



May 2022 Nominations

Karie Novak – Physical Therapist

“I wanted to take time to recognize Karie Novak. Karie often puts in hours above and beyond the typical work day. No matter how busy she is, Karie quickly communicates with team members regarding evals, services, and student needs. I can't thank her enough for maintaining her fun attitude, amazing work ethic, and great input when programming for students.”

Yolanda Cardenas – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Yolanda is a paraprofessional for the ELC - Cosmos, she is truly here for the students and has proven that time and time again. Yolanda thank you for your flexibility, dedication, and joyful personality. You make the hard days **less** hard and the fun days more fun. Thank you for all that you do.”

Amanda Shoen – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Amanda is a paraprofessional at the ELC - Cosmos who always puts her students first. Your students enjoy your presence not just for the funny jokes, but for your willingness to help and participate in everything. We appreciate you!”

Kate Mariner – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Kate came to our sun program and brought so much light with her. She does amazing work with ALL of our kids and is always willing to step up and help. Kate has been one of the best additions to the sun program at BLC. We hope she knows how appreciated we are to have her on our team.”

Kayce Olson – Teacher of the Visually Impaired

“Kayce is on maternity leave and the entire BVI team is providing service to her students for the last month of school. Before she left to have her baby, she provided us with an ample amount of information both verbally and written, about the students to ease the transition while she is away. Due to Kayce's hard work before she left, the transition for both the new providers along with the districts was seamless and a very easy transition. Kayce always puts her students first and it showed within this transition for maternity leave. We can't wait for Kayce to come back in the fall! She is missed.”

Robyn Sullivan – Special Education Teacher

“I want to recognize Robyn for her dedication and her bubbly personality! It's amazing how she builds trust with the students and her staff. Thank you Robyn for being a role model not only to students but to staff as well. No matter how hard the days are you always have a smile! Thank you for all that you do!”

Deb Vansurksun – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Deb is always excited to learn new things and apply those skills with the students she works with. When in doubt, Deb is eager to problem solve creative new ways to help the students succeed and keep them on track during the school day. She is an asset in the sunroom at ELC Pipestone and we are lucky to have her!”

Emily Macziewski – Behavior Specialist

“I am very thankful for Emily. She provides great support to my classroom and offers beneficial ideas to help my students to grow and meet their behavioral goals. She is also always willing to help out when needed.”

Amanda Shoen – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Amanda has proven to be a great asset to our team here at ELC-Cosmos! She is always positive and engaging with the students. She steps up to help out any time someone needs something. Amanda also makes sure to show her appreciation for her coworkers and seeks out others to encourage them. We are so grateful to have her as part of our team!”

Heather Vyskocil – Autism Specialist

““Heather always has a smile on her face and positive outlook on life! She has done a great job posting evidence based practices for students with Autism on the SWWC website under Low Incidence. Thank you for sharing your expertise, Heather!”

Chelsea Vander Plaats – LPN/Health Para

“Chelsea is an amazing nurse here at the ELC-Pipestone. The students all love her and seek her time and attention because she does such a fantastic job building relationships with them. In addition to that, Chelsea is always going above and beyond to help others in the school with things they need. She brightens any room that she walks into with her positivity and kindness. The students and staff are so lucky to have her here!”

Wendy Dinesen – Special Education Teacher

“It is an honor to nominate Ms. Dinesen for this award. Her dedication and hard work is evident in everything she does. She always has her students success as her goal and strives to teach them in the manner in which they learn. She goes above and beyond helping both her classroom team and her school team where ever she can. She is flexible, creative and has great enthusiasm! Thank you for always giving us your all.”

Gabby Lawver – Behavior Therapist

“Gabby has been a wonderful addition to our clinic in Cosmos! She has come up with wonderful ideas on how we can better help our children. She is happy to see the children and she is a joy to work with!”

Tammy Lenort – Business Services Specialist

“Tammy goes above and beyond to make sure our member districts are heard, and needs are met. Her kindhearted, positive attitude has made her such a great addition to our team! We appreciate you! Keep up the great work Tammy!”

Katie Ihler – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Katie is an enthusiastic and very caring paraprofessional at the Windom ELC/ALC. She is very deserving of this award and continues to have a positive spirit and always willing to help where she is needed. We are grateful to have such an outstanding and giving team member to work with! Thank you Katie for all you do!”