



May 2020 Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS!

Channing Van Overbeke

"Channing has been an amazing co-worker for not only during this time of pandemic, but also during normal routine times! However, during this time, she has been beyond cooperative, accommodating, and kind to students, families, staff, and myself. She is knowledgeable and creative with her service deliveries. I truly enjoy working with, Channing!"

Michelle Niehus

"Michelle has been an amazing co-worker for not only during this time of pandemic, but also during normal routine times! However, during this time, she has been above and beyond reliable, understanding, patient, knowledgeable, and positive. She is there for me and other co-workers for work issues; but also, she listens to me during times of high stress, especially during this pandemic (such as listening to me "vent" about the stress my children may have induced while "staying at home!"). I feel I can call her one of "best" work friends! I truly enjoy every minute I get to work with Michelle!"

Tish Kalla

"Tish is such a caring and thoughtful supervisor. Herself and others at the Pipestone SWWC Office made May Day baskets and dropped them off at staff members' homes the other day. This was a great way to reach out to staff during this time of pandemic/"staying at home". Tish is also down-to-earth, practical, knowledgeable, kind, and approachable. She have been creative with ways to make Region C staff feel "connected" during this time. She has done fun email activities and a scavenger hunt through video conferencing to add

camaraderie to our group. I have enjoyed getting to know her better this year. She is an outstanding leader!"

Linda Lund

"Linda is a colleague who always sees the bright side of any situation. Her calm demeanor strengthens the teams she consults with. Also, her knowledge of supporting students with vision issues is very informative and useful to the teams she consults with."

Jason Kratochvil

"I'd like to recognize Jason for his excellent work in developing educational videos on special education eligibility and the evaluation process to help others, such as general education staff, understand these topics. I greatly appreciate Jason's hard work and time spent creating these wonderful resources! Great work!"

Jason Kratochvil

"Jason has been very helpful and easy to work with in the process of renewing my teaching license. He was prompt and able to help me with the many questions I had regarding the process. I appreciate his hard work and dedication to the SWWC and keeping its teachers licensed."

Chris Kuehl

"Chris is always a positive and supportive co-worker. She is knowledgeable in her area of expertise and is always thinking of ways to support the districts that she serves. I appreciate and enjoy the opportunities I have to collaborate with Chris and others in order to best meet the needs of our students and districts."

Andrea Anderson

"Andrea deserves recognition for all her efforts to bring the Author/Illustrator and Science & Nature conferences to students virtually! These events take months of planning and in a matter of weeks, she was able to reevaluate and rework the content so that everyone who so looks forward to these conferences is still able to enjoy these wonderful learning experiences. Great job, Andrea!!"

Behavior Analyst Group

"I would like to recognize a group for the grow award for May. The Behavior Analyst Group has created some fabulous resources for families during this Distance Learning and they have been so helpful and easy to use. They are very helpful professionally and personally! I feel it was an awesome resource to help ALL families out during an extremely difficult time."

Will Sordahl

“Will does a great job at ELC - Willmar. He is a team player and always willing to do whatever it takes for kids. I enjoy working with Will.”

Molly Ludwig

“Molly frequently volunteers to take on large tasks for the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee. She is willing to share her time and talents to provide resources for students, parents, staff and member districts. Thanks for all that you do, Molly!”

Molly Ludwig

“Molly has been fantastic at what she does! She has been willing to pitch in and help in any way possible and is efficient in what she does. She has been an awesome team member and has kept a student-centered approach. Thanks, Molly for all you do!”

Paige Spielman

“Paige has been very helpful to staff in sharing a multitude of free educational learning opportunities during our time of distance learning. Thanks, Paige!”

Paige Spielman

“Paige has done an amazing job this year with the middle school and navigator room. She is always willing to be a support and answer questions or work with students not on her assigned caseload. Paige has been a huge resource during distance learning proving staff with trainings that relate so closely to our professional and personal lives. Thank you Paige for all you do for your ELC - Windom team!”

