



December 2020 Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS!

Michelle Carlson, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Michelle is awesome with our kiddos. She is the person you will want with you during a behavior. She knows exactly what to do and makes sure you are safe. She is compassionate, caring and professional."

Anna Carstensen, Speech/Language Pathologist

"I appreciate Anna's willingness to jump back into the SLP world after her maternity leave. She has "hit the ground running" and "doesn't break a sweat"! She is a team player of the highest caliber. She collaborates and communicates effectively and efficiently with co-workers, staff, students, families, and administration. I am so thankful for Anna!"

Nancy Crocker, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Nancy is a veteran in the lower elementary classroom. She has great rapport building relationships with the students and families we serve. Nancy has been adaptable moving through the different learning models and has great communication. I know I can always count on her to pull supplemental work together for the students who are struggling when others are busy. I appreciate you and all of your hard work!"

Kay Dann, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Kay is very knowledgeable, trustworthy and professional. The kiddos love her, trust her and accept her. She has the ability to work well with everyone."

Alexandra Elston, Special Education Teacher

"I appreciate Alexandra for all of the hard work she has put in this school year. Alexandra has put in a numerous amount of time into her lesson planning and

paper work. The amount of work that you do for the students and staff do not go unnoticed. Not only does she spend a large amount of time on her own classroom, she also helps in others when needed. I appreciate you!"

Tegan Gillund, Accounting Supervisor

"Tegan is such an asset to SWWC. She is always helpful and pleasant to work with. Her willingness to answer any questions with the online ordering process, providing billing codes, and explaining how to do processes in SMART is appreciated. Thank you for being a team player at SWWC!"

Abby Hacker, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Abby is an important part of our team at ELC - Montevideo. She has shown a lot of flexibility this year by working in any classroom she is asked to. She is willing to work with any student and does it with an open mind and a smile. It is amazing to work with her."

Melissa Hanson, Director of Special Education

"Melissa is an outstanding leader and kind boss. She is prompt in answering questions, sharing resources and information, and genuinely cares about her staff. I appreciate all she does for myself and the SWWC organization."

Cheryl Hartman, Administrative Assistant

"Cheryl is willing to help out and take on extra tasks, even when cumbersome. She is very helpful and her hard work is appreciated!"

Katie Ihler, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Katie has done a great job of taking initiative to start different tasks throughout the school building and in the classroom. I am excited to work along side of her and her ability to adapt on the fly. Katie started this year in the lower elementary classroom and has been able to build awesome rapport with the students. I appreciate her for all that she helps me with and the students. Great work, Katie!"

Polo Jasso, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Polo is caring, trustworthy and professional. He always knows how to get the students out of behaviors. He is an important part of our team. He keeps our team balance. He provides us with peace and serenity. Your one in a million Mr. Polo. You need an Oscar for putting up with us girls. I am very blessed to have you back in our team!!!"

Noah Johnson, Technology Support Assistant

"Noah is such a hardworking aspect of SWWC. He always is willing to put the needs of others ahead of his own agenda. In more than multiple instances he has spent time learning new braille technology, completed complicated tasks in record time, set up technology within our student's IEPs, and helped us better

understand the technology we are using. He often drops what he is doing to help us when in crisis. He always does a wonderful job of explaining the technology and how things work so we understand. The vision team would not function without Noah's technology help."

Noah Johnson, Technology Support Assistant

"Noah has been very helpful in helping me set up a classroom that allows technology to be incorporated. Noah is always willing to help figure out any solutions to the difficult request I have asked of him. Noah is very knowledgeable and prompt with the request. I appreciate you, Noah!"

Brennan Kent, Assistant Director of Special Education

"Brennan's attitude is really outstanding. Although he has a demanding role, he consistently demonstrates positivity, professionalism, and eagerly accepts the challenges presented to him. We appreciate all that he brings to the SWWC!"

Sarah Koster, School Psychologist

"Sarah has done an outstanding job of collaborating with and supporting staff in the districts and ELCs she serves. She's been an excellent resource; providing information to staff, parents, and others in a way that is clear and easy to understand. Her contributions to the evaluation teams at the buildings and programs she serves has been invaluable! On top of it all, Sarah is friendly, positive, and willing to go above and beyond to provide excellent service!"

Chris Kuehl, Specialist of Physical and Health Disabilities

"Chris has been a breath of fresh air during this tough year. She is a great colleague to collaborate on ideas with on how to best serve our districts during this challenging time. She is great at sharing resources and information with her districts and colleagues and is always friendly, positive, and kind."

Becky Laleman, Helpdesk Operator

"Becky is always so friendly and helpful in regards to technology troubles!! She is knowledgeable and willing to take the time to answer simple questions that really help me out!! Thank you, Becky!!"

Lisa Loosbrock, Business Services Specialist

"Lisa has shown so much initiative in learning all of what we do to serve our member districts in RMIC. She has brought excellent experience to the team making her a valuable asset to SWWC. She has grown exceptionally in such a short amount of time, with her great understanding and kindness, she is meeting our member district's needs. Awesome job Lisa!"

Monica Madrid, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Monica has been an awesome para to help out in the sun program with covering breaks when we need her. She is always willing to help out and always has a smile on her face..."

Monica Madrid, Special Education Paraprofessional

“Monica is always willing to help out wherever she can. She not only fills in where she is needed, she builds relationships with the students while doing so!!”

Brenda Marschall, Special Education Paraprofessional

“Brenda is one outstanding lady at ELC - Windom! She is so deserving of this award for being an amazing paraprofessional for our students and awesome co-worker. Her initiative, creativity, knowledge and compassion is beyond expectations. Her positive personality and outgoing mannerisms are helping all of our students and staff as we meet the challenges of COVID - 19. Thank you Brenda for being such an outstanding co-worker and friend to all!”

