

December 2023 Nominations



Katherine Ihler – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Katie is available and ready to help at any moment. She is resourceful and creative and just an all around good person who can step in and help at any time. She is always at work and is cheerful and fun to be around. Perfect person for a GROW reward.”

Brady Carstens, Cory Faulds, Travis Rupp - Technology

“With the season of illness, Brady was able to physically visit, and Cory and Travis assist remotely, a school district that had high priority technology needs when someone in the technology department was out. Though it's not part of their regular job expectations, they were more than willing to help when an issue came up. Thank you so much for the assistance, and I'm sure the district was more than happy to know SWWC had their back!”

Spencer Schwartz - Technology Support Specialist I

“I worked with Spencer today - a big shout out! He was quick to help, even through his lunch hour. Thank you for your help!”

Yolanda Cardenas – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Yolanda, you are such a go getter. You go above and beyond with all that you do whether it is decorating the classroom for the holidays, running the classroom when you teacher is out, working with multiple students at once, and working with kids 1 on 1. All the roles you play in the day are so appreciated by you students and the staff that you interact with. Thank you for all that you do and continue you to do each and everyday!”

Brianna Johnson – Transition Case Manager

“Bri is the Transition Case Manager in Cosmos and we are lucky to have her. Bri thank you for all that you do for the staff to help aid in smooth transitions for the kids going back to their home districts and helping ensure teachers have as much information as possible for our new kiddos coming in. We are also very grateful for your due processing knowledge and willingness to help with the many questions in that area. Thank you for ALL that you do each and everyday!”

Nicole Grandsberry – Behavior Therapy Assistant

“Nicole has done a great job building a relationship with the clients in the clinic and the staff. She is always helping out where needed and having a positive attitude about it. Thank you for all you do Nicole! We are lucky to have you in Pipestone!”

Heather Gilberts – Behavior Specialist

“Heather is new to our building this year. She is very compassionate, friendly and caring. Heather is very adaptable and is always willing and eager to help out when and wherever needed. She has a great personality and the kids and staff love her!”

Anne Wagener – Special Education Teacher

“Anne is very caring, smart and dependable. She does an excellent job of juggling the students schedules and always makes the necessary adaptations to accommodate each students on a daily basis. We appreciate her and are thankful for her everyday.”

Amanda Mattsen – Special Education Teacher

“She is an amazing teacher and respects her paras. She goes above and beyond for her classroom. Amanda always has a positive attitude and is great asset to the SUN program. She is also always willing to help where is needed in our building to make everyone's day go smoothly.”

Charlie Josephson – Special Education Teacher

“Charlie's class has the most welcoming, flexible staff you can find! They are always willing to step in to help anyone who needs it whether they work with them or not. They also welcome any new staff into their classroom

with open arms, a friendly smile, and helpfulness no matter what! They face each day with what it brings and always have a way to make it the best, most fun they can no matter the circumstances. Way to go Charlie's room!!”

David Berner - Technology Integration Program Coordinator

“David is dependable, flexible, and any time he is in our building, he always always makes a point of "checking in" with us to see if we need anything. David is willing to help with any of our "technical difficulties" that arise and will go the extra mile to help explain how to fix these issues if they should ever occur again. Thanks David for being a great team player!”

Michelle Whitcomb-Johnson – Dean of Students

“Michelle is always willing to help anyone she meets. She plays many roles with SWWC and succeeds in all of them. She continues to build strong relationships with students and staff. Michelle is someone who shows up, problem solves, and builds others up. She is a long standing and amazing asset to our team!”

Abby Polzine – Director of Human Resources

“Abby and I have had the opportunity to work closely over the last few years. She is the shining example of the qualities someone in her position should exhibit. Abby consistently makes time for all staff who wish to connect. She treats everyone with respect and value. We are so lucky to have her as a leader at SWWC!”

Josh Stukel – Technology Coordinator

“Josh is a wonderful asset to our district! He’s quick to respond to technology needs. I needed help with something and he dropped what he was doing and came to assist. We would be lost without Josh. Thank you for everything you do for PAS staff and students Josh!”

Brandi Anderson – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Brandi is a great addition to Cosmos this year. She has gone above and beyond to build relationships with students and staff. She jumps in wherever she is needed and is always willing to help out. She does so much without being asked and is great in the classroom. Keep up the great work Brandi, it does not go unnoticed! We are so lucky to have you!”