

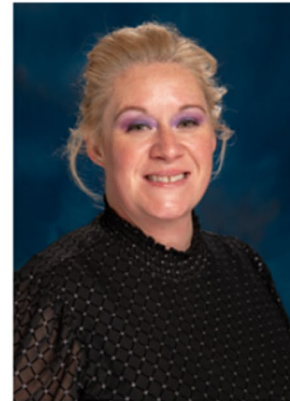


**SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICE**

*PSA Outstanding  
Employee Award  
Recipients*

# ***Congratulations!***



***Thank you to  
all the  
outstanding  
employees in  
each academy  
for your  
service to  
leaders, staff,  
students, and  
families.***

**SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICE STAFF**

# ***Nora Q. Andrade***

## ***Academic Interventionist – Cesar Chavez Academy Lower Elementary***



¡Sí, Se Puede! (Yes, you can!) is a slogan used by César Chávez, the leader of the United Farm Workers Association and the person our Academy is named after. This slogan is a powerful phrase of hope that reminds us that things can change for the better. One important lesson I've learned at the Academy is that inclusion is essential. It's crucial to truly embrace each student's uniqueness and provide them with a quality education.



# ***Nora Q. Andrade***

## ***Nominators Comments***



Ms. Andrade has been dedicated to our school community for 28 years in a variety of ways. As a paraprofessional (interventionist), she provides her students with highly structured lessons that reflect student needs and high expectations. She believes in her students and motivates them daily to do their best. Ms. Andrade is always prepared and goes to her groups with an array of activities to practice that group's specific needs. She does after school tutoring and fun clubs every chance she gets supporting our neediest students as well as engaging students in fun activities such as photography and a piñata making club.

# ***Nora Q. Andrade***

## ***Inspiration and Gratitude***



My favorite part of the job is helping students bridge their learning gaps. I value my role as an interventionist because I've seen, time and time again, that with individual attention and a focus on addressing their learning challenges, students' lives can change forever.

I am inspired by women who fight against all odds—like my oldest sister Rocio. She defeated ovarian cancer, lived with diabetes, underwent hemodialysis after her kidneys stopped functioning, battled several infections, and received a kidney transplant donated by one of our nieces. Most recently, she had cataract surgery in April 2025. Her desire to live and her strength to keep fighting make me incredibly proud and happy.

I am most grateful to the Lord for giving me the opportunity to come live in this wonderful country, where I was able to pursue my dream of working in education and making a difference in my community.



# ***Angela Bully***



***Office Administrator – The New Standard Academy***



“Build a team so strong, you don’t know who the leader is.”

I believe that when you value everyone on your team and each person knows their role, they all come together and do their part. It becomes an A-Team effort, where no one can tell who the leader is because everyone is working so well together.

# ***Angela Bully***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Arthur Ashe said, “From what we get, we can make a living; what we give however, makes a life.” These words directly describe the heart and mindset of Ms. Angela Bully. It is with pride and enthusiasm that I nominate her for the Staff of the Year award at The New Standard Academy. As the Office Administrator, Angela is the backbone of our school, working tirelessly—often exceeding 12-hour days—to ensure that TNS operates at an optimal level. Her unwavering dedication, unmatched work ethic, and commitment to excellence have made her an invaluable asset to our school community. Angela’s contributions go far beyond the typical responsibilities of an administrator. She has meticulously constructed multiple platforms that streamline operations, allowing TNS to function efficiently without ever compromising integrity. These systems have enhanced communication, organization, and overall effectiveness, creating an environment where both staff and students can thrive. What sets Angela apart is not just her exceptional administrative skills but her heart for students. She consistently goes above and beyond to support every child, ensuring that they feel valued, cared for, and equipped for success. Whether it’s assisting a struggling student, coordinating resources, or simply offering a listening ear, she never hesitates to step in and make a difference. Angela is also a strong communicator and one of the most approachable individuals at TNS. She fosters a welcoming atmosphere where staff, students, and parents feel heard and supported. Her presence has been critical to the school’s growth and advancement, helping to cultivate a culture of respect, professionalism, and care. Angela Bully’s relentless dedication, compassion, and integrity make her the perfect candidate for Staff of the Year. Her impact on The New Standard Academy is immeasurable, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her as a driving force behind our continued success.

