efficient. Thank you Becky for all that you do!”

**Noah Johnson** – Technology Coordinator / **Travis Rupp & Raymond Norton** – Network Coordinators

“A huge congratulations to Noah Johnson, Travis Rupp and Raymond Norton for all the hard work on ordering, installing, and upgrading area schools with the 3CX Phone System. Your dedication to serving our districts does not go unnoticed.”