

Name of Nominee:	The nominee is a:	Nominee's Supervisor	What ISD 917 Core Value does this staff member exemplify?	Highlight in detail why you are nominating this person for Employee of the Quarter based on the Core Value they exemplify?
<b>Emily moulton</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Empathy	All through out the year Emily has been kind and caring to each and every student. She really thinks about each student when interacting with them and where they are at in that time and how they are feeling and change how wage interacts with them accordingly.
<b>Wendi Renken</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Collaboration	<p>I am honored to nominate Wendi for the Licensed Staff of the Quarter award. Wendi exemplifies all the qualities that make a standout team member, including collaboration, equity, communication, empathy, personalization, innovation, and diversity.</p> <p>Collaboration: Wendi consistently demonstrates a strong ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, always seeking to enhance team cohesion and share knowledge. She actively contributes to group discussions and is instrumental in creating a supportive work environment.</p> <p>Equity: Wendi is deeply committed to fostering an equitable environment for all. She ensures that everyone feels valued and respected, always advocating for fair treatment and opportunities for growth, regardless of background or position.</p> <p>Communication: Wendi is an exceptional communicator. She listens attentively and conveys her thoughts clearly and effectively, making sure all stakeholders are informed and engaged. Her communication style is open and transparent, building trust across the team.</p> <p>Empathy: Wendi's empathy is one of her most admirable qualities. She goes above and beyond to understand and support the staff, students, and families and always approaches situations with kindness, patience, and understanding.</p> <p>Personalization: Wendi shows a remarkable ability to personalize her approach to meet the individual needs of those she works with. Whether working with staff, students, or families she tailors her efforts to ensure the best outcomes for each person, showing a deep understanding of their unique circumstances.</p> <p>Innovation: Wendi embraces change and innovation, constantly seeking new ways to improve processes and deliver exceptional results. Her creative ideas and solutions have had a positive impact on our team and services.</p> <p>Diversity: Wendi celebrates diversity in every form. She fosters an inclusive environment where every person feels accepted and valued, contributing to a rich, varied, and dynamic team culture.</p> <p>Wendi's outstanding dedication and performance make her a perfect candidate for Licensed Staff of the Quarter. Her contributions consistently elevate the work environment and the quality of care provided, and her commitment to excellence deserves to be recognized.</p>
<b>Megan Shavers</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Chris Devine	Equity	<p>I am honored to recommend Megan Shavers for Teacher of the Quarter. Megan exemplifies the core values of personalization, empathy, equity, diversity, collaboration, stewardship, innovation, and equality in every aspect of their teaching. Megan tailors lessons to meet the unique needs of each student, demonstrating exceptional personalization and ensuring all learners feel valued. Their profound empathy is evident in their ability to connect deeply with students, colleagues, and families, fostering an environment of trust and respect.</p> <p>A steadfast advocate for equity and equality, Megan ensures that every student, regardless of background, has the tools and opportunities needed to thrive. They celebrate diversity, integrating inclusive practices and perspectives into daily lessons.</p> <p>Megan is a collaborative leader, inspiring teamwork among colleagues and engaging parents and the community to enrich the educational experience. As a steward of learning, they instill values of responsibility and civic engagement in students.</p> <p>Through their innovation, Megan integrates new teaching strategies and technologies, creating an engaging and forward-thinking classroom environment. This commitment to continuous improvement ensures DCALS remains a hub of excellence.</p>
<b>Alla Boulos</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Chris Devine	Innovation	Alla is the English teacher at DCALS North. Alla is amazing! She has created a safe and creative space for students. She is incredibly innovative in her teaching approach and teaching assignments. Many of our students are incredibly credit deficient in English and struggle with English. She does an amazing job of breaking down assignments and working with students on their level. She comes up with creative assignments that appeal to our teenage audience. Her innovative assignments and her teaching approach truly exemplify our core values. She represents all of our core values within herself and her classroom.
<b>Lisa Mayer</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Jackie Pauley	Personalization	Lisa takes the time to know the students and guides them according to their unique strengths. Lisa's level of concern is equal only to her level of compassion for the students. Lisa always puts in the extra effort whether it's in lesson plans or engaging activities. She truly embodies everything you would want in your own instructor. Lisa is without a doubt the most complete and organized teacher I have ever worked with! I look forward to working with her everyday!
<b>Jenna Nace</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Taylor Lovin	Integrity	Jenna is such a great teacher, team member, and advocate. Not only is she a wealth of knowledge, but she also shares that knowledge with all who she interacts with in a way that empowers and uplifts them. When faced with challenging teams and situations, Jenna is able to advocate for students and teams in a way that yields results. Jenna continuously goes above and beyond to work toward solutions for students, often spending personal time and resources. She consistently does what is right for students and ISD 917 is very fortunate to have such a wonderful person on their itinerant team!