# ***Angela Bully***

## ***Impact and Inspiration***



My favorite part of the job is knowing that I may have a positive impact on someone's life is what drives me. Working at New Standard has taught me that you never know what a child went through the night before.

My parents inspire me. Even though it took me years to realize it, they taught me many valuable traits—some of which I've passed along to my own kids. When my children were young, I also found a website that taught how to love yourself, declutter, organize, and plan. It was very inspirational, and I still go back to many of those ideas when life gets chaotic.

I have so much to be grateful for, but I'm most thankful for my family, my work family, and the friends who truly care about me. I'm also grateful for my excellent support system—and for my health.



# ***Cindy Collins***

***School Secretary – Branch Line School***



“Be so happy that when others look at you, they become happy too.”

When I first came to Branch Line School, Denise and Molly were in charge of the school. They were incredibly kind and always in a good mood. People often say to me, “You always have such a good attitude and you’re always so upbeat”—and I really appreciate that.

# ***Cindy Collins***

## ***Nominators Comments***



Cindy's ability to ensure smooth daily operations in the office is truly remarkable. Whether it's scheduling meetings, managing communications, handling student records, or passing out band aids, Cindy always ensures everything runs efficiently and without issue. Cindy excels in communication and customer service. She is the front line of our school. Cindy has a warm, approachable demeanor and is always ready to assist students, staff, parents, and visitors. Cindy's ability to maintain a calm and welcoming atmosphere in the office, even during busy or stressful times, has a positive effect on the entire school environment. Cindy always makes herself available for student birthday parties and sporting events showing her love for our students everywhere she goes.

# ***Cindy Collins***

## ***Impact and Inspiration***

### **What is your favorite part about your job?**

I love working with the kids, especially the littles. Connecting with the babies and their families is by far the best part of my job.

### **What advice would you share with others?**

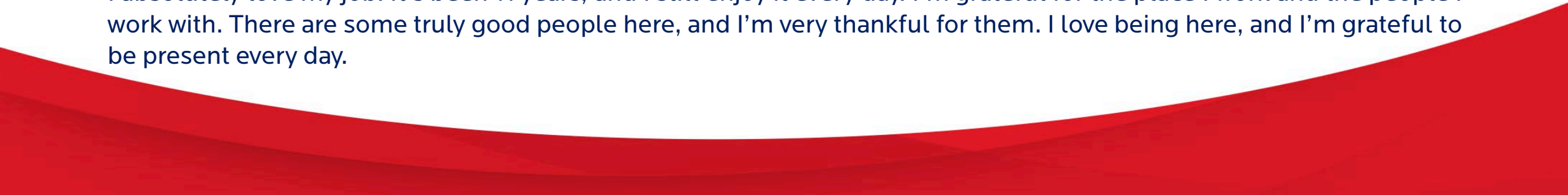
Don't be afraid to try new things. Keep your heart open, and good things will come your way. And always love and laugh a lot.

### **What/who inspires you?**

My mom inspires me. She had six children, and while my dad was there too, she was (and still is) incredibly strong. She always gets things done and is always offering to help. She's reliable and dependable. Even at 82, she still offers to come over and help me with things around the house.

### **What is something that you are grateful for?**

I absolutely love my job. It's been 11 years, and I still enjoy it every day. I'm grateful for the place I work and the people I work with. There are some truly good people here, and I'm very thankful for them. I love being here, and I'm grateful to be present every day.





# ***Trisha Hernandez-Foster***

***Administrative Assistant – Landmark Academy***



My favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* because Atticus Finch was one of my first heroes. I read it when I was in 8th grade.

He became one of my first heroes ever and I just wanted to be like Atticus Finch when I grew up. I wanted to have that sense of character. The students and staff are my favorite part of the job.

