



## April 2021 Recipients

### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### **Keith Westra - Special Education Teacher**

"Keith does so many things besides being a Case Manager/Classroom Teacher for us at ELC - Pipestone and I just wanted to take the time to give him this Grow Award to show that it does not go unnoticed. He is our go to guy for technology needs on a daily basis, or any computer help. He helps with the most challenging behaviors our students have. Plus he is so patient with his students and explains things so well in terms they understand. ELC - Pipestone could not run without him. Thank you Keith for always being willing to help anyone out at any time."

#### **Patty Horstman - Behavior Specialist**

"Patty has been a wonderful addition to ELC - Windom. Throughout the school year Patty has reached out to students to build rapport with them whether they are online or in person learning. She has demonstrated great communication skills whether it is feedback to staff or with setting expectations with the students. I appreciate her knowledge and her willingness to take the time to explain the different aspects of ABA strategies to best fit the students' needs. Keep up the great work Patty! We appreciate you!"

### **Patty Horstman - Behavior Specialist**

“Patty has added so much to the ELC program in Windom! She has been amazing to collaborate with, and she has a wealth of knowledge and ideas to support students who need complex, unique programming! Her background is diverse, and her understanding of kids' immediate needs in their setting IV classrooms as well as the skills students will require as they approach the real world help us all provide the prerequisites for our ELC - Windom students that will allow them to be ready for their communities now and well into the future. Patty is providing the foundations for great student outcomes by creating programs, analyzing strategies, and supporting teachers and paraprofessionals. Her energy and enthusiasm is contagious! I love working with Patty!”

### **Lana Garding - Special Education Paraprofessional**

“Lana has been at ELC - Cosmos for several years now and is a great fit for whatever program she is a part of. She works hard to meet the needs of her students and provides great feedback to her co-workers when working as a team. She is willing to try new ideas and takes on tasks others would shy from. Great work Lana and thank you for all you do!”

### **Loretta Whitcomb - Special Education Paraprofessional**

“Loretta has rejoined us here at ELC - Cosmos after taking a few years off. She has picked up right where she left off. Over the years she has worked with some of the most difficult students we have and comes in with a smile on her face and willingness to work on whatever task is handed to her. She is the definition of a team player and we greatly appreciate your tireless efforts. Thank you so much for what you do Loretta!”

### **Maria Medina - Special Education Paraprofessional**

“Maria is really knocking it out of the park this year! She has stepped up to help out the school, staff and of course her students in many different manners. She continues to be a great asset to her classroom and works hard to make sure everything for her classroom is operating properly. Keep up the great work Maria you are very much appreciated!”

### **Dawn Holtz - Site Administrator**

“Dawn has guided us through one of the most difficult years in educational history like a true captain. She is tireless in her pursuit of keeping this ship sailing and making sure we can operate on a daily basis. She takes time to build relationships with the students in the building and is often a favorite choice for break times with students. Whenever an emergency arises, we know that she will be there to get us through it. Thank you Dawn for all you do!”

### **Nikki Van't Hof - ECSE Teacher**

"Nikki is such an amazing person and awesome educator! She has supported me in innumerable ways this school year and I am so thankful to have her as a co-worker!"

### **Cheryl Hartman - Administrative Assistant**

"Cheryl works to help meet the needs of the staff at The READY Clinic and has been especially helpful and positive in troubleshooting some challenges I have had in staying organized with items we partner together for the clinic. Thank you, Cheryl, for your flexibility, willingness to engage in solution-based discussions, and for trying them out right away!"

### **Kim Sobiech - Occupational Therapist**

"Kim has been a great addition to SWWC this school year. She develops positive relationships with her students and school staff. Kim keeps her therapy sessions fun and engaging with the creative activities she rolls out. She is definitely a go to when it comes to questions not only related to her field. Kim is an asset to the Coop as well as the districts she serves. Thank you for all your hard work Kim!"

### **Hayley Hansen - Behavior Analyst**

"Hayley has been an amazing mentor and leader in The READY Clinic and ELC. She has a great way of making sure all staff are on the same page and communicating any changes that occur. She is always staying positive during difficult situations and steps in whenever someone needs help or a break. Thank you Hayley for being a great mentor!"

### **Tami Hellewell - Occupational Therapist**

"Amongst her own assessment time, Tami set-up and helped me log on teletherapy so I could do an observation while she tested. She was more than willing to help with this favor, and I could not appreciate it more! She saved me time, which is a prized commodity among educators. Thank you, Tami, for taking time out of your busy day to help me! Tami is a great co-worker and is always willing to help others."

### **Karie Novak - Physical Therapist**

"Amongst her own assessment time, Karie set-up and helped me log on teletherapy so I could do an observation while she tested. She was more than willing to help with this favor, and I could not appreciate it more! She saved me time, which is a prized commodity among educators. Thank you, Karie, for taking time out of your busy day to help me! Karie is a great co-worker and is always willing to help others."

### **Jo Kor - Special Education Paraprofessional**

“Jo has been working almost exclusively with one student in my classroom. This student has made great strides! This is largely due to Jo's hard work, determination, and patience. Jo is always willing to assist when needed, including responding to crisis situations. My classroom is a better place because of Jo! The students at the ELC - Pipestone are so lucky to have her!”

### **Caitlin Gilley - Behavior Analyst**

“Caitlin has been such an awesome addition to TRC - Monte! She is always willing to help out wherever she can! Caitlin is a team player and brings a positive attitude! Thank you for all of your hard work Caitlin!”

### **Steve Rops - Dean of Students**

“Steve had been a ROCKSTAR Admin this year and technically he has done it for 2 programs! We just wanted to take the time to say he has done it all with a ton of patience, grace, humor and efficiency. We could not have survived this year without his leadership. Thank you Steve!”