



Congratulations January 2020 Recipients!

Breanne Powers

"Bre Powers is a great person to work with. She is knowledgeable and always so kind to everyone. She works hard every day with each student she is with. We are very lucky to have her as part of our Sun team."

Paige Spielman

"Paige always does a great job at ensuring our students are getting the most out of their education at ELC - Windom. She always has a listening ear, kind and helpful advice/suggestions for our students and staff. She always is armed with helpful information that help everyone make the difficult choices easier. She has a fun sense of humor with the students during her skills times! She is a valued member of our middle school team! Thanks for all that you do Paige!"

Bardene Peter

"Bardene is one of a kind. She has a special relationship with each of her students and is always up-beat. She goes above and beyond making each of her students feel special on their birthdays (making goodies and giving gifts) and holidays. She is also very caring when it comes to other staff. She is a pleasure to work with and can make anyone's day a little brighter just by being herself."

Bardene Peter

"Bardene is always shining with her positive attitude toward staff and students! She is the first one that will tackle a difficult situation and offer positive solutions. She always has special treats to share with co-workers to help them through a difficult day! Thank you for all that you do for our middle school team Bardene!"

Jenna Vachuska

"Jenna is always willing to lend a hand where ever it is needed in the building! She is offering positive suggestions when it comes to a difficult situation or just to encourage a student! She has formed positive relationships with her students! Thanks for all that you do for the middle school team Jenna!"

Vera Armendariz

“Vera is one of a kind outstanding Paraprofessional at our ELC! She goes above and beyond in everything she does and it is much appreciated by her Team and all the students she works with! From being very friendly and always a great smile to volunteering to do the extras, we can count on Vera! Thank you Vera for all your dedication to our Team and ELC – Windom.”

Tami Hellewell

“Tami continues to go above and beyond for helping her co-workers, she helped with testing a child who had been absent in the midst of her busy schedule.”

Abbie Lickteig

“Abbie has such a positive attitude and helps with many different things not necessarily in her job description including taking the time to help with behaviors and encouraging kids for even the small things in order to help them succeed. She continues to go the extra mile!”

Anne Woelber

“Anne is doing an excellent job in Fulda working with her students. She is always finding new ways to work on their target skills. She motivates her students to make progress and work hard while they are in her room. Keep up the great work!”

Kari Tschida

“Kari is always willing to put in extra time to help out her colleagues. Thanks, Kari!”

Kari Tschida

“Kari shows a great deal of concern and compassion toward her coworkers. She is sensitive to their needs and frequently initiates acts of kindness to show support. Thank you for being so considerate of others, Kari!”

Hayley Hansen

“Hayley goes above and beyond in the tasks that she does. She is such a valuable asset to SWWC.”

Kari Gjerde

“Kari has been doing massive amounts of research, training, and learning in Cultural Competency in order to provide training to our area districts. She has created online courses as well as in-person presentations to help our teachers fulfill their re-licensing requirements. It's been a huge undertaking and I'm so glad she is our "go-to" person for this area.”

Samantha Rowden

"Sami has been so helpful these past few weeks on a couple of projects! She was so eager and willing to help and even added even more creativity to it than I would have. She did it all so willingly and with a smile on her face! It was such a huge help and I wanted to make sure she was recognized for it! Thank you Sami!"

Aimee Moeller

"I would like to recognize Aimee for all the work she did putting the application together for the grant ELC - Pipestone received from the United Way of Pipestone County. Aimee truly cares about the students and the staff here at the ELC and we are very fortunate to have her as a part of our staff!! Thank you Aimee!!"

Carissa Land

"I believe she deserves a G.R.O.W award because she is very patient and kind. She is always willing to go wherever is needed and she goes above and beyond for her students and for staff. She does things that go beyond her job description without being asked. She is friendly to all staff and students. She is a great person to work with and to be around!"