<b>Rosie Palan</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Amy Swaney	Integrity	Rosie has embedded herself at Concord making her invaluable in the evaluation process at ISD 917. She does first rate work when compiling all of the assessments and measures our staff put together when collecting current levels on our students. Without her, all of this work would be much much harder and, perhaps, not as strong as it currently is.
<b>Brian Price</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Personalization	Brian has been truly a great addition to 917. He is such a wonderful person for the students, they all know they have an outlet if needed. He does so well and meets each individual where they are at, and helps them exceed their goals. He shows up each day with a smile, great body language and his listening ear. He always makes it a point to share his contagious laugh with each student, making sure each student has a positive bond. His gentle work ethic is just what TESA needed and we are so so lucky to have him!
<b>Rebecca A.</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Amy Swaney	Empathy	Rebecca shows masterful skills when it comes to teaching her students. The students will often ask for "the main teacher" during the day as she is so much fun for them to interact with.

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<b>Jenna Ernst</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Collaboration	Jenna has assisted in the creation of our TESA data system, trained many of us on how to use this system, and made templates to make it easy for teachers to adapt for each student on their case load. Jenna collaborates with student teams to create many social and communication supports that allow students to gain strategies to independently manage their behaviors.
<b>Katie Weeks</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Jackie Pauley	Personalization	Katie consistently goes above and beyond to provide a positive and a cultural relevant classroom for her students. She is a great advocate and voice when needed for her students as well as the staff she works with on a day to day basis. Just as well she goes above and beyond putting into countless hours outside the classroom and find funds for our students to extend learning through multiple field trips and real world experiences.
<b>Johanna Iversen</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Jennifer Hetland	Integrity	I personally had the opportunity to watch Jo grow from ESP to licensed staff in my 3 years at Cedar. Jo took me under her wing and gave me skills and knowledge that training could never give you. Jo is an absolute force to be reckoned with! She is endlessly talented and she is a leader through and through. Watching her take on task after task, lesson planning and working so diligently one on one with her students is inspiring. Jo is unlike anyone I've ever met and she's is more than deserving of acknowledgement for all of her hard work and dedication to this career.
<b>Martha Allen</b>	Licensed Staff Member	Brooke Peterson	Collaboration	<p>Collaboration</p> <p>I would like to nominate Martha Allen, MS, CCC-SLP, for the outstanding collaborative work she does for ISD 917. Martha began her career as a SLP in 1985, working with students who have complex communication needs in Missouri. This professional practice was before the time of communication devices, iPads and all the technology that we have now. Communication was just as important, but supports and services were done with paper visuals, that were often hand colored, or a single speech output switch. As technology changed, that didn't stop Martha in her passion to meet students where they are at. In her almost 40 years of SLP services to students, Martha has embraced technology, even becoming what I would say is an "expert" with communication devices, and supports students in numerous ways to communicate and engage at school, work and with their families.</p> <p>Martha started working in ISD 917 in 2016, as a SLP, to continue with her passion serving students with unique needs. One of Martha's strengths is how well she works with the IEP team and her willingness to go wherever is needed to share her SLP expertise. Martha has worked at Cedar, Options. TEA programs, Lakeville North, DASH and PACES, Alliance, CASE, Concord, DCTC, DECALS, Hastings DASH, Two Rivers, POND TEA program, JSC, BTC as well as supporting homebound students. Martha has strong skills in Due process, is a good collaborator, sees opportunities rather than obstacles, is reliable, and is willing to go the "extra mile" to make sure students have the communication access they need for a successful education and life.</p> <p>Martha is a valuable part of our problem solving team that allows our students to have a voice in their education and ways to interact with their peers. Whether it is a preschool student just beginning their educational journey with very few words, or a Transition age student that needs support to participate in a class, participate in volunteer work, secure employment, or talk with their friends, Martha has the expertise to help each step of the way. Martha helps create social stories for students that may be struggling in an area that impacts their learning. Martha creates visuals and pages in communication devices that allows increased engagement for students with no or limited verbal ability to engage in class. Most recently Martha supported our students for increased engagement when we had a Community Service Officer and Detective come to school to talk about community safety, emergencies, and rules and laws that may impact them at home, school and in the community. Martha helped one student, who is non verbal, ask questions he wanted answered about jail and what would happen if he stole something. Another student was able to engage in the Q&amp;A by programming his own device with his questions because Martha taught him how to do this independently..</p> <p>As students prepare to transition out of the school system, Martha works tirelessly to make sure students are connected with a company and secure a device that will follow them for the next 4-5 years. Martha never loses sight of her goal, which is to make sure students have a voice, whatever the ability challenge may be, or what their primary language spoken at home is. The frustration and lengthy process of working through the systems to get a home device, is conquered by Martha knowing what the personal device will provide to the student by giving them a voice of their own.</p>
<b>Kati Kaufman</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Amy Swaney	Empathy	Always willing to work with any student or help any staff. Always willing to help anyone who is in need of assistance. Considers how her actions may impact those around her! Does what is best for the students who she is working with.
