



## March 2021 Recipients

### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### **Jennifer Lee - Administrative Assistant**

"Jennifer has been extremely helpful to work with in on the CSA Continuing Education Committee. She shares her experience and knowledge freely and pitches in when needed. I sincerely appreciate her positive attitude!"

#### **Greg Scheitel - Transition Case Manager**

"Greg is kind, caring, genuine and helpful! He is supportive, considerate of others and always willing to lend a hand or ear!"

#### **Paige Thompson - Mental Health Consultant**

"Paige has been extremely helpful in creating engaging, meaningful professional development for SWWC Staff and member districts. Thank you, Paige!"

#### **Paige Spielman - School Social Worker**

"Paige is intentional in communicating self-care suggestions and professional development opportunities to the staff at ELC - Windom on a consistent-basis. Thank you, Paige!"

#### **Cheryl Hartman – Administrative Assistant**

"Cheryl has played an integral role in ordering and distributing materials to support the mental wellbeing of students, staff, administrators and member districts. She has been willing to take on challenging tasks and is extremely helpful. Thank you, Cheryl!"

### **Tonia Finstrom – Administrative Assistant**

“Tonia has been extremely kind and helpful in planning and organizing the distribution of materials to support staff wellbeing in the Willmar area. Thank you, Tonia!”

### **Lisa Paplow – Administrative Assistant**

“Lisa is highly knowledgeable, kind and always willing to help others. Thank you for all that you do, Lisa!”

### **Misty Riebel and Jason Kratochvil**

“Misty and Jason are warm and welcoming to visitors of the ELC - Windom. They are friendly, accommodating and helpful! Thank you, Misty and Jason!”

### **Amber Bruns - Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Services**

“Amber is the best supervisor! She encourages professional growth and supports innovative ideas. She is always willing to make time to support staff when they need her. Thank you, Amber!”

### **Abby Polzine - Director of Human Resources**

“Abby is cheerful and kind! She has been so helpful in communicating information to employees regarding personal and professional wellbeing. Thank you, Abby!”

### **Morgan Litzau - School Nurse**

“Morgan has worked extremely hard to ensure that staff who wish to access vaccinations are able to do so promptly and efficiently. Thank you, Morgan!”

### **Molly Ludwig - School Social Worker**

“Molly frequently volunteers to take on tasks within the SEL committee that offer opportunity for efficiency and ease of use for other staff. She develops trusting relationships with students and strives to enrich their educational experiences.”

### **Briana Yerigan - School Social Worker**

“Briana is compassionate and empathetic in recognizing student strengths and challenges. She is working hard to further her skills within the educational setting. Thank you, Briana!”

### **Jordyn Goldschmidt - School Social Worker**

“Jordyn balances many tasks in a fast-paced environment and always puts students first. She asks questions and strives to adhere to the core ethical values of the social work profession. Thank you, Jordyn!”

### **Tracy Kramer - Administrative Assistant**

"Tracy is always willing to make time to answer questions and assist with administrative tasks whenever need. She provides valuable support to colleagues. Thank you, Tracy!"

### **Sarah Holm - Transition Case Manager**

"Sarah cares deeply for students and has an incredibly positive attitude! She cheers others on and is always willing to help out. Thank you, Sarah!"

### **Tony Miller - Site Administrator**

"Tony is an awesome administrator to collaborate with! He has a great sense of humor and optimistic outlook. Tony is highly sensitive to the needs of staff and students. He works diligently to promote a positive workplace culture at ELC-Belview. Thank you, Tony!"

### **Mindy Halverson - Site Administrator**

"Mindy is considerate and places value in the perspectives of other professionals. She is welcoming and supportive. Thank you, Mindy!!"

### **Mindy Halverson - Site Administrator**

"Mindy Halverson is such an awesome administrator. We are so lucky to have her at ELC - Montevideo. She is always willing to jump in and help out wherever she is needed in the building. You will often find her in a classroom. Mindy's leadership and expertise are a huge plus for our program. Thanks Mindy for everything you do!"

### **Kate Lieser - Site Administrator**

"Kate is accommodating and pleasant to interact with. She has a practical approach to problem-solving and treats others respectfully. Thank you, Kate!"

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

"Steve is flexible and willing to assist others with additional duties. He is invested in the wellbeing of students and staff. Steve is welcoming to visitors and offers to help out. Thank you, Steve!"

### **Kelsi Topp - Administrative Assistant**

"Kelsi is pleasant and eager to help out. She does not hesitate to offer assistance. Thank you, Kelsi!"

