

# Leading Learning Award November 2024

Brian Cassell



Brian has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to the well-being of our students and the improvement of our educational community at Empower U South and throughout Center Programs.

Brian's contributions to our school and district go far beyond the typical expectations of a social worker. His willingness to go the extra mile is evident in his readiness to assist non-assigned center programs during times of need, showcasing his commitment to the broader center program educational community.

One of Brian's most admirable qualities is his unwavering availability to meet with students, whether in crisis or not. This dedication to building relationships with our young adults has created a safe and supportive environment where students feel valued and heard. His approach has significantly contributed to the emotional well-being and academic success of countless students.

Brian actively participates in multiple building improvement teams, bringing valuable insights and innovative ideas. Most notably, Brian has been a key figure in the development and implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at Empower U South, and is currently a part of the team developing Tier 2 supports. His efforts have resulted in a more positive school culture and improved student behavior.

In conclusion, Brian's exceptional dedication, leadership, and positive influence on both students and staff make him an ideal candidate for the Kent ISD Leader of Learning Award.

Colby Wheeler



Gregg and Colby have spent years tirelessly working to expand our CTE work-based learning (WBL) experiences for our students. Both Gregg and Colby started at KCTC as two of top instructors in the criminal justice program where their work was recognized on a global level when they were awarded the Executive Associate Director Award for Exemplary Partnership from Homeland Security Investigations. They were both able to then step out of their comfort zone and background in criminal justice and transition into the WBL department.

Through their dedication and hard work, they have single-handedly grown the WBL department from supporting very few students to well over a thousand and number very be for seen at KCTC! Their commitment to students and businesses throughout Kent County is unmatched, and this week, that work was recognized once again when they were named the Michigan Career Placement Association co-honorees of the year.

Gregg and Colby are an inspiration to us all on what we can achieve when we don't worry about who gets the credits and just focus on the steady, continued improvement of equitable opportunities for our students!

Gregg Isenhoff

