

# Leading Learning Award

## Being a Leader of Learning

### Nicole Mulder

*"Nikki has made a tremendous impact with her work as the Complex Communication Needs Team Lead at Early On Kent ISD. Over the past couple of years, Nikki has been instrumental in pushing conversations related to early and equitable access to communication and empowering children with delays or disabilities by helping find their voice."*

*In partnership with other Early On staff and the Early On administrators, Nikki has led a strong team that focuses on educating and supporting Early On with all things related to augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology (AT). Nikki and the Complex Communication Needs team are currently supporting over 60 children with the trialing of AAC and AT devices."*



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### Kelly Cleveland

*"Kelly Cleveland has always been an exceptional teacher and learner. She never stops thinking of how students can have better outcomes and how she can better her practice to make that happen. She is a top-notch teacher, advocate, role model and leader within our county, state and even nationally."*

*Because of her early, specific auditory work with them we have seen students go from being fully mainstreamed in elementary years to fully mainstreamed by kindergarten and now some even back in their home districts by pre-school. It has been an incredible shift to see children who are deaf and hard of hearing have the level of auditory skills, language and vocabulary skills, and confidence to be at school in their home districts with their siblings and peers successfully!"*



## Going Above and Beyond

### Crystal Gumbs

*"Crystal has been a part of our Great Start to Quality team for the past 8 years. Since the start of her employment with us, she continually strives to "do more and be more". Crystal is the type of employee who will volunteer for specific tasks/roles because she knows it will benefit the good of the group. One example of this is the amount of trainings Crystal has taken on. She has volunteered to be one of our McKinney-Vento trainers, Child Care Business Course trainers, Birth-to-Three Literacy Essential trainers and more. Crystal also goes above and beyond to support the licensed child care providers and preschool programs that are in her caseload areas in Kent County. She has taken on the role of direct support for all refugee licensed child care providers. She helps to lead a monthly community of practice for these providers which focuses on current developmentally appropriate practice and how to translate that into their businesses. Overall, Crystal is a team player and valued member of our team."*



## Being a Leader of Learning

### Jeff Miller

*"Jeff Miller has served as Custodial Supervisor at Kent ISD for the last 19 years, and his commitment and dedication to serving students, staff and guests truly exemplify what it means to lead learning. Jeff is one of the most selfless professionals that I have ever had the opportunity to work with. He often comes in early, works late, or gives up time on weekends to assist with meetings, student activities or to ensure that our buildings and grounds are safe and secured. Jeff is someone that values helping others and will go out of his way to accommodate even the smallest need or request. It is evident that Jeff has instilled this service-oriented approach to the staff he supervises, only further extending the positive impact Jeff has had throughout Kent ISD."*

*Jeff's motivation for all of his amazing work is based on the priority he gives to making sure that our facilities are both well maintained and support learning and instruction. Jeff's attention to detail and his focus on the condition of our buildings is evident any time you walk through one of our facilities. We are often praised by guests for the cleanliness of our buildings, and this is a direct reflection of Jeff's efforts. contributions. When I think of someone that is a leader of learning, I think of Jeff Miller. "*