Angie Meyer

“Angie has been very helpful to the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee in volunteering to take on additional tasks. Thank you, Angie!”

Greg Scheitel and Jason Northrup

“Greg and Jason have invested a significant amount of time in leading the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee on numerous tasks throughout this period of distance learning. Thanks for your dedication, Greg and Jason!”

Trista Knudson

“Trista is highly knowledgeable regarding professional development and an array of various platforms. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, a great deal of behavioral health trainings are now accessible online! We appreciate you sharing your talents in order to provide high-quality educational materials to others!”

Mindy Halverson

"Mindy has been an absolute blessing to work for/with, especially during distance learning. She is constantly in contact with her staff, checking on them, making sure everyone is doing well and yet making sure everyone is staying on task. Being a brand new school with brand new staff, we were all still trying to find our groove before Distance learning and Mindy has made that process as smooth as possible. I know this hasn't been an easy transition for anyone however, Mindy has put her staff and her students first and is greatly respected and appreciated for it."

Stephanie Heitkamp

"Steph has been an absolutely fantastic part of the ELC - Windom team! She truly cares about each of her students and has put in above and beyond effort into this distance learning period. She will truly be missed at the ELC - Windom as her knowledge and dedication cannot be matched!"

Wendy Dinesen

"Wendy has been a great support to students and families during this distance learning time and deserves to be recognized for her dedication to student success both academically and in their mental health needs."

Kjell Eken

"I would like to recognize Kjell for all of the hard work she has put into ELC - Windom. Not only has she been a great role model for new teaching staff at ELC - Windom but she also has been an awesome mentor. She is willing to help wherever is needed and answers any questions thrown at her way. She has a great wealth of knowledge when it comes to our students and program. Kjell, it has been a blast working with you these last couple of years!"

Tiffany Jensen

"This amazing teacher has gone out of her way to get our students their work. She's bent over backwards to give them extra time to do their work. She's put in a lot of time being there for our students. She's a superstar. Keep up the awesome work!!!! I've enjoyed being in your class! You're #1."

Kate Lieser

"Kate has set an example for a compassionate, understanding, and selfless leader at ELC - Willmar. Her dedication and advocacy for the students is admirable and is to be celebrated. She shows up every day with a solution-focused attitude and is always ready to face new challenges. Kate supports her staff and empowers them to be their best while setting attainable and appropriate school-wide expectations."

Kate Lieser

"It's been an unforgettable SY19-20. Your consent guidance, care and leadership. It has been a blessing for us to be under your leadership. Thank you for everything you do."

Karin Marquardt

"Karin was the first Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired on our team. She was the lone provider for a season and pioneered the developing of the current team. She has been a strong advocate for students and for the field of Vision Services. It is with a sense of indebtedness and loss that I wish her the best as she retires. I will miss her as a colleague and a good friend."

Aida Bautista

"You are an amazing teacher always thinking of the students and the staff that work for you. Thank you for everything you do. It's been an unforgettable SY19-20. Enjoyed working in the SUN program with you and fellow co-workers."

Becky Laleman

"Becky has gone above and beyond to help adjust workshops and training that have needed to be changed due to the current unprecedented times. She is always willing and helpful in these stressful times and it doesn't go unnoticed! Thank you Becky!"

Tonia Finstrom

"Tonia has gone above and beyond to help adjust workshops and training that have needed to be changed due to the current unprecedented times. She is always willing to help and is so quick to respond to everyone's needs! Thank you so much Tonia! We couldn't do what we do without you!"

Marissa Stordahl

"Marissa has done an amazing job of providing our ELC with a great training while we are working from home. The training was very helpful, but Marissa provided some great videos, questions, and feedback to us to ensure we were getting the most out of this time at home. Marissa was also very helpful this school year with answering questions and helping out with students. Thank you for all the amazing work you continue to do over the computer as well as in person!"