



## November 2021 Nominations

**Shalie Halvorson**- Special Education Paraprofessional

“Shalie is incredible with students. It is so admirable to see her invest in her student's success and being willing to go above and beyond. You are great, Shalie!”

**Brandi Barrie** – Speech Language Pathologist

“We are so thankful to have Brandi on our team in Pipestone! Brandi pours into every student she works with. She always has a positive attitude. She is kind to everyone and a team player. She is always willing to help and goes the extra mile.”

**Chelsey Frericks** – Administrative Assistant

“Chelsey is so essential at ELC Cosmos. She assists in any way she can, is efficient, and caring. She is the perfect Administrative Assistant! Thank you for everything you do!”

**Yolanda Cardenas** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Yolanda does such a nice job supporting students and co-workers. She comes to work every day with such a great attitude and is always smiling! We are so grateful for everything she does at ELC Cosmos.”

**Carolyn Greenwood** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“She is SO wonderful with the students. She is calm and patient when working with them and playful and fun during playtime and recess. She is very flexible and she is willing to go wherever help is needed. She is a great member of our team and we are so glad she works with us!”

**Charlie Josephson** – Special Education Teacher

“Charlie does a great job running her classroom. She makes work tasks fun and enjoyable. She communicates with her team very well so everyone knows what's going on throughout the day. She brings great energy to our school! We are so lucky to have her at ELC-Montevideo.”

**Becky Laleman** – Helpdesk Operator

“Becky is amazing! She is an absolute pleasure to work with. Becky recently assisted the Behavior Health team with a complex registration request for an international online event. Her attention to detail and prompt communication made the registration creation process so efficient. We appreciate Becky's hard work and are incredibly thankful for the outstanding collaboration she has provided our team!”

**Michelle Niehus** - ECSE Teacher

“Michelle is doing an amazing job servicing preschool and Kindergarten students with behavior difficulties. She is patient and kind with them, but also instills rules and appropriate behaviors. She uses evidence based behavior strategies. Michelle is always a team player, communicates well with others, is responsible and reliable, and fun to work with!”

**Wilson Ebner** – Teacher of the Visually Impaired

“Wilson was assigned a huge task this year by taking on the Vision students at Redwood Falls. This included a high school junior who is in all the academic classes and is completely blind. Wilson had a lot of work to do to familiarize herself with the needed content of her classes and how to make that material all accessible. She jumped in with both feet (while still completing her requirements for her O & M degree) and has excelled! Kudos to her!”

**Megan Boreen**- Special Education Teacher

“Thank you Megan Boreen for being so flexible and always patient. Also for always being so caring and understanding.”

**Mason Garbe** – Technology Support Assistant

“Mason has been extremely helpful with the ELC and agency technology needs and issues. He provides an excellent level of service and is very reliable when it comes to following up on tech issues. We're happy to have you here, and thank you for all you do!”

**Tori Helmer** – LPN/Health Para

“Tori is an amazing coworker. She is dedicated to her job and is a great team player. Tori has a great relationship with the students and is fun to be around.”

**Kyle Pollard** - Behavior Analyst

“During the month of November, Kyle has stepped in to provide support across all three TRC clinics in a big way. His flexibility and willingness to lend a hand when and where we need it has been critical for us. So glad to have you on our TRC team, Kyle. Thanks for all you do!”

**Kristin Zollner** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Kristin stepped in to help in a new classroom and with a new student. She did so in a very compassionate manner and always has the students' best interests at heart. Thank you for the positivity you pour into ELC-Pipestone!”

**Kate Gerke** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Kate is a true team player. She's awesome. She is always there for you, looking to help co-workers out. She has helped me out several times. She's very dependable, pleasant to work with and does an awesome job!!!! We are so happy to have you as a co-worker. Thank You for everything you do for me and everyone else!!!!”

**Lisa Sonnenburg** – Administrative Assistant

“Lisa is the one that keeps our building running whether it is greeting staff, students, and visitors each day, keeping us all organized, making sure we have what we need each day to do our jobs, and even fixing many items in the building. Thank you Lisa for all that you do!”

**Chelsea Vander Plaats** – LPN/Health Para

“Chelsea has been doing such a great job at ELC Pipestone. She is kind and patient with staff and students. She always seems to know the answer or is willing to find out the answer during these "COVID" times. Thanks for all you do Chelsea!!”

**Megan Boreen** - Special Education Teacher

“She has a full plate with two classrooms. She is always patient and kind. She understands and always listens to the kids! Amazing teacher!”

**Mandy Morin** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Mandy is a paraprofessional who goes above and beyond each and every day at the Windom ELC. She has built a wonderful rapport with all of our students. She always greets them with a smile and a "good to see you today" which makes them feel cared for as they enter our building. She also is a huge support for our staff as well. She always steps in to help out in any situation when needed. On days when we are short staffed, there have been many times when Mandy has been 3 different people/roles! Mandy, thank you for ALL that you do for everyone at the Windom ELC!!! We appreciate you so very much!!”

**Nichole Hayes** - LPN/Health Para

“Nurse Nichole goes to infinity and beyond! She has been incredibly busy during the past month at the Windom ELC. She has kept everyone informed during all of our "craziness" of distance learning and continues to be our guide through COVID. She holds us to high standards and expects great things from our students each day. We appreciate all your hard work, Nurse Nichole!! Thank you for helping to keep us safe each day!”

**Ashley Bendickson, Hannah Redmond** – Behavior Therapists

**Vanessa Burkhart** - BTA

“Ashley, Vanessa and Hannah have been instrumental this month in successfully implementing a new programming track for a client at The READY Clinic - Monte. They took the new recommendations in stride and then went above and beyond to provide additional data and insight during the process. Their teamwork and collaboration has made all the difference for this client.”

**Britni Bernardy** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Britni is a team player, she can go anywhere in any ELC. She brings confidence to the table in all situations. We are all lucky to have a co-worker that can adapt and succeed in every situation!”

**Rosemary Van Meveren** – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Rosie is wonderful at supporting her staff! She knows when to ask for help, but literally, Rosie can do it all. I appreciate Rosie for being accountable and being available for her teachers and students. The students are so blessed to have Rosie in the corner, advocating for them always.”