

2022-2023 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Jeanie Berndt - General Education Paraprofessional – Lincoln. When Mrs. Berndt walks into a classroom, it's common for students to be jubilant to see her. She comes to school every day by 6:30 and also stays after she punches out, to help others. Jeanie is so dependable which is an absolute blessing during this unpredictable time in education
Lincoln students and staff are better because of Jeanie!

Jennifer Glines - Preschool Paraprofessional – Garfield. Mrs. Glines is always here for the kids. She goes above and beyond by getting to know all the kids in the building, not just her classroom. She is flexible and always has a good attitude with colleagues, students and other staff. Jennifer is always willing to help in any and all areas that are needed. Her positive attitude is why it's so exciting to come to work with her daily.

Jean Pike - Preschool/Special Needs Bus Driver – Transportation. Patience is far and away Jean's best quality. Jean drives her bus 6 to 7 hours a day, every day. She is timely and flexible, and her schedule changes weekly, allowing for new riders and student schedule changes. Jean considers her student riders, family. Her student's families truly need help getting students to and from school and she always makes it happen!

Cindy Schoenefeld - Kitchen Manager – McKinley. Mrs. Schoenefeld has the best attitude and is full of energy each day when the students arrive to the lunchroom. Cindy goes above and beyond when asking other staff members about how they are doing and how their families/kids are doing as well. She has held her head high and persevered. Cindy is hard working and gives our students her all!

Casey Kurkosky - Head Custodian - Watertown Middle School. Casey's greatest attribute is his positive attitude. He is approachable, listens, and makes sure the job gets done right. No matter how busy he is or how many things are on his list, Casey will drop what he is doing to help a student or staff member in need. He takes pride in his work and has great attention to detail. He doesn't do it for the recognition, he truly wants to make sure everything is ready for the students!

Joan VanMeter - Principal's Administrative Assistant - High School. Joan thrives on activity! She is good at handling multiple requests, and she reminds herself to keep a smile on her face. Having Joan at the front desk to greet our visitors with a smile and offer of hospitality puts people at ease. Her verbal and written communication, caring nature, and fun attitude make it a joy to work with her every day!

Deb Cox - Kitchen Manager – Jefferson. 'Twas the first day of school...and the power went out about an hour before lunch. Mrs. Cox stayed calm, cool and collected. She communicated with District Supervisors, adjusted what was to be served, altered the menu and serving time to be sure our students were fed. This was, is, and always has been the demeanor of Mrs. Cox and her leadership in the kitchen at Jefferson Elementary!

Judy Curley - Special Education Paraprofessional – Roosevelt. Mrs. Curley truly cares deeply for the students she works with. She NEVER gives up on any of her students, and always lets them know that she loves them. She is always willing to jump in wherever needed. She works well with every student in a classroom and can adjust her style to meet their needs. Judy is the definition of a hard-worker and a true role model of what believing in kids looks like!

Deb Erickson - Kitchen Manager – Mellette. Deb is a natural leader with high organizational skills to effectively serve the very best nutritional meals. Her openness and persistence are always displayed at every given moment of her day. Her feathers do not get ruffled. In every situation, she listens and finds a solution good for everyone. Deb's smile, love and kindness always starts a chain reaction of opening a student's or staff's heart!

Emma Doescher - Alternative Education Paraprofessional - Watertown Intermediate School. Emma brings patience and understanding to the Alt Ed classroom. Despite all of the challenging obstacles behaviorally and academically that the Alt Ed program faces, Emma continues to give it her "all" each and every day. You can often see Emma laughing and smiling with the children as she has built relationships with each of them.

Sue Hiedeman - Administrative Assistant - Technology Department. Sue is a people person. She deals with folks in their best situations and their worst. In the tech world, most things are an emergency to the person she is talking to, but Sue can make anyone feel better, whether it's students, staff or parents. Sue loves everyone no matter what their condition, status or lot in life. This makes her invaluable to the tech department!