

November 2022 Nominations



Tracy Shafer - Special Education Teacher

"Tracy deserves all the GROW awards in the world. Not only is she managing her own caseload this year, but she is also covering another staff members caseload who is out on maternity leave. Not only is she doing double duty, but she also stepped up and is our new site-rep for the CSA union. To say that Tracy has her hands full would be an understatement! Tracy may have a lot on her plate right now, but she continues to handle everything with complete professionalism and grace. Tracy, thank you so much for all that you do - we appreciate your hard work and dedication more than you know!"

Ashley Bendickson - Behavior Therapist

"Ashley has been an awesome help to Cosmos clinic! She jumps right in to help us with whatever we need help with and she does an amazing job with the kids as well! Thank you Ashley for all of your help!!"

Kathy Holland - Special Education Paraprofessional

"Kathy is the first person to show up when her coworkers need help with anything. Kathy is also willing to work with a wide variety of students and has great success with each student she works with. She goes above and beyond looking for new ideas or methods to help our students be more successful. She is a wonderful advocate for both her coworkers and the students. We are so lucky to have Kathy on our team!"

Ali Dickinson - Behavior Specialist

"Ali is new to the behavior health services department this year and we are so happy to have her on our team! Ali is a team player! She is always willing to step up and help out. Also, she has developed great relationships with the districts she serves and has already made a great impact on the students and staff she works with. Keep up the great work, Ali!"

Regina Magedanz - Due Process Specialist

"Regina goes above and beyond to help staff in the district. She is very approachable and is always willing to help, even outside of regular hours. Regina is not afraid to tackle difficult issues and is helping to make a positive difference."

Regina Magedanz & Jill Stiefvater - Due Process Specialists

"Regina and Jill are highly efficient in providing Special Education support for their districts. I appreciate their quick responses and student-focused problem-solving skills. Thank you for all your support and hard work in the districts supporting teachers and students. You are appreciated!"

Kaye Squires - Speech Language Pathologist

"Kaye has done an amazing job with creating and providing training for our new SLPs over the years. This year she did a fantastic job taking on the challenge of adding specific training components for our new virtual providers. She was able to share this information with the board at the month board meeting and is a great representative for the service cooperative. I'm grateful to work with Kaye and appreciate all the work she does to support staff and her students. thank you Kaye!"

Beth Paulson - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Beth travels from a long distance to get to Cosmos. She always arrives with a smile ready to work with staff and assist students. The classroom Beth works in is very busy and the young students are full of energy. She has done an amazing job assisting the case manager, teaching students, and assisting other staff when called upon. Thank you Beth for being a positive influence on staff and students during stressful times.”

Chelsey Frericks – Administrative Assistant

“Chelsey is truly the heartbeat of the ELC-Cosmos. She is our go-to person for anything and everything. This place would not function without her, and we are all so grateful and appreciative of everything she does. Keep being awesome, Chels!”

Jackie Jostock – Payroll Processing Specialist

“Jackie shows such great initiative in figuring out all aspects of payroll! She brings an exceptional combination of experience, kindness & critical thinking that makes her a huge asset to SWWC! She is so helpful, a quick learner and has a great attitude! Go Jackie!”

Abby Ruhr – School Social Worker

“Abby is an amazing addition to our team at the ELC-Cosmos. She is always going above and beyond for both the students and the staff. She is always there when you need her and lends a helping hand in all the classrooms. Thank you, Abby, for all that you do! We appreciate you!”

Tracy Shafer - Special Education Teacher

“Tracy is one of our most valuable assets at ELC Cosmos. She goes out of her way to make sure that all of her coworkers feel truly appreciated. Tracy checks in with staff daily to make sure that they have everything they need to be successful with their students. She shows up each day with a smile and tackles all of the changes and challenges in her day with grace and positivity. She is a shining example to her coworkers and someone that we all benefit from being around.”

Jamie Unke – Systems Administrator

“Despite challenges, Jamie has consistently given his best to diagnose and resolve the ongoing issues that have come up in the last few weeks. Regularly he goes above and beyond in the assistance he provides our agency and district employees. Thanks for all you do, Jamie!”

Lee Dubbelde, Brady Carstens, Forrest Fosheim, Mason Garbe

“Cybersecurity is the focal point of the 21st century world of education, and threat actors will stop at nothing to break in and steal data of anyone. These four have provided exceptional service and advice to our member districts on how to improve their cybersecurity posture. They work late hours and give equal dedication no matter the size of the incident. The world of technology is quickly changing with every day, and the world within of information security even faster. Thank you for all that you do!”

Becky Laleman – Helpdesk Operator

“Becky does an extraordinary job at communicating and directing agency employees and district employees to the correct resource or providing solutions to their issue. She does an awesome job at keeping regional technology coordinators in the loop about ongoing support requests and reminding us of upcoming deadlines. Becky goes above and beyond and is willing to learn and assist in new systems and services. Thank you for all that you do, Becky!”

Mark Field – Special Education Teacher

“Mark wears many hats at the ELC-Cosmos. Specifically, I'm writing this GROW award for him because he was a HUGE help at our recent end of the month event we put on for our students and their families. We had a Thanksgiving meal catered to our building that the students and their families got to enjoy together. We also had a talent show following the meal, which was a huge success. Mark played a key role in making this event happen. He helped set up the gym for the event, as well as set up a DJ station for when the kids did their talent show. Mark set up lights, music, and even a fog machine to make this event one of the best we've ever had. Thank you, Mark, for all your hard work! You are appreciated today and every day.”

Mackenzie Hoffman – Occupational Therapist

“Mackenzie is new to the Lester Prairie School District this year and has done a fantastic job creating relationships with students and school staff. Mackenzie is continuously finding fun and functional therapy activities for her students and they all seem to enjoy their sessions. Mackenzie brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. She is a great resources for staff and is always willing to assist. Mackenzie is an asset the Coop and the districts she provides services to!”