<b>Becky Splett</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Collaboration	This staff do beyond to assist teacher and students here at BTC. Over all she is great educator and she well deserve the nomination.
<b>Krista Meyen (Amy beckers esp)</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Personalization	I am nominating Krista for many of reasons. All of the things she does, does not go unnoticed. She is so kind, patient and understanding of all of our students and even staff! Even if she is having a bad day you wouldn't be able to tell because she is always smiling and in such a positive up beat mood. She is willing to help out wherever needed without any complaints. She is such an amazing addition to TESA at DCTC. She deserves all the recognition possible.
<b>Aimee Boone</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Chris Devine	Personalization	If someone sees Aimee in the halls of DCTC, one might think she is just walking around. The truth is far from that. Aimee is greeting everyone she sees, she's observing our students and connecting with them. She talks with students about what works for them, what they need, while holding them accountable for their own education. Aimee communicates with parents and guardians to provide updates and gain insights about our students. Aimee also communicates with staff and provides unique perspectives on what a student may need to be successful. She is willing to learn and is never afraid to ask questions to better understand systems in place and make DCALS better for everyone. Aimee truly has an exceptional gift in connecting with anyone that crosses her path. She is so exceptional that she could make a rock smile!!!
<b>Teri Welch</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Nicolle Roush / Mark Johns	Stewardship	As the long-time Accountant for our complex Intermediate School District, Teri Welch acts as a key steward of ISD 917. She has actively supported the financial well-being of ISD 917 through leadership transitions, the COVID pandemic, new district initiatives, and complex grant allocations, and her attention to detail, human-centered approach, and collaborative nature are demonstrated in everything she does. Each year, our clean financial audits and healthy fund balances are a reflection of Teri's work.
<b>Ashley DePover</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Amy Swaney	Communication	It is a hard decision as to what core value to pick. She is so good at all of them. Ashley is always doing her best to keep everyone well informed. She adapts to every new staff that is placed in our room and we have had a lot of staff this year. She is super supportive when things start going south with kids behavior. She knows the answer to just about any question out there regarding the job. She is always here! Very Very dependable
<b>Krista Meyen</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Don Budach	Empathy	She is such a wonderful new addition to the tesa team this year. She has shown so much patience, kindness, and flexibility. She always has a smile on her face and has such a positive attitude towards all staff and students. She constantly shows how to be a good role model to staff and students. She definitely deserves it!

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<b>Megan Dietrich</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Taylor Lovin	Collaboration	Megan is a very dedicated interpreter. She is an asset to ISD 917. In her position as float, Megan has excellent collaboration skills. She is in contact with who she is subbing for and always leaves notes as to what went on in classes she subbed for which also demonstrates her excellent communication skills. Megan also works to personalize her interpretations by meeting the needs of each unique learner in our district. One day she may be in kindergarten and the next she may be in AP class in a high schools. Interpreters that can individualize interpretations in such a wide range of settings are hard to come by. Megan is a stellar interpreter and I'm so glad I get to work with her.
<b>Jess Ventrone</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Jackie Pauley	Communication	Jess is trustworthy, communicative, and efficient, both on normal days and on days when nothing about our routine feels certain. She is trusted by all the staff in the building and is reliable and committed to her team and her students.
<b>Anjali Rao</b>	Non-Licensed Staff Member	Taylor Lovin	Communication	Anjali is definitely one of a kind! She shows up daily with the best in mind and heart for her student. She is such an incredible advocate and goes out of her way to make sure the student she works 1 on 1 with is getting the best care possible. I appreciate the way that she always informs other staff on the things that they need to know pertaining to her student , if other staff are working with her student in a class that Anjali is not.(on her break/prep.) She truly is so incredible at her job and only wants the best for her student. I have enjoyed watching the student develop and grow not only in her independent skills, but in her social skills. You couldn't ask for a better intervener! Anjali inspires and impresses on a daily basis! I could go on and on about her awesomeness! Thank you for caring so much Anjali .Thank you for all you do!! You are an outstanding team player! You are a bright shining star and are making a lasting impression and difference in the lives around you! I have learned A LOT from you! Thank you thank you thank you!! You ROCK!!!