

Leading Learning Award

August 2026



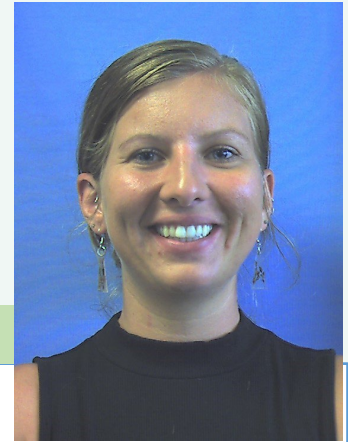
Amanda Kettel, Secondary Programs

I am honored to nominate Amanda Kettel for the Leading Learning Award. Amanda exemplifies servant leadership through her unwavering dedication to supporting both staff and students, and she is an essential part of what makes our organization successful.

Amanda has the challenging responsibility of managing purchases and budgets, ensuring that resources are allocated responsibly while meeting the needs of our staff. This is no small task, yet she consistently handles it with professionalism, accuracy, and a solutions-focused mindset. She understands that every purchasing decision directly impacts teaching and learning, and she works tirelessly to maximize every dollar while keeping projects and daily operations moving forward.

What truly sets Amanda apart is her commitment to the people around her. No matter how busy her day is, she always greets everyone with a warm smile and a positive attitude. She is approachable, compassionate, and genuinely invested in helping others succeed. Amanda's behind-the-scenes work often goes unnoticed, but its impact is felt throughout the entire organization. She is the steady force that helps keep everything running smoothly and efficiently.

Amanda embodies the values of collaboration, service, and excellence. Her leadership is demonstrated not through recognition or praise, but through the countless ways she lifts up those around her and ensures the success of our staff and students every day. Our school is stronger because of her dedication, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Leading Learning Award than Amanda Kettel.



Sarah Misiak, Student Services

"It is my honor to nominate Sarah Misiak for the Kent ISD Leader of Learning Award.

Sarah exemplifies what it means to be a leader of learning. Over the past year, she has served as a primary contributor and leader in the development of two significant initiatives: the Alternate Standards Curriculum Guide 2.0 and the Empower U Curriculum Guide. Together, these projects represent hours of thinking, planning, collaboration, and innovation that will positively impact educators and students across Kent ISD for years to come.

The scope and complexity of this work cannot be overstated. The Alternate Standards Curriculum Guide 2.0 is far more than a curriculum document. It provides educators with a clear, coherent framework for supporting students with significant cognitive disabilities through meaningful, standards-aligned instruction. The Empower U Curriculum Guide establishes a comprehensive roadmap for transition-aged students, helping our staff intentionally prepare learners for employment, independent living, and post-secondary success. Both projects required extensive research, curriculum development, collaboration with stakeholders, and countless hours of revision and refinement.

What makes Sarah's contributions especially remarkable is her ability to bridge vision and implementation. She is a forward thinker who can see possibilities and anticipate future needs, while also attending to the details necessary to bring ideas to life. Sarah consistently asks not only, "What should this be?" but also, "How will teachers use this?" Her commitment to creating practical, meaningful resources has been instrumental to the success of both projects.

Beyond the quality of her work, Sarah's leadership throughout these projects has been extraordinary. She approaches challenges with professionalism, optimism, and a solutions-oriented mindset. She welcomes feedback, values the expertise of others, and works tirelessly to strengthen the final product. Her collaborative nature creates an environment where people feel heard, respected, and motivated to contribute.

Sarah is an exceptional leader, collaborator, and advocate for high-quality learning. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as a Kent ISD Leader of Learning."