### **Jodi Johnson - Special Education Paraprofessional**

"I appreciate Jodi for her teamwork and dedication to students across our building. Jodi is always willing to lend a hand, whether that is an extra van riding shift, lunch breaks, or anywhere else she's needed. Thanks for all that you do Jodi!!!"

### **Heather Rieger - Special Education Teacher**

"Heather has done an amazing job with the ALC - Pipestone students. She is so very patient, understanding and kind to not only the students and their parents, but her co-workers. She is a team player and she is always willing to give a helping hand. Thanks for all you do Heather!!"

### **Heather Rieger - Special Education Teacher**

"Heather is very hard-working. She is an AMAZING team player. She is a great colleague who advocates for her students and program. Students love her because they know she cares! She is always available for students and staff alike. Although, she sometimes forgets birthdays. :)"

### **Matt Fjerkenstad - ALC Teacher**

"Matt is a great addition to the ALC. He has a wonderful way of connecting with the students and staff. He brings so much joy and enthusiasm with him every day! It's easy to see that the kids love him and he is always patient with them. Thanks Matt for all you do!!"

### **Kathryn Ralston and Julie Menage**

"Kathryn and Julie have been instrumental with helping me work through a professionally and personally frustrating time."

### **Mackenzie Erickson - Occupational Therapist**

"Mackenzie came to take a student for his service time. This student has some challenging behaviors and refused to leave the room to work with her. Mackenzie quickly adapted to the situation and stayed in the classroom to work with him. She used great behavioral techniques to get him to complete the task, as well as work on the skills they needed to. She was incredibly patient throughout the time. I am so lucky to work with her!"

### **Tiffany Jensen - Special Education Teacher**

"I enjoy working with this awesome teacher. She is the best! She looks out for everyone's best interest. She is hard working. And we have rules and goals in our room. She is the BEST!!!!"

### **Deb Whisney - Special Education Paraprofessional**

"Deb has taken on many roles this year. She has literally gone to infinity and beyond for our students. She is always available to help meet student needs in the classroom as well as any staff needs in our building throughout the school day. She conducts herself in a very professional manner and always has a positive attitude. Deb is one of the first faces our students see when entering our building each morning. Her positive attitude and friendly smile are so very contagious! We are so very lucky to be able to work with Deb at the ELC - Windom! Thank you, Deb, for everything you do for all of us each day!"

### **Mandy Morin - Special Education Paraprofessional**

"Mandy is our "go to" person at the ELC - Windom. If you are shorthanded, need an extra person, help with a student, struggling with an issue, or just need that boost to get through, Mandy is your person! She has a wonderful rapport with students and staff in our building. She does a great job when communicating with students about their needs each day. She demonstrates how good communication and a little bit of laughter can get you through anything! Keep spreading the good vibes and smiles! Thank you for all you do for the students and staff at the ELC - Windom, Mandy!"

### **Kaye Squires - Speech/Language Pathologist**

"Kaye truly goes above and beyond servicing her students and giving districts MANY resources for the students on her caseload. Kaye is an amazing SLP full of knowledge and ALWAYS lending a helping hand! I feel so fortunate to have Kaye as a co-worker and resource! Thanks for all you do, Kaye! You are AWESOME!"

### **Channing Van Overbeke - ECSE Teacher**

"I love working with Channing! She is organized and communicates clearly and effectively with families and staff. Channing has fun-fill activities and the students love working her! She is friendly and approachable. She is a great asset to SWWC! I always look forward to seeing her at work!"

### **Susan Deprez - Special Education Teacher**

"Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to work with Sue. Every student that she has had in her class becomes one of her "kids". And all of the kids look up to her for guidance. She does the academics right along with care and understanding of each student. I have learned a great deal from her on a daily basis."

### **Elise Schoer - Special Education Paraprofessional**

"I enjoy working with Elise as she has energy that never quits. We have a student that is diabetic and keeps up on his daily totals while he is in our care at school. She has been doing this over the past few years. She is trying to teach me what to do for future use. Elise is always one to help out in other rooms when needed. Students and staff of all ages love being around her. She has an infectious personality."

### **Trista Knudson - Behavior Analyst**

"Trista is always a joy to work with. She is incredibly hardworking, innovative and knowledgeable in all the different roles she takes on. People often go to her for support as she is always willing to help out or talk through difficult situations. Thank you for all that you do Trista!"