# ***Trisha Hernandez-Foster***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Trisha Foster exemplifies excellence in organization and record-keeping, ensuring all tasks are completed with precision and timeliness. From handling early morning calls to ensuring our monthly newsletters reach stakeholders, Trisha approaches every duty with meticulous attention to detail. Her ability to maintain accurate records and organize complex tasks is second to none, enabling our school to operate seamlessly. Trisha consistently goes above and beyond basic expectations, stepping in wherever needed to guarantee the building runs smoothly and efficiently. Trisha is proactive in identifying potential challenges and addressing them before they impact operations. Her problem-solving skills and forward-thinking approach have contributed significantly to the overall effectiveness of our school. Whether managing last-minute changes, resolving logistical issues, or finding creative solutions to unique problems, Trisha's initiative and dedication make her an indispensable asset to our team. Trisha's approachable demeanor and professional attitude make her an integral part of our school community, strengthening relationships and contributing to a cohesive, supportive atmosphere.

# ***Trisha Hernandez-Foster***

## ***Family and Gratitude***

I love spending time on the water and being with my family. My house is the one for family gatherings and cookouts. Both of my grandmothers inspire me. This picture of my Grandma Barron is from her high school graduation. I was in my 20's when she graduated. I remember how proud she was, and we all were. She taught us that you are never too old to go after what you want.



They are still to this day, the best women I have ever known. I have been married for 21 years and have a daughter that is a sophomore in college. I am most grateful for my daughter, because being a mom made me a better version of myself.



Grandma Barron



Alicia Hernandez



# ***Mrs. Colleen Schoff***

***Flat River Academy Office Manager – 22 years of service!***



“Alone you are strong, but together you are stronger than ever.”

I believe this is perfect for families as well as the work environment. I like to refer to my coworkers as family. Each member is important. Students need to feel that school is like a family as well. That involves respecting one another, celebrating achievements, and congratulating those who have worked hard.

# ***Mrs. Colleen Schoff***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Colleen is the backbone of our office, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. She meticulously maintains records, keeping all documentation organized and accessible. Her desk doesn't always look neat and clean, but she has a system so don't touch it! Her exceptional task management skills ensure that priorities are handled with precision, deadlines are met, and nothing falls through the cracks. Colleen's kindness and consideration make her an invaluable asset to the office. She anticipates needs before they arise, proactively solving problems to keep operations running without disruption. Her ability to coordinate multiple responsibilities while fostering a positive and supportive environment truly sets her apart. Simply put, Colleen runs the show—keeping everything and everyone on track.

# ***Mrs. Colleen Schoff***

## ***Lessons Learned***



**Lesson learned:** Don't sweat/stress over the small stuff and understand that forgiveness can be difficult. While it won't change the past, it can certainly change your future. Anger is not healthy, and I make sure to share this with the students.

I've been part of this school since 1998 when my children started attending. My husband served on the school board, so this school has been a big part of my life for many years. When he stepped down because of his work travel, I thought I might like working here too. I applied for the office manager position at the elementary school in 2003 and was hired. We both appreciated that the school had a family-oriented atmosphere. My kids and husband often joke that I'm never leaving Flat River.



# ***Micah Patterson***



**OAKLAND**  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

## ***Paraprofessional – Oakland International Academy***



**Favorite quote** – “It’s easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Frederick Douglass. I’ve always loved that one.

**Advice for a good life** – Fail once. Pick yourself up. Try again, Keep going. Don’t stop. Don’t put a period where it’s not supposed to go, put a comma. Keep going. Keep going, comma, comma, until you get to the period. Then stop...until then just keep going. Whatever you do, just keep going.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated students and colleagues. I am humble and grateful to be the recipient of this award.



# ***Micha Patterson***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Mr. Patterson is extremely dedicated to the advancement of all the students at OIA, both academically and social-emotionally. He is our go-to Paraprofessional and consistently works with small groups or individuals to help them meet their goals! Mr. Patterson is active in our PLCs and works with the teachers he supports to help be a resource in the classroom! Mr. Patterson is exceptional when it comes to his positivity, his professionalism is second to none, and he constantly goes above and beyond for OIA!





# ***Micah Patterson***

## ***Family, Favorites, and Future Goals***



**Family** – I love spending time with my family, which includes my mom and her nine children, and helping out with my nieces and nephews. I’m proud to be a great uncle.