Taryn Mattison, Business Services Specialist

“With Taryn's background in HR- she has been able to contribute to the RMIC team commendably. She was hired at the start of the pandemic, most of her communication/training with new coworkers was virtual but she has caught on so quickly in every aspect of the services we provide to our member districts. She works with the perfect amount of passion and kindness. Her work is greatly appreciated!”

Patty Molden, Administrative Assistant

“Patty is always friendly and responsive to answer any questions or concerns. I feel she goes above and beyond to make our jobs easier. She's a wonderful person and does a great job!!”

Patty Molden, Administrative Assistant

“Patty has been an incredible support during this unprecedented time in education. She is always positive, supportive, and helpful in any way possible. She has driven into the office just to make copies so I am able to perform my job more efficiently. She is instrumental in sending confidential paperwork through email to the families I work with. I don't think she even realizes how much these little things matter or how greatly appreciated she really is. I am grateful for all she does.”

Rebecca Paluch, Speech/Language Pathologist

“Rebecca is such a knowledgeable SLP! She is very organized and always willing to help our team out, even with kiddos she doesn't serve. She is very much a team player and I'm grateful to be able to work with her!”

Kyle Quenemoen, Physical Therapist

“Kyle is an incredibly skilled Physical Therapist who has a calm presence, a kind demeanor, and a friendly smile for everyone he encounters in his role. His technical skills and interpersonal skills are top-notch! He is beloved by students, families, team members, and administrators. Kyle is truly a gift to us all and we are so grateful for his exceptional service!”

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Skyler Sand, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Skyler is a valuable para to our school and has shown so much growth, determination, diligence, and passion. She is quick to adapt and is always willing to do whatever she needs in order to best fit the needs of our students. Skyler helps to promote a culture of respect, learning, and belonging in our room. She is very appreciated."

Amy Sippl, Behavior Analyst

"Amy has been extremely helpful in my transition to The READY Clinic! She is always willing to answer any questions I have as well as show examples of her great work! Thank you Amy for being a true leader at TRC!"

Jay Skrukrud, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Jay, I am thankful to have you be part of our team. Thank you for being so flexible, caring and professional."

Paige Spielman, School Social Worker

"Paige is a school social worker at ELC - Windom. She is a valuable resource in our building. Her knowledge of social works plays an important role with the students we serve. I appreciate the willingness to jump right into any situation and the individual session you give the students! Thank you for always answering any questions I have and being a team player. You rock, Paige!"

Karly Schwartz, COTA

"Karly is an asset to any team she is on. She always has very practical and specific tips to give parents and OT advice in any area she is working on whether it be fine motor, sensory, or feeding. I enjoy co-treating with Karly and she has a great relationship with parents she works with. Thank you for your expertise and knowledge! You are appreciated Karly."

Elizabeth Sullivan, Compensation and Benefits Supervisor

"Elizabeth goes above and beyond to answer questions, offer assistance, and always does so in a friendly and timely manner. She is extremely knowledgeable and is always willing to help out by answering my questions. She is a HUGE asset to the SWWC!"

Sarri Truscinski, ECSE Teacher

"We are so lucky to have Sarri a part of our team! She does an awesome job with children and families as well as with our team. The best is yet to come, Sarri, when more face to face with our families happens. Starting in ECSE during this crazy time can be challenging, but she has risen to that challenge. Thank you!!"

Chelsea Vander Plaats, LPN/Health Para

"Chelsea has handled the pressure of being a nurse in an educational setting during a pandemic like a ROCK STAR!! She is very patient and kind to ALL. There have been so many changes and different scenarios that our school has faced this year and it has been VERY stressful and you wouldn't know it by how she handles each student and staff member who has questions regarding Covid - 19 protocol. There couldn't be anyone better suited for this job than Chelsea! Thank you so much for ALL you have done this crazy school year."

Deb Whisney, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Deb is a veteran in our building as a Paraprofessional. She always goes above and beyond what is asked of her, both in the classroom and throughout the building. She has respect toward staff when deserved and has the highest professionalism doing her job when working with our student's, which at times may put her in a difficult position. Over her many years in our school as a Para, Deb has had more students return to thank her for what she has done for them, pushing them to achieve their potential and their goals in life, more so than any other staff personnel in our building, other than our secretary. It is my pleasure to have her as a co-worker. IF...she was ever to leave, it would be a huge loss to our building as a whole."

Deb Whisney, Special Education Paraprofessional

"Deb is an amazing co-worker! During this trying year, she really has gone above & beyond for everyone in the building!!! She is always willing to go the extra mile (literally) for us, by doing deliveries for our students when needed. She does this with a smile and a "no problem attitude". Deb is a delight, hardworking always willing to step in and assist where ever or whenever she can. She really deserves this award and more from all of us. Thank you Miss Deb. WE would be lost without you!"

Teegan Wyffels, Business Services Specialist

"Teegan is a quick learner and passionately puts effort into her work for our member districts. She was hired at the start of the pandemic, most of her communication/training with new coworkers was virtual but that has not stopped her from stepping up and diving in where it's needed. With her important responsibilities she has done a great job managing and is extremely thorough in everything she does. Thank you!"

Jennifer Zollner, ECSE Teacher

“Jennifer has been very accommodating and flexible in providing ECSE services to the students on her caseload in multiple districts in various instructional delivery models. In this very challenging year, Jennifer's willingness to pivot and adapt to meet the needs of her students and the districts has been so valuable and is greatly appreciated! Despite the obstacles of this school year, Jennifer has exhibited positivity and grace in every conversation I've had with her!”