



March 2022 Nominations

Mariah (Byrnes) Swanson – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Mariah is an easy nomination who deserves so much recognition for the work that she does! She has been a wonderful asset to ELC Pipestone this year. Mariah's built very strong relationships with the students that she works with through her compassionate heart and always positive attitude. She is always willing to help out and does it with a smile. Mariah makes coming to work fun and I feel so blessed to work with her! Thank you for all you do!”

Melissa Andree, Kyle Pollard & Michelle Celt

“Melissa, Kyle and Michelle recently collaborated together to conduct an intake evaluation and planning process in new way at The READY Clinic. It was fantastic to see this team of professionals come together to accomplish a lot of work in a short amount of time that will ultimately allow a new family to receive our services. Thanks for the great teamwork!!”

Kim Starz - Speech Language Pathologist

“Kim is a hard working speech language pathologist - she puts in so much effort each day with staff, students and parents. Kim is kind, caring - you can truly tell she enjoys her job each and every day. She deserves so much recognition as a speech language pathologist, mentor and everything in between with her career at SWWC. She does outstanding work! I am so blessed to know her and call her my coworker and friend.”

Katie Schreier – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Through her dedication and consistency, Katie has been instrumental in the progress made by the student she primarily works with at the ELC Pipestone. She demonstrates proficiency with this student's programming by diligently applying all aspects of her training, seeking feedback to ensure quality implementation, and taking accurate and consistent data. Through all the challenges this school year has provided, Katie continues to be flexible and do whatever is needed to make the students successful. Thank you, Katie, for all that you do. The sun program would be lost without you! 😊”

Wendy Borchert - E-Rate Support and MARSS Services Specialist

“Wendy is instrumental in assisting the service cooperative and our member districts in getting applications and forms properly completed for programs such as E-Rate and ECF among others. Without her work, many districts would not be able to keep up with technology needs in the modern era. She is always quick to respond and provides helpful instructions on how to proceed with the process. Thank you for everything you do, Wendy!”

Amanda Bluhm – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Amanda is an amazing asset to ELC-Willmar!! She steps up and volunteers to help whenever and wherever she is needed. She provides great insight and ideas to every discussion. Her organizational skills and ability to keep staff and students on track is so greatly appreciated! Thank you so much for all you do, Amanda!!”

Tish Kalla – Director of Special Education

“Tish is such an amazing supervisor! She is flexible, understanding, and genuinely cares about those that she supervises. I hope she continues to be my supervisor!”

Hannah Redmond – Behavior Therapist

“As a Behavior Therapist at The READY Clinic in Montevideo, Hannah shows up each day and pours 100% of her heart into her work with the children, and in her teamwork with co-workers. She often takes on more to lessen the burden for others. Hannah’s tremendous care for others is highlighted in her strong interpersonal skills. Thank you for your hard work, Hannah!”

Ashley Bendickson – Behavior Therapist

“Congrats to Ashley for passing her Registered Behavior Technician exam! Ashley has worked hard in her professional life to balance her position as Behavior Therapist at The READY Clinic - Montevideo, working on her degree, and now accomplishing her RBT credential. Congratulations Ashley, can’t wait to see what you will do next!!”

Jason Kingstrom – Technology Support Assistant

“Jason was patient, thorough and helpful when I recently needed to set up a new computer. He was able to troubleshoot very effectively, was respectful and responsive to my requests, and took the time to educate me while working in my computer. He’s been a great addition to the technology team!”

Becky Laleman – Helpdesk Operator

“I really appreciate how Becky always listens to the reasons as to why I’m calling and tries to give me immediate help when I have a technology question or problem. If she runs into a roadblock, Becky is great at quickly identifying someone else who can help me. She has also been kind enough to send documents and resources to help navigate the technology. Thank you, Becky, for all you do to help The READY Clinic staff when tech issues arise!”

Sarah Kreuter – Assistant Behavior Analyst

“Sarah has been flexible in recent months and adjusted her schedule to meet the needs of her districts as well as provide support at The READY Clinic Cosmos and Montevideo. Sarah is always upbeat and she easily provides data based training and support to The READY Clinic staff. Sarah often has new and creative ideas that help motivate kids to learn. Thank you, Sarah, for your contributions to The READY Clinics!”

Noah Johnson – Technology Coordinator

“I just wanted to drop a note to share what a great job Noah is doing! He is very prompt at getting back to me, quick to solve problems, and always willing to give me solutions... even after hours - which I don't expect him to do. Thank you Noah, for all you've done.”

Angie Meyer – School Social Worker

“Angie brings energy and positivity every day at ELC - Willmar. She is a team player and always willing to help out where needed. She has a great relationship with the students. Her spunk can put a smile on anyone's face.”