**Inspiration** – Two people who inspire me are my school leader and my pastor. My friend and school leader, Mr. Kevin Wade, has always been supportive and willing to lend a helping hand. I refer to him as the “GOAT” (Greatest of All Time). My pastor, Bishop Darnell Foster, has been a constant source of support and mentorship since I was around six years old.

**Favorite part of your job** – The best part of my job is being there for the students and supporting my colleagues, as that support is always reciprocated. I wouldn't have it any other way.

**Future goals** – My goal is to complete my master’s degree in education and, one day, open my own school. I’m confident in my work and driven by a dedication that motivates me to push my limits and exceed my own expectations.







# ***Kimberly Prochko***

## ***Interventionist – Kingsbury Country Day School***

**“Take responsibility for the energy you bring to a room.”**


I love my position at Kingsbury Country Day School. I plan to pursue as much professional development as possible so I can continue to gain the knowledge and skills needed to help every student reach his/her full potential. I am most grateful for the opportunity to work at a school where teachers and students are supported. I am inspired by many of the hardworking teachers in my building as well as my students who continue to allow me to push them even when what I ask of them might be challenging.



# ***Kimberly Prochko***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Kim is always ready to help any student in the building. She has completed LETRS and Orton Gillingham and assisted with writing the grants to acquire the funding to support teacher training. While we are still measuring data growth, Kim is invested in helping all students close the gaps in their education. Kim steps into help any teacher with any topic. Kim is helping to launch the Child Study program at KCDS. She is helping to launch a school-wide PBIS program. Kim can see where there is a need for PBIS across the grades because she is able to see the youth across different classes. She can work with any student who needs help with any topic.



# ***Kimberly Prochko***

## ***Life and Balance***



My family has been involved with the Leader Dogs for the Blind organization for the past thirteen years. During this time, we've had the privilege of hosting two Leader Dog moms. We've helped deliver five litters and cared for the puppies during their first seven weeks of life. The best part is that the moms become permanent members of our family.

To balance the needs of my family and work, I set a clear schedule and make sure to use my time at school efficiently. Since my children are both in college now, I have more time to focus on my students.

My favorite part of my job is seeing my students grow. I love when I learn something new through training and can apply that knowledge to help students who have been struggling to understand a concept.





# ***Tracee Wargo***

***Administrative Assistant – Landmark Academy***



“Be the change you want to see.” We can sit back and do nothing or be people who choose to inspire others to be the change for good. That puts all the power back into our hands. My advice for a good life is to embrace every day and be filled with gratitude. Be the change and make it happen.

**What or who inspires you?** My faith in Jesus is everything. It centers me. It’s my due north. My husband is my best friend and partner in impacting lives. He encourages and inspires me every day.

# ***Tracee Wargo***

## ***Nominators Comments***



Tracee is the heartbeat of our office. She has been with Landmark for 12+ years. She ensures that every aspect of our daily operations runs smoothly and efficiently. She works directly with our Elementary Principal in preparing and planning for the school year. She maintains accurate records with precision and diligence, keeping everything organized so that our school functions seamlessly. Whether it's coordinating schedules, substitute coverage, special revenue accounts, picture days, vision and hearing screening, Holiday gift shops, or keeping essential documents updated, she does it all with remarkable attention to detail. Her ability to manage tasks efficiently is second to none. Juggling multiple responsibilities at once, she not only meets expectations but far exceeds them. From handling phone calls and emails to assisting with school events and staff needs, she does it all with grace and composure, ensuring that nothing falls through the cracks.

# *Tracee Wargo*

## *Favorite parts of her job...*



My boss is amazing! A couple of years ago, I toyed with the idea of retiring, but he is one of the main reasons I stayed. He has so much vision, and he genuinely loves these kids. He has transformed this building in so many ways. Another favorite part of my job is our fabulous teachers. They really are like-minded individuals who want the best for our students. It is such an honor to work with a team that is truly passionate about our kids. When you can create an environment like that, I think it gives everyone a chance to shine and rise-up. Props to all of them. But my absolute favorite part? The kids. The things they say and do – it's just the best. Like one afternoon I had a great conversation with a 3rd grader, and he ended it by telling me how much he enjoys talking to people with wrinkles, LOL. I really do love what I get to do.