Kim Johnson

"As a new employee, there is a transition period to a new position (learning new policies and processes, working with new people, and learning the many intricacies of our specific role and responsibilities in the educational system). Kim Johnson has provided leadership by example, a positive and caring approach to children and co-workers, and abundant patience (even when bombarded with endless questions!). She demonstrates an admirable level of commitment to all individuals she works with. Kim works tirelessly to bring optimal care to the children and students she provides services to on a daily basis. Her level of expertise in OT and the educational system, as well as her willingness to share her years of experience and resources with others has been very welcomed. Kim is a tremendous asset to SWWC and any individual that has the opportunity to work with her. She is a great role model. Thank you Kim!"

Sara Snow

"Sara has been a wealth of information and extremely supportive while working with a few challenging students. She is always quick to respond to emails, willing to phone conference in to meetings when in other districts, and very detailed in her work. She is a great asset to SWWC and our schools are lucky to have her!"

Santanna Shover (Bents)

"For your hardworking ways, you deserve some praise! Thank you for being such an awesome coworker! Keep up the great work! We appreciate all you do!"

Taylor Mischke

"Your work amazes and deserves many praises! Thank you for being an awesome coworker! We make a great team and wouldn't be complete without you in our room!"

Nancy Crocker

"Nancy is more than deserving of this award! What an outstanding Team Member she is to everyone here at the ELC! She is always so patient and kind to everyone and looking for new and creative ways to assist some of the most challenging students! She is appreciated by both staff and students and her positive attitude and awesome energy is the highlight for all of us daily! Thank you Nancy for your dedication!"

Bailey Freitag

"Bailey joined our Team at ELC - Windom this school year and has been such a fun, kind and knowledgeable person to have for both students and staff and students. Her fun loving ways and great smile can make anyone's day! When it comes to dedication, patience and getting along with others, she is outstanding. Her kindness and help with all the extras is much appreciated."

Chelsey Peterson

"Chelsey is very punctual and reliable. She is very flexible and always willing to do what is asked of her. Regardless of the situation she maintains a positive attitude. We are lucky to have Chelsey at ELC - Willmar."

Janine Warner

"Janine is new to our Team this year, but has learned quickly and got to know each of the students and their specific needs! She has a great sense of humor and always is bearing a smile and positive comments. All of the students have great respect for her and we are fortunate to have her on our Team and in our school setting!"

Kurt Schroeder

"Kurt would be the first to say he does not need a Grow award to feel appreciated. Even though he would be fine without one, he definitely deserves one...or many. Kurt keeps the ELC - Cosmos staff upbeat and positive with his infectious laugh and optimistic nature. He strives to help everyone on the team and is willing to assist anywhere he is asked. Thanks for being part of the team!"

Traci Heinrich

"Traci is AMAZING. She is patient, kind, caring, and the list goes on and on. She is one of the most flexible team members I have had the honor to work. Her dedication to her students is unsurpassed. Thank you Traci for being such a wonderful role model to everyone."

Megan Degner

"Alright Megan, how do we love you...let me count the ways! Megan is fantastic. She has a great sense of humor. Her students adore her. She is flexible. She helps out wherever and whenever she is needed with a willing attitude. Megan D. you are so valued! Thank you for being part of our team!"

Kathy Holland

"Kathy, you are our rock. You are level headed, and sensible and yet have that great sense of humor that makes our day. You are observant and always willing to learn! We appreciate you more than we can say. You are the "right hand woman" to your teacher and keep everything running smoothly! Thank you for being part of our team!"

Theresa Holtz

"Theresa is always focused on the students and their learning. She is a bundle of energy which is contagious. She is patient through all the changes happening in Cosmos and is a wonderful colleague. Thank you Theresa!"

Nicole Lydick

"“Great people doing great things” truly is a true reflection of Nicole. From her positive, ‘can-do’ attitude, to the strong interpersonal relationships she forges while ‘doing great things,’ Nicole is simply inspiring. Her passion, coupled with her people-first mentality, encourages others to excel in their work. Nicole is a strong leader because she builds the capacity of her team to be leaders as well.”

Michelle Whitcomb-Johnson

"Michelle is a true team player who readily shares her time and talents with staff and students. Her dedication and hard work is very appreciated."

Kris Erlandson

"Kris has a heart of gold! She comes to school with a smile every day. She approaches her students with kindness and patience and praises them in their accomplishments. Kris is a team player always ready and willing to help her fellow paras."