Mason Garbe – Technology Support Assistant

“Mason is the true example of what it means to work as a team. Mason is always willing to assist when asked and will provide support to the department when others are out of the office. He is always courteous, polite, and efficient. His positive attitude does not go unnoticed. Thank you Mason for always stepping up and assisting the department when needed!!”

Alicia Roelike – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Alicia is always willing to help out wherever she is needed and does so with a smile and positive attitude. Even when she is asked to take on extra duties, she still completes her normal job duties with timeliness and professionalism. Thank you Alicia!”

Janet Dirksen – Due Process Specialist

“Janet is always willing to help out in whatever capacity she is needed at the ELCs. She works hard to develop relationships with the staff at all six sites and she makes herself approachable, so staff feel comfortable going to her with all types of questions. Thank you Janet!”

Heather Petersen – Transition Case Manager

“Heather has stepped up to help in a variety of ways at ELC-Montevideo during some periods where we have been short staffed. Thank you for all your help Heather!”

Jen Olson – LPN/Health Para

“Jen is a HUGE asset to ELC-Montevideo! She goes above and beyond in everything she does. She is such a joy to be around and is so great around the students. She does way more than what is asked and does everything with a smile on her face. When we are short handed, she always helps out wherever! We don't know what we'd do without her!”

Jennifer Olsgaard – Speech Language Pathologist

“Jennifer has been doing great work in Benson this year. She is great to collaborate with, provides a listening ear when needed, and provides sound advice when asked. Her skills as a clinician are apparent as her students are meeting goals and being dismissed from services. I have only met Jennifer "virtually" but I hope someday soon we will get to meet in person. It's great to work along side such a wonderful person and clinician.”

Allison Krusselbrink – Occupational Therapist

“Allison does amazing work as an OT for us at ELC - Pipestone. So amazing in fact when a student built a fort and didn't want come out for OT... she literally got down on the floor and worked with him for his OT session in his fort!! She is so patient and kind to the kids she works with and the staff too!! Always helping us in any way she can! Thank you Allison for all you do for us at ELC - Pipestone.”

Ana Guenther – Behavior Analyst

“Thank you so much for your willingness to help us at TRC-Monte! You bring a fun and positive attitude whenever you come to the clinic. We appreciate you, Ana!”

Emily Michelle – Behavior Therapy Assistant

”Thank you for your flexibility in helping us at TRC-Montevideo! You are always willing to jump in wherever is needed and it is much appreciated. Thank you Emily!”

Gabby Lawver – Behavior Therapist

“Gabby-- thank you for all of your help at TRC-Monte. You are willing to learn and jump in wherever you are needed! We appreciate you, Gabby!”

Carolyn Greenwood – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Carolyn is a huge asset to our room. She is reliable and hands on with our students. She has a great relationship with our students and when short handed or needing something done she is quick to jump in. We really appreciate her!!!”

Shelby Grunewald- Special Education Paraprofessional

“Shelby is a wonderful person to have on our team. We can always count on her when keeping our room in order or staying on top of the fine details that get over looked. She is quick to jump in when an extra hand is needed. We appreciate you Shelby!”

Jodi Tongen – Special Education Teacher – Tier I

“Jodi is so wonderful to work with. She has jumped right into our crew and has helped our students make huge jumps in being successful with their learning. Jodi has a way of making learning fun and coming up with new things to spark their interest. We truly appreciate you Jodi!”

Anne Wagener – Special Education Teacher – Tier I

“Anne is very flexible and always makes the students and staff feel welcome and appreciated. She is always seeking new ways to teach a variety of students in her classroom and adapts to their specific and individual needs and goals.”

Amy Sippl – Behavior Analyst

“Amy recently led an amazing Professional Development day for The READY Clinics. Thank you, Amy, for highlighting the incredible progress of our clients! Amy's leadership and positive attitude is inspiring. Thank you for all that you do, Amy!!”

Melissa Andree – Behavior Analyst

“Melissa is an incredible person to work with. Everyday I learn something new from her. She continually acknowledges and praises each staff's strengths and progress in skills. The READY Clinic - Montevideo is so lucky to have you, Melissa!”

Ana Guenther – Behavior Analyst

“First off thank you for all that you do and have taught me! Answering all of my questions and showing me how to do more stuff around The READY Clinic. For being able to talk to about anything, from questions, comments, laughing and more!”

Emily Michelle – Behavior Therapy Assistant

“Emily has been a huge help by helping out at The READY Clinic - Montevideo. She jumps right into sessions and is willing to help in any way possible. We appreciate you, Emily!!”