# ***Ms. Kelsey Sawatzki***

***Administrative Assistant – Saginaw Preparatory Academy***



1 Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done with love.”

I often repeat this verse to remind myself that I don’t do what I do for personal gain or recognition, but rather to help others and offer a steady hand to those in need. During times of frustration, this verse serves as a helpful reminder of my purpose – my “why.”

# ***Ms. Kelsey Sawatzki***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Ms. Kelsey excels in maintaining accurate records, demonstrating exceptional organizational skills that ensure all tasks are efficiently managed. Her proactive approach to daily office operations goes beyond basic expectations, consistently meeting deadlines ahead of schedule. She is known for her fast-learning abilities and enjoys assisting others whenever possible, showcasing a strong initiative to tackle challenges without prompting. Her dedication to embracing tough obstacles highlights her commitment to excellence in every aspect of her work. Ms. Kelsey demonstrates exceptional interpersonal skills, creating a warm and welcoming environment for students, staff, parents, and visitors. Her friendly and patient nature allows her to communicate effectively with everyone she encounters, ensuring clarity and understanding in all interactions. She is highly appreciated by all staff for her supportive and approachable demeanor and has built strong, positive relationships with students. Her ability to connect with others fosters a sense of trust and belonging, making her an invaluable part of the school community.

# ***Ms. Kelsey Sawatzki***

## ***Lessons, Inspiration, and Gratitude***

Something I learned since working here at SPA is the power of a positive attitude. Students are very receptive and if we are only negative, we are only going to receive negative from our students. This goes along with our coworkers and parents that we interact with. My favorite part of the job is the relationships that have developed since being in the administrative position. I have been able to create relationships with coworkers and parents but also still maintain relationships with students.

My mom is my inspiration. As I get older, she continuously amazes me with her strength and dignity. She is the strongest woman I know, and she is always making sure that everyone around her feels heard and loved. I can only hope to be half the mother that she is.

I am most grateful that God has placed me in such a time as this. I do not take for granted the job that He has blessed me with, the leadership He has placed in my life, and the friendships that I have been given.





# ***Perrice Williams***

***K-8 Instructional Aide – Faxon Academy***



“To inspire people, don’t show them your superpowers. Show them theirs.” – Unknown

My favorite part of my job is witnessing the growth and progress that scholars make in various areas, including academics, behavior, social skills, and emotional development. I’ve learned that this is God’s work! We hold a powerful role in transforming the lives of children, and we are part of a greater village that many times goes unseen. I love being a part of this village!

# ***Perrice Williams***

## ***Nominators Comments***

Mrs. Williams is an advocate for children in and outside of school. She is a foster parent and aspiring social worker. She ensures that our scholars get access to the resources and academic support that they need by staying active in professional development, working with the school leadership team and staying in communication with families and stakeholders to keep herself active in areas that support growth and development for children. Mrs. Williams meets weekly with the MTSS coordinator and administration to plan support strategies and review logs to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the plans. She not only works with staff, but she also volunteers her time and support to parent events, partner activities, and school improvement work. Mrs. Williams works specifically with 3rd-5th grade scholars during the initial baseline universal screening for the first cycle of MTSS supports. As a result, her scholars demonstrated growth and were able to transition out of the current intervention space.

# ***Perrice Williams***

## ***Family, Inspiration, and Goals***



My mom inspires me in ways she may not even realize. While raising nine children, working as a teacher, earning two additional master's degrees, and grieving the loss of a parent, she always smiled, laughed, and made sure we had experiences and opportunities. Despite any struggles she may have faced, she never let us feel them. Even now, she never complains. Instead, she motivates and inspires us to be better versions of ourselves.



A future goal of mine is to create a community living environment for teens and young adults—a safe space with a loving environment and support as they navigate life's transitions.

I love working with children in the foster care system, serving as a mentor to youth who have faced unfortunate trauma.

I am most grateful for my wife and children. They are my “why” for so many things. They help me grow and develop in life, teaching me patience, unconditional love, and what it means to be chosen.





# ***THANK YOU***



**SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CARDINALS STAND OUT**